



Summer 2014 Newsletter

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. BOX 556, STURGEON BAY, WI 54235

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

By Dan Mathein

During the past few months, I've had the pleasure of attending several conferences in Door County. What I found more interesting than the topics was the large number of volunteer organizations concerned with various aspects of the quality of life. Each organization has an agenda and a focus on what is important to them. Here in the county we have groups that focus on ground water, air, invasive plants, state parks, and safe lawns to name a few. It is refreshing to see so many people, who believe that each of us has the ability to make a positive impact on our environment.

None of the groups I encountered is attempting to turn the clock back. The people I spoke with were realistic regarding the ability of society to find the simple one size fits all fix. While listening to speakers and chatting with attendees (some low key and some quite passionate) there was a feeling of support for the many grass roots efforts currently under way. With a focus on the future, persistence, and the actions of many volunteers, positive change can occur.

The various groups, BSPOA included, all work with government agencies. Several have ties to educational resources. Your association receives a great deal of help from the Door County Invasive Species Team. At the same time, your association assists the DCIST. The partnership between public and private sector ac-

tions maximizes the payback from limited resources.

A word that seems to keep popping up is "sustainability". One example might be a plant community where the various plants have differing space, light, water and temperature needs. Some bloom early and some late. Some grow in the shadow of others - but there is always growth. BSPOA is a community that now numbers over 300 members. Some of us bloom early, some late, some briefly, and some all summer long. With a growing and diverse membership, it appears that BSPOA is sustainable.



Your 2014 Board of Directors

Glenn Timmerman is Speaker

BSPOA ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

By Deborah Mancuso, Annual Meeting Chair

BSPOA's 18th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2014 at the Horseshoe Bay Golf Club, a beautiful facility which overlooks the bay of Green Bay.

Our featured speaker is Glenn Timmerman. Glenn is the owner of Horseshoe Bay Farms, which include the historic barns and cottages along Bay Shore Drive. Glenn will share the history of the farms, what's currently happening, and the future plans for these historic registered buildings and surrounding area.

Come join us! Meet our guest speaker, other BSPOA members, officers, and 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 27th!



Betty overtopped by invasive Canary reed grass

SUSTAINING WILDLIFE WITH NATIVE PLANTS

By Betty Parsons

If one book qualifies, BSPOA now has a lending library. The 'library' resulted from excitement about a new book entitled, "Bringing Nature Home" by entomologist Douglas Tallamy. Many experts in the profession of gardening believe this to be the most important gardening book ever written, as it is based on researched landscaping practices and reveals how preservation of biodiversity is sustained through native plant communities. Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods* writes, "If you have a backyard, this book is for you."

Who knew that many of the plants in our gardens are alien plants, which few insects can eat? For many years, plants have been selected based on their beauty and fit with our aesthetic design, however, little wildlife can exist on them. For instance, most native insects require native plants. Take away the insects, and Tallamy says, "A land without insects is a land without higher forms of life". Butterfly gardens are popular, but what about the milkweed plant for the caterpillar?

As development and natural habitat for wildlife decreases, the choices a gardener makes become increasingly significant. When native plants disappear, so do the insects, and consequently, the birds and other animals that depend upon the insects. *Bringing Nature Home* gives the rationale for using native plants and explains the intricate food web.

I found this eloquently written, easy to read book to be extremely thought-provoking and educational, and chapters such as, "Creating Balanced Communities", "Blending in with the Neighbors" and "What Should I Plant" were very helpful.

If interested in purchasing this *Bringing Nature Home*, it can be found on the internet. Google Douglas W. Tallamy and several sources will pop up.

THE PLIGHT OF THE POLLINATOR

By Dan Mathein

Many articles have been written about the decline of the European Honey Bee Population caused by Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The USDA estimates that 45% of our fruit, nut and vegetable crops require pollination. Some private sources put the number much higher.

On our TV screens, we can see the hives of commercial bees being trucked to the orchard to do their critical work. This type of visual is used because it is more visually impactful than the picture of a single Bumble Bee coming out of its home, which is usually found in an old mouse nest in the ground. The Blue Orchard Bee, Mason Bee and Leafcutter nest in abandoned wood pecker holes in standing dead trees. Carpenter bees will drill their own holes (using a portable quarter inch drill) in dead trees and logs on the ground.

Five bees were mentioned above. There are approximately 4000 species of bees in the US and Canada. Every one of these “native” bees goes about their daily task of seeking food and pollinating flowers. To enhance the population of the native bees, it may be beneficial to plant flowers among the orchards and leave natural home areas within close proximity to the fruit and nut trees we wish to have pollinated.

Each species has specific housing requirements. The institute of Environment Sustainability is working to find ways to help growers deliver sufficient pollination to crops that need it. Enhancement of habitat for our native bees is simple and can be very effective.

Every insect is sensitive to pesticides. The appropriate use of pesticides assists in enhancing the quality and quantity of a crop. Excessive use disrupts the lifecycle of our “native” pollinators and, in some cases it may be counter-productive. Herbicides used to control weeds also have a negative effect on pollinators by destroying habitat and limiting the pollen sources bees rely upon when the target agricultural crop is not in flower.

Resolving the “Plight of the Pollinator” is a

very complex issue. Wayne Dyer often says, “When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.”

BSPOA NOMINATED FOR STATE AWARD

By Betty Parsons

During the winter, the Board of Directors was surprised and pleased to learn that BSPOA was nominated for a prestigious state award, known as the Invader Crusader Award. Kari Hagenow, Coordinator for The Door County Invasive Species Team, submitted the application on behalf of our association.

Since 2005, this award, given by the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council, has honored Wisconsin citizens and organizations – both volunteer and professional – for their significant contributions to the prevention, management, education and/or research of invasive species. The award recognizes efforts working at all scales – from neighborhoods to statewide parks, lakes and forests.

Ms. Hagenow’s comprehensive application gives us an opportunity to reflect on the organization’s ecologically focused efforts since its inception in 1997. Keri says BSPOA “is viewed as a group with an ability for self-initiation, and with work that spans private and public property alike”. Among our efforts: initiated the 50/50 grant program, committed a total of 800 hours to the Door County Land Trust, had an active role in helping local conservation organizations acquire land for public use and protection, gave 82 hours in 2013 to the removal of residential invasives, mapped 13-miles of Phragmites, and continuously work to educate members via newsletters, emails, website and seminars.

The competition has many entrants and is remarkably competitive. Unlike BSPOA which has many areas of interest, many of the nominated individuals and organizations work exclusively with invasive species removal and education activities. Though we didn’t receive the award, we were honored to know Ms. Hagenow considered BSPOA worthy of a nomination.

PROPANE PURCHASE PROGRAM COMPLETED

By Bryan Troutman

Your association has concluded its negotiations for a propane contract for the upcoming heating season. In part, because of a very unstable market and the difficulties of service last winter, negotiations were very difficult. We have agreed to a contract with Lakes Gas for the next three years. The rate will float with a spread off of the pipeline cost until fixed by us. The winter rate will be \$1.64 per gallon. There will be no additional fees or costs. Lakes Gas replaces Ferrell Gas, which has been our supplier for the last three years. We are pleased to have them back (prior to Ferrell Gas, Lakes Gas was our supplier) and have received assurances that they can meet our demands and service for gas. Should you have any questions or wish to join our program, please contact Bryan Troutman (920) 743-9088 or **www.bdttroutman@aol.com**

INVASIVE REMOVAL GRANT PROGRAM

By Dan Mathein

50/50 matching funds grants are available to remove honeysuckle or buckthorn from private property owned by BSPOA members.

The program pays 50% of the contractor cost up to a maximum of \$500 per member. The process is: 1. Member gets a bid from a licensed contractor. 2. Member sends an application form with a cc of bid to the program coordinator. 3. The program coordinator does a site inspection and approves the grant. 4. Contractor performs the work and submits an invoice. 5. Member notifies the coordinator who then does a post inspection. 6. With approval, the BSPOA treasurer writes a check for the association's share **payable directly to the contractor.**

Full program details are available on our website at BSPOA.net. If you do not have internet access, or would just like to chat about your needs, call Dan at 715-923-5000.

WATER TESTING FOR BAY OF GREEN BAY

By Betty Parsons

We're pleased to announce that Dan Collins, a BSPOA member and active conservationist in Door County, has agreed to coordinate a summer water testing program. Shoreline testing, at five selected sites within the 13-mile strip of the association perimeters, will include four monthly water tests collected by volunteers. As Dan stated, "We will use this information to help our members know if near shore water conditions are safe and healthy for levels of E.coli". Testing will also include Phosphorus. The project is coordinated with Dr. Gregory Kleinheinz from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Microbiology Department and the Door County Water and Soil Department.

The report from the first test, completed on June 24th, is good news. Lab results indicated that water overall is quite clean.

As some of you may know, BSPOA has a water testing history. In 2004, a member's suggestion triggered the "BSPOA Water Testing Project", a program that continued through the summer of 2007. Though e.coli count was sometimes higher after rain, data gathered over the four-year period indicated that Bay Shore Drive water showed little contamination from E.coli.

While the county uses UW interns to test water at Murphy Park, seven years have passed since the last BSPOA water tests along the Bay. In conversation with Dr. Kleinheinz, he recommended testing, but with less frequency and fewer sites. As he explained, "this year's testing is desirable, as it will provide 'maintenance' information when compared against past data".

A report of the summer 2014 water testing results will appear in the winter newsletter.

CAVITY DWELLERS

By Dan Mathein

One of our members in Little Harbor uses a firewood dealer to keep his wood lot clean. Sounds like a good deal – free wood for no charge labor. The firewood guy only takes out the dead trees. Naturally, if a tree is a potential hazard to life or property, it is best to take it down. However, if we cut down a dead or hollow tree back in the woods, we just might be destroying the home of a critter such as an owl, woodpecker, chickadee, nuthatch, native bee, or heaven forbid, a skunk. OK, perhaps we can forget about the skunk.

The point here is that the tree itself may be dead, but the structure may be teeming with life. Below is a photo of a critter condo located on Cherry Road just south of Gordon Road. This former hard maple (the Wisconsin State Tree) is providing a condo living environment without monthly fees. Unfortunately, the land owner, or county highway department, may find it necessary to remove this old snag to keep our roadsides looking neat and clean. Positive actions can generate unintended consequences.



Nature's Kritter Kondo

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PROJECTS

By Dan Collins

A Free Amelanchier (Juneberry) for Town of Egg Harbor Residents: Amelanchier, aka Juneberry, or Serviceberry is a beautiful, locally native tree with deliciously edible berries. One free Amelanchier tree is available for pickup at Door Landscape at 6329 Hwy 42, for the first 100 *Town of Egg Harbor landowner respondents*. Go to Door Landscape during normal business hours, tell them the password [native tree] to receive the planting instruction sheet. Leave the tear off signature portion, then pick out your free tree while supplies last.

Camp Dragonfly: Dragonflies help to control mosquitos and are good indicators of high water quality. Dragonflies eat many times their weight in mosquitoes every day. Dragonfly author and expert Paul Burton delivered a program about dragonflies, how to safely net and identify them on Wednesday July 23rd at 6040 W. Carlsville Road. Attending families became members in the Wisconsin Dragonfly Network. The first ten families received a dragonfly net to take home and a copy of Paul's book, "Common Dragonflies of Northern Door County".

Batty for Bats: Bats are strongly associated with much of Egg Harbor, which provides both forest habitat and the karst caves necessary for winter hibernation. Bats can serve as indicators of healthy forests. Bat expert Bob Bultman offered a late evening bat walk on Friday July 11th to identify the bats that were flying using bat "listening" equipment. Also available, while supplies last, are free bat houses made from locally grown and milled wood, assembled by BSPOA volunteers.

For additional information about any of these programs, contact Dan Collins at dancollins@earthlink.net or (414) 397-1921.

Funded by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Grant # NA13NOS4190043, and the Town of Egg Harbor, Door County Land Trust, Landscapes of Place, Door Landscape and BSPOA.

BROADBAND INTERNET UPDATE

By Jim Schultz

Bay Shore Drive area residents and vacationers are continually challenged by the lack of reliable and affordable broadband internet service. Unfortunately, this is not just a local problem, but one that occurs in many areas of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin ranks 22nd among states in average broadband speed and 26th in adoption of broadband service faster than 4 megabytes per second, according to recent figures from Akamai Technologies, a Cambridge, MA firm that tracks global broadband trends. In general, broadband is a higher-speed internet connection capable of handling large amounts of data through fiber optic, cable and other means. There are various rankings on how states compare, while not everyone agrees on the numbers, few would argue that broadband service isn't important.

BSPOA continues to monitor technology developments with internet communication, especially initiatives that may impact its members. While private market forces primarily determine the scope and quality of internet service available as well as other types of communication; government and nonprofit entities can play an important role. For example, the Door County Economic Development Corporation in 2013 brought internet providers together and held a number of symposiums around the County for the purpose of conveying information on what they offer and to obtain input from the public on their needs and concerns. In addition, local governments have provided public property for antenna tower locations.

Recent developments promise to enhance internet service in the future. The former NEWWIS has new ownership and a new name, Door County Broadband (DCB). According to new owners Nate Bell and Kevin Voss, they plan to upgrade their existing network with new advanced equipment and are looking to expand coverage with the construction of new transmission towers. A new tower is being built in the Town of Nasewaupee at Sherwood Point.

This is expected to improve the quality of service along the Bay Shore north of Sturgeon Bay.

BSPOA has had discussions with DCB on what can be done to further expand their internet coverage in the Bay Shore Drive area. They said that before they can justify new investment they need more information on what the needs are of residential customers. To help them get this data, we have offered to conduct a usage needs survey from our members. The survey is now being prepared and will be sent to members via email in the near future. It will also be accessible on our website.

In another development, Frontier Communications has expanded its DSL internet to areas south and east of Murphy Park. New coverage areas include Horseshoe Bay Farms, Bay Shore Drive, Spring Road and Birch Lane. To qualify for an internet plan, the property owner must also have telephone service. Unfortunately, the DSL line is only capable of providing internet speeds of around 5 mbps. Not great, but better than most wireless services.

KUDOS TO...

...22 of our members who graciously gave a few hours of time for the **BSPOA 13-mile spring clean up**. Bay Shore Drive sparkled as did post clean up conversation at Birmingham's. Volunteers included: **Deanna D'Abbraccio and Barbara Morgan, Katie and Chris Callen, Jill Cavanaugh, Mary and Jim Fravert, Mary and Ken Hartenian, Denise and Ken Hubbard, Sherry and Alan Koenig, Brenda and Jeff Lange, Teri and Al Searing, Greg Sessler, Phyllis and Dave Taylor and Veronica and Dave Trepina.**

BSPOA members **Nancy Aten and Dan Collins** for their work in obtaining a Coastal Byways grant for three conservation projects. Also, special thanks to the Town of Egg Harbor for matching the grant.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Nancy Buhl, Membership Chair

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

Pete & Dawn Aisbet
Dean & Jacque Axland
Keith Bagley
Richard & Jill Barbieri
Tom & Penny Beerntsen
Keith & Jan Boehlke
Mark & Colleen Boland
Carlyle & Patricia Chan
Claudia Elsner
Michael & Orlaine Gabert
Frank & Peggy Guastella
Bruce & Donna Hake
Hudson & Heather Hellmich
Don Jacobsmeier
Richard Krause & Janice Knecht
Bill & Sue Lindsay
David & Margaret Loucks
Jim & Gwen Mitsche
Bill & Bridget Mundy
Ron & Loraine Quarnstrom
Yvonne Retzinger
Dave & Gini Roback
David & Veronica Trepina
Kristine Ventresca
Sue Vineyard
Gerald & Carol Wagner
Mary Ann Zjala & Linda Denissen

SELF RELIANCE

By Dan Mathein

Self-Reliance is always a challenge. The Mother Earth News would encourage you to grow organic veggies, get off the grid, wear second hand clothes, and recycle everything including paper plates. There are other options. Based upon last winter's propane shortage perhaps an alternate source of heat might not be "over the top". Within our membership we have people who heat with natural gas, electric, propane, solar, fuel oil or wood. Is it a possibility that a combination might be prudent? Self-reliance may have something to do with not putting all of our eggs in one basket.

In the winter newsletter I wrote about our changing forests with emphasis on the ash trees which, will soon be under attack by the Emerald Ash Borer. Ash is an excellent firewood, but only if you have a safe appliance in which to burn it. However, it is summer, why talk about a wood fire? Planning and installation take time. The proper time to budget for and install an alternate heat source is not January — it is during the warm months.

What are the options? They might include a simple fireplace insert or a small wood stove. Naturally, these must be installed by an experienced contractor. Safety is the key. If you chose to install an alternate heat source, you will need a supply of fuel. Wood, cut – split – cured- and covered will last for several years. The size of the wood you cut will depend upon the size of your alternate heat source. Did you know that the Log Den restaurant is heated with wood? They have an outside boiler that uses three foot long logs. At one time I had a small wood stove, which needed wood that was only 12 inches long. Size your fuel supply to fit your appliance.

UGH, carrying in firewood and taking out the ashes is not my favorite thing to do. OK. Perhaps another avenue, such as an electric space heater, if you heat with gas. Or, a small gas unit (professionally installed) if you heat with electricity. If your primary source of heat fails, having an alternative will give you a warm and comforting feeling.

In Memoriam

Herbert R. "Kip" Pohl March 30, 2014

Ann Knab May 14, 2014

John Law May 26, 2014

BAY SHORE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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, Inc. Newsletter, Summer 2014 issue

Published on an occasional basis by **Bay Shore Property Owners Association, Inc.,**

P.O. Box 556, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 **email:** bspoa.556@charter.net **web:** bspoa.org

Editor: Dan Mathein

Contributors: Nancy Buhl, Dan Collins, Deborah Mancuso, Dan Mathein, Betty Parsons, Jim Schultz, Bryan Troutman

Electronic page composition and computer expertise: Laddie Chapman

Printing: Mark Goldsmith, Gateway Business Systems, Inc., Munster, IN

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 556, STURGEON BAY, WI 54235

