



Summer 2010 Newsletter

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 556, STURGEON BAY, WI 54235

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Russ May

The hardest part of understanding people different from ourselves is looking at life through their eyes. It happened on a mission trip to the hills of North Carolina. The crew was excited. Ready for work. The first task was to finish painting Mae's house. Another crew had begun the job, but Mae demanded they quit. They were too close to her blueberry bushes.

"Blueberry bushes?" Mike said. "I like blueberries as much as the next guy, but we drove halfway across the county to help this woman for free and she's worried about some dumb old bushes?" The general consensus was, "She can paint her own darned house," or words similar to those. There wasn't much enthusiasm for their task, for Mae or that half-painted house. None-the-less they went.

It was a day of discovery. They heard the story. The blueberry bushes were planted by her husband years before he died. She never had been happy with where they were planted, but he had put them there. They weren't real productive bushes — only 36 pints, never more, seldom less. Not much of a crop, but the only crop Mae's land produced.

Still, it seemed foolish to stop painting the house for a measly 36 pints of berries. Then Lisa, their team leader, told them what Mae did with the berries. The first pint went to a pie, which she baked and invited the neighbors to share. The other 35 pints she gave away.

Blueberries were the only luxury her life afforded, but she kept none for herself.

Suddenly their attitude took a 180-degree turn. Instead of dreading the work for a "crabby old lady," painting that house became a privilege.

What was different? It was the same house, the same old lady, the same bushes that had provoked anger, but now painting that house and caring for those bushes became a blessing. Why? Everything was the same except one thing — they knew her story. Quick judgments and easy answers no longer worked.

Each person, each one of us, everyone your life connects with, has a story. One of the wonderful things is that the Bay Shore Drive area is populated by hundreds of people, each of whom has a story. BSPOA, for many, serves as a connecting point, a place to share our stories, a place to listen to other's stories. We do it when we meet, when sharing issues needing to be addressed, when joining together to purchase propane or test the water. Will we agree on every issue? No! Is it logical to even think we would all agree? Of course not! But, if we learn to listen to one another and to share our stories, we will continue to share responsibility for caring and protecting our Bay Shore Drive area.

So, tell me your story.

NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

By Kathy Jung Ray Vavra

Ed. note: The Steering Committee is pleased to announce three new committee members; Ron Cattelan, Jerry Smart and Kathy Vavra. Kathy's history is included in this newsletter and Ron and Jerry's histories will be in the winter newsletter.

I grew up near Mayfair in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. For many years my family camped on property in the Bay Shore Drive area and in the late 1950's, my parents purchased the land. Even as a child, I felt badly when we left on Sunday nights, as I always wanted to live in DC!

After graduating from UW Stevens Point, I taught in Appleton and attended graduate school at UW Oshkosh. My next job was in Mannheim, Germany, with the Department of Defense Overseas Teachers where I taught fifth and sixth grade, and met and married my first husband. While in Germany we travelled extensively, and upon return to the states, we settled in Waukesha. Our children attended Waukesha West and we were involved with sports and band boosters.

In Waukesha I tuned and repaired pianos and taught piano to 35 or more private students. When my husband unexpectedly passed away, I wanted to move to Door County, but needed to wait until my youngest child finished high school. A few years later my life unexpectedly changed again, as I met and married Kerry Vavra. Our marriage resulted in a five year detour, as we moved to Chicago until his retirement in 2005. Thereafter, we permanently crossed the "cheddar curtain" and we love living in DC.

Everything goes full circle. I still substitute teach, tune pianos and teach piano. We are active in the DC Master Gardeners, where I'm newsletter editor and co-chair the Youth Program. Saturday mornings we are at the Sturgeon Bay



Farmer's Market with my fused glass jewelry and Kerry's watercolor paintings. Additionally, I enjoy the Peninsula Symphonic Band, boating, fishing, gardening, tubing and watching sunsets.

I'm a tree hugger, am protective of wetlands, and appreciate that BSPOA is mindful of our ecosystem. I look forward to serving on the Steering Committee and believe the association makes a difference.

BSPOA SUPPORTS COUNTY BIKE GRANT

By Bryan Troutman

At the June Steering Committee meeting, members voted to support the Door County Department of Transportation's request for a bicycle study grant from the State of Wisconsin. Through the County Highway Department, the Department of Transportation will be submitting a \$100,000 grant request to assist in developing a county-wide bicycle plan. The study will coordinate existing plans for Sturgeon Bay, Egg Harbor, Fish Creek and Gibraltar and will integrate other towns as their plans are developed. In addition to being a popular destination for residents, tourists, and bicycle club excursions, Bay Shore Drive is also used for part of the Century 100, the Door County Triathlon and Half Iron Man races.

The grant is a partial contributory grant, which means the county must invest 20% of the funds and the state will contribute the other 80%. In support of the county, the Steering Committee elected to submit a letter of support as an attachment to the grant request and to provide \$1,000 toward the county's 20% investment.

As a result of Steering Committee efforts, the following organizations have made contributions to the county's portion of the grant: Sustain Door, Door County Land Trust and Door Property Owners. BSPOA hopes to have input when the plan is developed by an outside consulting firm. The grant request is due to be filed by August 2nd with an award date of 2 to 4 months.

BSPOA believes that development of a Door County bike plan is particularly appropriate in a rural setting such as Bay Shore Drive area and Door County and is beneficial for both individuals and county.

BSPOA WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

By Randy Kenny

BSPOA is excited to announce that the website for our organization is now a reality. It was opened early this spring and features news, information and photos that will be of interest to BSPOA members. At this time, the following is posted: current news about Bay Shore area issues, schedules and locations of BSPOA activities, websites for local government, BSPOA membership application forms, BSPOA bylaws, and annual meeting and monthly Steering Committee minutes. Photos of local scenery and events as well as local wit and wisdom are also included. Check it out at: **www.BSPOA.net**.

Members may ask for information to be considered for website inclusion by sending their request to Randy Kenny at **jrkenney8887@hotmail.com**.

Ed. note: A big thank you to Randy for designing and implementing the BSPOA website.

DOOR COUNTY TRIATHLON

By Bryan Troutman

The sixth annual Door County Triathlon, held the weekend of July 17th and 18th, was another big success and set a new record for finishers with over 1,800 participants.

The Triathlon started on Saturday with a sprint that included a quarter mile swim at Murphy Park, an 18-mile bike ride along Bay Shore Drive and a 5k run along County Highway G past the Horseshoe Bay Barns. On Sunday there was a Half Iron Man race, which included a 1.2 mile swim, a 55 mile bike ride through Sturgeon Bay and a half marathon run.

On both days Bay Shore Property Owners Association manned the bike water bottle exchange, Saturday at Quarry Park and Sunday at the foot of Carlsville Road on Bay Shore Drive. Yours truly competed in the Sprint event on Saturday and am proud to say I finished!

BSPOA ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 2, 2010

By Deborah Mancuso, Annual Meeting Chair

BSPOA's 14th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at the Horseshoe Bay Golf Club, located in a beautiful Door County setting, overlooking the Bay of Green Bay.

Last year, the Wisconsin Legislature proclaimed 2010 as the "Year of the Niagara Escarpment." In celebration of Door County's significant dolomite, we are pleased that Roger Kuhns, who holds a PhD in geology, will be our featured speaker. Dr. Kuhns will take us through a natural history tour of what we live on and near. He has worked in geology, hydrology, ecology and sustainability in over 65 countries, and has extensive experience in Door County, where he has lived and still studies. He is also the owner of SustainAudit LLC, which helps companies, individuals and municipalities apply sustainability in their work and environments.

Come join us! Meet other BSPOA members, enjoy a fabulous luncheon and learn about our ledges, which are part of the total 650 mile Niagara Escarpment. Detailed information will be sent to you in a separate mailing. So mark your calendars. We hope to see you in October!

*Ed. note: Some lectures by Dr. Kuhns have been shown on Sevastopol's PEG TV channel 986/97 and are available to download at **www.doorbell.net**. Search for "Kuhns" on the video page.*

UPDATES

Propane Provider Selected

By Bryan Troutman

Bay Shore Property Owners Association in connection with Glidden Drive, Whitefish Bay and Point Beach Homeowners' Associations, has completed its propane negotiations for the 2010-2011 season. We have chosen Lakes Gas Company for our supplier. The price is \$1.44 per gallon whether you own or lease your tank. Propane pricing directly follows the cost of crude oil. There is a one-time tank inspection fee.

In addition, Lakes Gas Company will offer new customers a free barbeque tank 20# fill-up. If you are currently a Lakes Gas Company customer and continue to be a BSPOA member, you are entitled to our favorable pricing. If you are not part of our program and would like to join us, please contact Bryan Troutman, bdttroutman@aol.com or 743-9088.

Night Lighting Consultants Available

By Betty Parsons

In the 2010 winter issue, BSPOA featured an informational night lighting article. For second home owners and year around residents, summer and fall are a good time to contact a consultant and learn about night lighting options appropriate for your property and good for the environment. Consultations are available at no cost. Bluebird Lane to Dunn Road residents: call Melissa Moren, lighting consultant; or Jason Bieri, electrical specialist at (920) 746-2820, Sturgeon Bay Utilities. North of Dunn Road, call Wisconsin Public Services at (920) 344-4964 and ask for Kevin Pitts. Tell them you read about the consultant opportunity in the BSPOA newsletter.

Rain Garden Discount Offered

By Betty Parsons

A reminder that Greg Meissner, of Meissner Landscape Inc., has offered to install a rain garden for a BSPOA member at a 30% discount. (Refer to winter 2010 newsletter). In return, BSPOA asks that the resident be willing to show the rain garden to any interested BSPOA mem-

ber. Contact Greg at (920) 743-1011. The first resident to phone Greg will be the lucky recipient.

Spring Clean-Up Completed

By Betty Parsons

Once again, a significant crew of BSPOA volunteers did a clean sweep of a 13 mile Bay Shore Drive stretch during a two-week period in May. Thanks to the large, industrious crew for a clean roadway.

Sheriff's Department To Collect Unwanted Meds

By Betty Parsons

Unwanted medications can now be disposed of any weekday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM at the Door County Sheriff's Department. For further information contact: www.doorcountysheriff.org.

BSPOA Sends Letter to County

By Betty Parsons

If you've recently driven on County BB, you'll note it has new blacktop. The Steering Committee wrote a letter to the County Board and Highway Department requesting a paved shoulder be included to provide a designated, safe area for walkers, joggers and bikers. A shoulder seemed especially advisable, as the road is hilly and has significant truck traffic. Additionally, it would also have connected BB with the paved shoulder on Bay Shore Drive. The Steering Committee regrets this safety feature wasn't added.

Invasive Species Removal Options

by Jack Van Lanen

Once again, it's time to address invasive species. If you wish to talk to a consultant, you have two options.

As of this spring, The Ridges Sanctuary is coordinating the efforts of the Door County Invasive Species Team. A member of the Ridges staff can do a site visit to identify native and non-native species, to assess what has been done, and to help develop an action plan. Marne Kaeske

is the Ridge's Stewardship Coordinator. Contact her at (920) 839-2802 or email marne@RidgesSanctuary.org.

BSPOA also provides consultation and eradication assistance for invasive species. Contact Jack Van Lanen at 746-4465 or email at johnvanlanen@hotmail.com.

Join the Invasive Species Bluffland Removal Efforts

by Jack Van Lanen

Please consider joining others with the removal of honeysuckle and buckthorn at the Blufflands, which is a DC Land Trust preserve. Dates are August 25, September 22 and October 27, all at 9 AM. Call Jack Van Lanen for meeting location at 746-4465.

Greenprinting

As Reported by Mariah Goode, Director, Door County Planning and Zoning Department to Betty Parsons

The Greenprinting website has been up and running since 2010, but it will probably be another year before it is used in decision making situations. Layers continue to be added, Trust for Public Land continues to correct and to make clarifications, and approximately 100 people, including the Door County Board of Supervisors, DC Board of Realtors, DC Homebuilders Association, etc., have participated in designated training sessions.

*Pleasure is spread through the earth in
stray gifts to be claimed by whoever shall
find.*

—William Wordsworth



Left-right, Triathlon Volunteers distributed water bottles for the two day event: Jim Kita, Chuck Chenoweth, Sue Wallander and Bryan Troutman.

CONSERVATION IN DOOR COUNTY IMPACTED BY GREENPRINT

By Mike Grimm, Door County Conservation Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy

The impact of the recently completed Door County Green Print model on conservation efforts in Door County is already being felt. This past spring The Nature Conservancy utilized the data assembled in the model in an application to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service for funds to support several land acquisition projects in the Mink River area of northern Door County. Their application for \$370,000 to support acquisition of 4 tracts of land was successful, due in part to the information in the Green Print model.

The Door County Green Print project was undertaken by the Trust for Public Lands in partnership with County of Door in 2009 for the purpose of providing the citizens, government agencies and organizations with the best natural resource data on the county. The Trust for Public Land utilized their own software and Geographic Information System (GIS) software to analyze Door County specific data. The data, once peer reviewed and assembled in the model, can be organized by users to answer a wide variety of questions related to protection of various natural resources of the county; for example ground and surface water resources. Funds to support the project were contributed by numerous individuals and organizations throughout the county, including the Bay Shore Property Owners Association.

This is the first Green Print model completed in the state of Wisconsin by the Trust for Public Lands. It is hoped that similar projects can be employed by more communities in the state and the region. To access the model on line google for Door County Greenprint or go to www.tpl.org. For more information on the Green Print process in general, contact the Door County Planning Department, County Government Center — 3rd floor, 421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

SUMMER 1970 - LOCAL HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

By Betty Parsons

August 13, 1970 — it was a warm, perfect summer day. My husband was in England for Palmer Johnson Yachts, so my one-year old son and I were enjoying breakfast on our porch with my grandmother, mother, sister and a friend, as the last of a long, overdue exterior paint job was being completed.

After the house was purchased in 1965, we slowly worked our way, room by room, to remodel a cottage into a year around residence. Five years later, the remaining project, a big one, was the kitchen. Unwilling to invest the money for a total makeover, we decided to replace the old gas stove with a gently used gas stove from Door County Co-op. The prior week, natural gas lines were installed on Bay Shore Drive, so the propane tank sat on our back steps awaiting a pickup, as natural gas now fueled the Co-op stove.

My parents had always considered our home a potential fire trap, so they gave us an emergency, collapsible ladder to use for escape from a second floor window. Thankfully, that was never needed, as we were downstairs and able to walk out the front door.

In unison, the morning breakfast group shouted, "I smell smoke." I whipped myself from the porch, through the living and dining room and came to a sudden halt in the kitchen. To my astonishment, there appeared to be a sheet of red arcs dancing from ceiling to floor and wall to wall. These flaming arcs would next dance around the dining and living room floor.

The house was immediately evacuated. Our neighbor to the south, Dr. Ted Hannon, placed the fire station call, and my sister found our outdoor hose useless. Meanwhile, we moved ourselves to the kitchen of our northern neighbor, Dar Harmann, where neighbors soon gathered, as the hottest known Door County fire raged and consumed our home. The asbestos siding and windows popped within two minutes. As Fire Chief Terry McDonald stated, "Had the home been located across the street from the fire station, it

would have made no difference."

Given the new gas line, gas fueled the flame for much too long before someone thought to turn it off. All of the above was reported, as I drank an early-morning bourbon and water and had a neck massage. Within moments, Ruth Miller, who closed the Gerhard Miller Gallery when she learned of the fire, arrived by foot and graciously offered us occupancy of Adolph Miller's home for as long as necessary. Adolph, Gerhard's father, had moved to a Green Bay nursing home a week earlier. Concurrently, our adjacent neighbors were hosing down their roofs to avoid ignition from errant sparks driven by the high winds.

The telefax to Bill read, "Family safe, but home burning down at present." Operator's reply: "Eigh, come again." No, we didn't have adequate insurance coverage. Following inspection, a Chicago fire consultant determined the fire was caused by a break in the defective, flexible tubing, which connected the natural gas line to the gas stove. Remember, this was years ago.

Within a week and with the aid of large screens, a team of kind, organized young women spent a day sifting through remains with the intent of locating wedding rings; however, the rubble pit offered no significant finds. Nostalgic finds included two pieces of crusted pottery, a glob of melted silver, and bubbled, delaminated dimes and quarters. The two story chimney stood intact, though a blow on the fired bricks created dust. Mosquitoes fared well in the basement's water puddles, but neighbors were too kind to tell us about the successful breeding grounds.

In the months ahead, sadness was minimal, as the fire was final. There were no rooms to sort through – do we pitch, save, repair? No tear was shed, as the only important items, us, were alive, and neighbors overflowed with kindnesses. Our new home, now 38 years old, has proven to give great pleasure. We'd never dreamed of building a home and finding a builder who'd provide a bid or an upset price forced us to a Green Bay builder.



Do we miss the wainscoting? Yes. Do we miss showing friends the marble that wove from our kitchen, through the dining room into the living room, then turned the corner and predictably stopped in front of the fireplace? Yes. Do we miss the master bedroom fireplace and corner marble sink? Yes. Do we miss the 17 trees, many huge? Yes. But we always remember and are forever grateful our lives were saved and we were surrounded by friends.

TREE TRIMMING: BLUEBIRD LANE TO DUNN ROAD

By Betty Parsons

Sturgeon Bay Utilities is responsible for tree trimming within this area, and SBU electrical supervisor Jason Bieri has informed BSPOA that there is a significant trim every four years. Trimming was scheduled last winter, the fourth year; however, snow and ice forced cancellation. The rescheduled date is for November and December.

As Mr. Bieri explained, "To avoid power outages, branches that go into wires and dead trees or trees that lean toward wires are addressed." Some trees have been yellow banded for removal and SBU will talk to homeowners about them during the fall months.

Mr. Bieri commented that the Bay Shore Drive area is unique, as it has a higher number of dead trees than other areas in which he works.

GOING GREEN

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ASIAN CARP INVASION UPDATE

Robert Landry

The invasion of Asian carp started in 1963, when the United States Fish and Wild Life Service introduced the carp to control unwanted aquatic microorganisms and plants from contaminating the artificial ponds of Arkansas fish farmers. When rain storms and floods caused the Arkansas fish ponds to overflow, Asian carp escaped and they eventually gained access to the Great Lakes. (For a complete history, refer to the past three BSPOA newsletters.)

On May 19th, Doctor Phil Moy, the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute's leading expert on Asian carp, was the guest lecturer at Cross Roads at Big Creek.

He made a full report on the carp problem and the efforts made to contain them. Research is underway to learn methods to disrupt spawning, develop sonic barrier, reduce egg viability, reduce food sources, increase the number of eDNA tests and disrupt habitat. Doctor Moy added that keeping the carp population low would make it difficult for the carp to become a viable spawning community. He also said it was economically feasible to install equipment that would raise and lower vessels past the lock area, which would allow the locks to be closed permanently.

On July 19th, five states, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota and Pennsylvania, filed suit in the U.S. District Court of northern Illinois to demand the implementation of tough federal and municipal action in order to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes, which the suit claims would destroy the fishing industry. Two previous suits by these states have been filed and rebuffed by the U. S. Supreme Court.

As of July 22nd, a \$2 million study, initiated by states and cities in the Great Lakes region, was kicked off to study how links between the lakes and the Mississippi River watershed can be eliminated. The goal of the 18-month study is to generate options to physically separate the two drainage basins.

At the conclusion of Dr. Moy's lecture, I asked him whether we would be able to stop the carp and save the Great Lakes. He said, "Yes"! One hopes his reply is correct.

BAY SHORE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

PURPOSE: The purpose of this association is to maintain the safe, natural and aesthetic character of the Bay Shore Drive area.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Bay Shore Property Owners Association is a voluntary, non-profit association. Its mission is to provide for discussion and action on issues that impact the residential character of the neighborhood and those that affect the character of Door County.

GOALS:

❖ To monitor proposals for development of recreational/commercial properties that relates to and affects residential character of the neighborhood.

❖ To keep members informed of development proposals and issues that impact the residential character of the neighborhood.

❖ To educate and motivate members and non-members to preserve and enhance the natural, visual and historic resources of the area.

❖ To encourage management of growth through effective town, city and county land use planning and zoning.

❖ To form an alliance with other existing property owner associations.

❖ To address other issues that affect Bay Shore Drive indirectly but affect the quality of life in Door County.

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