



# Summer 2013 Newsletter

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*By Betty Parsons*

On this glorious day, writing a brief column and thinking about current BSPOA activities is fun, as we have a great board, great members and valuable neighborhood contributions are underway. Here's a quick rundown:

- Dan Mathein's invasive specie 50/50 Grant Program is underway.
- Jim Schultz, new board member and former Planning and Zoning Administrator for Kenosha, enables BSPOA to keep up to date on issues that impact our neighborhood.
- Bryan Troutman's propane program keeps growing.
- Volunteers are working on invasive species

eradication and silent sport events.

- Broadband Internet Communication investigation for Bay Shore Drive areas is underway.
- An increasing number of members are using the BSPOA website and are asking questions/raising concerns about neighborhood issues.
- Nancy Buhl, membership chair, now has technology to offer newsletters via email.
- Deborah Mancuso, is organizing another annual meeting, which includes a great speaker.

Thanks to your service and support, BSPOA is making a difference.

## BSPOA ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

*By Deborah Mancuso, Annual Meeting Chair*

This year, **BSPOA's 17th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2013** in a beautiful Door County setting at the Horseshoe Bay Golf Club, overlooking the Bay of Green Bay.

Our featured speaker is Greg Vinkler, Artistic Director at Peninsula Players Theatre. Greg has worn many hats in his 25 years with Peninsula Players from directing over 20 productions to acting in twice as many. He has also performed in many venues throughout the country and world, including Broadway's West Side Story and Stratford on Avon's Shakespeare Festival. For his work, he has won numerous prestigious awards.

As the individual who auditions both plays and players and ultimately selects and schedules the Players' season, Greg will share his perspectives from the other side of the curtain and give insights on what it takes to act in, and to direct winning performances time after time.

Come join us! Meet our guest speaker, other BSPOA members, officers, friends, learn more about BSPOA, and enjoy a fabulous luncheon. Detailed information will be sent to you in a separate mailing. So mark your calendar. We hope to see you September 28th!

A Totally Personal Choice

## NATURAL VERSUS CHEMICALLY TREATED LAWNS

By Betty Parsons

*An expansion from the spring quarterly newsletter:* Periodically throughout life, one has a moment of awareness that prompts a change. My “moment of awareness” unexpectedly occurred when I represented BSPOA at a seminar on “Safe Lawns.” The speaker, Paul Tukey, is nationally recognized for his work with natural lawns. In his previous career, he had the largest landscape company in Maine and routinely used lawn chemicals. Before I left the seminar, I decided our lawn would become natural. Mind you, I’m not an impulsive person, and this was not a knee-jerk reaction, but rather, one based upon reliable information.

Here is some of the pesticide and herbicide data that influenced me.

From studies at Yale, Mount Sinai Medical Center, National Academy of Sciences and National Cancer Institute:

- One in seven people are negatively impacted in some form by lawn pesticides. (The list is long and it’s all the things you might expect like cancer, respiratory problems, etc.)
- Children are uniquely vulnerable to toxic exposures due to their small, rapidly developing bodies and behavior. They are closer to the grass, roll around in it and go hand to mouth.
- Pets groom by licking paws and fur and are two times more likely to die from lymphoma and bladder cancer. (Our cat died from lymphoma cancer.)
- Pesticides are carried into the homes through open screens, shoe soles, animal paws and once in the home, work into carpets and last a long time.

Information about soil and application:

- During application, drift and settle occurs. Five percent of pesticides are estimated to reach the weeds, while the balance runs off into water or dissipates in the air. The drift can be from inches to miles.

- Pesticides and fertilizers destroy the naturally present beneficial organisms in a healthy lawn’s ecosystem. Consequently, the lawn becomes a ‘junkie’ requiring chemicals to sustain it, and the root system shrinks, so more water is required.
- EPA reports that lawn care activities account for ten percent of air pollution.

Conversely, a natural lawn doesn’t function in terms of feeding the grass. Rather, the life of the soil is nurtured, which creates a symbiotic relationship between grass and soil, and therefore, both benefit each other with a variety of nutrients. What develops is a natural capacity for soil to fend off weeds, to have a green turf, and with a sponge like soil, water needs are reduced. Years ago when I visited my grandparents, a substantial rain meant staying up late, getting the flashlight and searching for night crawlers. Unfortunately, we have no night crawlers for our grandchildren.

I also learned this approach is not trail blazing. Many municipalities have banned pesticides and certain fertilizers. One such community is Bernards Township in New Jersey, which uses organic lawn care practices for all town owned property and encourages residents to do the same. Many lawn care services and landscapers, including some in Door County, now offer natural lawn care. While I’m focused on residential, I recognize the agricultural community is another circumstance. As our population grows and farm acreage shrinks, food production efficiency can’t be compromised, and pesticide, in today’s world, is a tool for production.

So, I’ve traded instant gratification for long-term gratification. Through about a five-year rehabilitation approach, I anticipate good soil, good lawn, the knowledge of chemical free and a tiny contribution to cleaner air, water and soil. I’ll try to take useful photos and keep you posted. Meanwhile, I hope your summer is blessed with many joyful moments.

## PROPANE — IT'S A GAS

*By Bryan Troutman*

A new agreement with Ferrell Gas has been negotiated for the 2013/2014 heating season. Currently, there are about 100 BSPOA members taking advantage of this program. In addition, based upon BSPOA success, other groups have become interested in this approach to sound financial management. Ferrell Gas has added Jacksonport Homeowners Association, Meadowbrook Farms, Cherry Ridge, Egg Harbor, and an Ellison Bay/Liberty Grove group. This will add about 250 additional users to a program started by BSPOA.

If you, as a member of BSPOA, are interested – check the website or review the materials included with the annual meeting package. Got a question – email it to BSPOA.556@charter.net.

## COMMUNICATIONS

*By Dan Mathein*

In our high tech world organizations occasionally will overuse email. We, as your steering committee, have been cautious to not overload our member's in-boxes. Recently BSPOA has sent electronically the spring '13 quarterly update newsletter and emails regarding the proposed helicopter pad in Egg Harbor, the potential for road congestion during silent sports events, and one about the date for the annual meeting.

Many members have indicated that they desire to receive the newsletters via email and this is the first full size issue which will be sent electronically. The quarterly updates will all be sent electronically except to those members specifically requesting snail mail.

Your Steering Committee and the newsletter editor always enjoy hearing from you. We feel it is important that communication is a two-way process. Feel free to email us at BSPOA.556@charter.net .

## DID YOU KNOW – SHORELINE

*By Dan Mathein*

Those tall plants along the shore are called *phragmites*. They can grow up to ten or 12 feet tall in one season and are really difficult to remove.

The Door County Invasive Species Team, working with state and local agencies, treated 36 acres of shoreline in the Town of Sevastopol in 2012 and will be re-treating these same areas in 2013.

To plan a treatment program, the Soil and Water Conservation Department creates a map showing infested locations. Assisting in this effort were two BSPOA volunteers, Randy and Mary Kenny, who walked the entire shoreline of the town of Egg Harbor and recorded 14 GPS locations where this invasive plant is established. These locations were given to the DCIST coordinator, Kari Hegenow, who is working with the Conservation Department.

Kari stated that in 2013 they are hoping to begin work in the Town of Egg Harbor. The cost to treat one acre of *phragmites* is about \$1,000. This cost to the Conservation Department is probably lower than that which would be paid by a private landowner, because of the size of the SWCD contract.

## QUARRY PARK RENAMED

*By Laddie Chapman*

On Sunday, July 28, 2013, a dedication ceremony was held at George K. Pinney Park, formerly Olde Stone Quarry Park. This is the new launch ramp, parking facility and gazebo that Pinney, as long time Door County Parks Director, played a major role in getting this project off the ground. The Door County Board felt that naming the park after him was appropriate.

George Pinney died in 2012.

## KUDOS

**To volunteers who helped BSPOA with another 13-mile Spring Clean-up** along Bay Shore Drive. Thanks to: Barb Bunning, Deanna D'Abbraccio and Barbara Morgan, Marge Fink, Pam and Brad Hayes, Barb and Doug Henderson, Ann and Tom Knab, Deborah Mancuso, Corrine and Dave Meyer, Chris and Al Moon, Elaine and Jim Pasqualucci, Bill Rlx, Marty and Jim Schultz, Greg Sessler, Phyllis and Dave Taylor, Bryan Troutman and Joyce Turley. (We hope no one was omitted.)

### To members

- Who are working with the BSPOA 50/50 grant to eliminate invasive species.
- Who have changed from dome lighting to shielded lighting, which directs light to the ground and eliminates glare for neighbors and helps to protect the night sky.
- Who contacted the Township of Egg Harbor regarding helicopter sightseeing.

## A CHANGE IN STRUCTURE

*By Randy Kenney*

From its formation, BSPOA has been an association of concerned residents. The Steering committee is made up of volunteers and meets monthly to serve the needs of our members. Many members, though not on the steering committee, volunteer for various projects and activities throughout the year.

In June of 2013 the executive committee felt the need to better formalize the association by incorporating as a non-stock / non-profit association. Through the generous pro bono legal services of one of our members, the paperwork has been completed and filed with the State of Wisconsin. His time and expertise are appreciated.

There is one change you will notice – **BSPOA** is now **BSPOA Inc.** Behind the scenes our “registered agent” (a member of the Steering Committee) will be sending required reports of activities to the State of Wisconsin. We hope this “formalization” will provide our members a sense of comfort and stability while encouraging greater volunteer involvement.

## SILENT SPORTS

*By Bryan Troutman*

The Door County Triathlon and Half Iron Man occurred on the weekend of July 21<sup>st</sup>. BSPOA volunteers provided the water bottle exchange for both events (Saturday at the George Pinney County Park (Olde Stone Quarry) and Sunday at Carlsville Road junction with Bay Shore Drive). Our members have been providing assistance to the races since their inception.

During these sporting events it is encouraging to see the courtesy extended by drivers to the runners and cyclists. A two hundred pound runner is no match for a 4,000-pound SUV. Thank you all for slowing down and driving carefully.

Upcoming events worth watching include:

- Skinny-dipping in the flats – all summer
- The Fall 50 is scheduled for October 26th



Not thirsty



Oh, man, I need a drink!

## DNR CONTROLS BEACH MAINTENANCE

By A. Nonamouse

Recently, one of our members was clearing the beach in front of his home. He had borrowed his cousins front-end loader and it only took him about 90 minutes. Unfortunately, the DNR officer was motoring past during this time frame. The citation resulted in a fine.

Just so you don't experience the same problem you might want to know that "any exposed land below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of a waterway is held in trust for the public. These areas are protected and activities in these areas, even when temporarily high and dry, may require approval and or permits. Below is an abbreviated overview of frequently asked questions. For the details consult with the DNR.

Q. What can I do with washed up debris?

A. There is no requirement for you to remove material that accumulates along your shore. Please keep in mind that you cannot actively push the material back out into the water – once you touch it – you own it. Removal by hand (shovel, rake, wheelbarrow, etc) does not require a permit. Using motorized equipment does require a permit.

Q. Can I remove vegetation?

A. You can remove vegetation (except for endangered species) in a single 30-foot wide path measured along the shoreline of the property. You can remove it by hand (pull it, use a weed whacker, or a push lawn mower) without permit. For over 30 feet wide, or if using mechanical equipment, you'll need a permit. All cut material must be removed and safely disposed of in an upland location. The 30-foot path rule does not apply to non-native, invasive species, which may be removed in an unlimited area. Invasive species include Phragmites, Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, and purple loosestrife.

Q. Can I place sand or rocks below the OHWM?

A. Not without a permit.

Q. Can I drive a golf cart or ATV on the exposed lakebed?

A. No. Not even a riding lawn mower. One exception is for a person operating a motor vehicle to launch or load a boat.

Q. Where is the OHWM on my property?

A. The OHWM is defined as "the point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation or other easily recognized characteristic." Only DNR staff can make a formal determination, if you need one.

For additional info refer to: **<http://dnr.wi.gov/water/fhp/waterway/>**

For a list of waterfront permit contacts go to: **<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/county.htm>**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Nancy Buhl, Membership Chair

Please welcome our new members and encourage other neighbors to join in supporting BSPOA.

Russ & Kelli Bowling	3/15/2013
Ron & Judy Lokken	5/24/2013
Greg & Nancy Miller	5/24/2013
David & Jane Zuhlke	5/24/2013



## 50/50 UPDATE

*By Dan Mathein*

The honeysuckle/buckthorn Invasive Control Grant Program is alive and well. Since announcing the program at the 2012 annual meeting we have supported three member projects. Two of the eradication efforts were on Bay Shore Drive and the largest one covering 10.5 acres was between Carlsville Road and the Blufflands.

Eliminating invasive plants may seem like a daunting task. The owners of the property shown in the photo's had utilized volunteer work crews for several years in an effort to clean up their property. Only after hearing about the BSPOA support available through the 50/50 Grant Program did they decide to hire a contractor. The two photos included show the view from Bay Shore Drive of the BEFORE and then the "almost" AFTER. The after photo was taken prior to the removal of the cut brush. At this location the buckthorn and honeysuckle were cut at ground level and then chemically treated (by a licensed contractor) to kill the roots. If you'd like to see what it looks like all cleaned up you can take a drive-by-look at The Shores 5633 BSD.

The long winter and late spring may have presented challenges to interested members in finding contractors with the time to get involved. Fighting invasive plants is an ongoing challenge and BSPOA is ready to help. We still have budgeted dollars available. There is still an opportunity to have these two invasive species treated before they produce this year's seed and next year's babies.

The steps are simple:

1. ID the plants on your property
2. Get a bid from a local licensed contractor
3. Submit an application to BSPOA
4. With grant approval – proceed with the work
5. Provide BSPOA a cc of the contractor invoice
6. Sit back and feel proud of your success

For additional information, go to our website at BSPOA.org or call your BSPOA invasive plant removal coordinator at 715-923-5000.



Are you aware they're not from here?



Invasives bite the dust

## SHS PRESENTS HISTORY

*By Linda Wait*

The Sevastopol Historical Society is now in its 3rd year. We have produced shows that include Logging in Door County, The Birmingham Story, Homemakers, and Veteran's Day.

Coming up this year is a presentation by Bernie & Shirley Geisel and another Veteran's Day show in November. We are working on the history of the Thresherees.

All our presentations are recorded, made available on YouTube, and are often shown on our Charter Channel 986 TV station.

We welcome ideas for future presentations. Please contact Linda Wait (746-1230, office@townofsevastopol.com) if you wish to be put on our emailing list or if you have an idea for us to consider. We also need volunteers for such mundane tasks as setting up refreshments. Please join us!

## SEVASTOPOL TV IS CHANNEL 986

*By Program Director Laddie Chapman*

Sevastopol's TV station continues to provide "hyper-local" programming to fill in where the big commercial stations leave a gap. We carry the Sevastopol Town Board (live) and Door County Board monthly meetings plus other events of interest to Door County viewers.

Some of our original shows have won awards from Wisconsin Community Media. Last year, we received five; Lumberjack Supper at Methodist Church, Sevastopol Dairy Breakfast with Denise Plasmeyer (which also won Best in Show), Jacksonport Polar Bears, Sturgeon Bay Bass Fishing Tournament and The Garden Door, all with Dennis Connolly.

Our signal is carried on Charter Cable at channel 986, and for those subscribers in Sevastopol only, simulcast on channel 97. 986 can be received anywhere in Door or Kewaunee counties by anyone with a basic cable account. We recommend tuning to channel 986 if you can, as FM stations sometimes interfere with 97.

Charter is being close-mouthed about the exact date, but sometime soon – likely this year – they will be switching to all digital. This will eliminate our analog channel 97 and make it impossible to receive TV signals with older analog TVs.

Charter has said that they will supply a digital converter box to subscribers on demand, free for the first year, \$3 per month for the second, and \$6 per month thereafter.

You may not need a converter box if you already have a digital TV, but some channels will be on strange numbers and Charter has the option of scrambling all of them. This is buyer beware territory, so don't say we didn't warn you!

Right now, Sevastopol TV can be received by digital TVs at channel 9-6 (or 9.6). With a Charter-supplied box, it will always be at the correct number, 986; without, it may move around without warning. Charter's cable service is available from Sturgeon Bay north on Bayshore to Birmingham's, with a spur up into some bluff roads, then down from Egg Harbor a short distance. It is also available in Valmy, Institute, and along the eastern shore of Sevastopol.

If you like music, we record and broadcast a lot of it, even into the wee hours of the night. Many local musicians and festivals are added to our catalog year-round.

Our programming schedule is flexible, so if you want to see what's coming up, check our online schedule. There is a link to that web page at [www.doorbell.net/video](http://www.doorbell.net/video).

Most of our locally-produced shows can also be seen on YouTube. Go to our channel and subscribe so you get an email whenever we post something new: [www.youtube.com/user/shermanbay](http://www.youtube.com/user/shermanbay).

We carry shows from other stations like ours, some from around the world. We also carry topical shows on boating (M-F, 8:30AM & 5:30PM), trains (M-F, 7:30AM & 4:30PM) and The Piano Guy, Scott Houston (M-F 8AM & 5PM). Other programming is less rigid – we never know how long a government meeting will be, so it's hard to program in advance!

If you know of an event that we should cover, please call me at 743-8400 or email me at [tv@doorbell.net](mailto:tv@doorbell.net). Our budget is shoestring-sized, so donations are always welcome.



The petting zoo at Sevastopol Dairy Breakfast is a big crowd-pleaser for the younguns.

## 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.

**Bay Shore Property Owners Newsletter,** Summer 2013 issue

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