



Winter 2013 Newsletter

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

BSPOA ANNOUNCES INVASIVE CONTROL GRANT PROGRAM

BSPOA has earmarked \$5,000 for this one year pilot program. This take action program may be renewed upon approval of the Steering Committee.

The program goal is to provide financial assistance to BSPOA members who wish to hire a contractor to conduct invasive plant eradication work on their property.

Members of BSPOA are eligible for up to \$500 in matching funds (50/50) for treatment and removal of two targeted invasive plant species – buckthorn and honeysuckle. Any member of BSPOA is eligible for one grant per year. In the case of multiple owners of a common property the grant will be limited to one per property. Pay out, under this program, will be made directly to the contractor. Please be sure your contractor understands this.

To be acceptable for inclusion in this grant program the contractor you select must be licensed and follow DCIST / WDNR accepted standards. In Wisconsin anyone who is paid to use an herbicide, regardless of the type of vegetation, must be licensed.

The program steps are:

- 1. Determining the extent of work** (location, species, and approximate area covered such as 68' X 135') they wish to have considered for a BSPOA Grant (BSPOA, a licensed contractor or DCIST can help with identification and scope of work.)
- 2. Get a written bid** from a licensed contractor
- 3. Provide the BSPOA program administrator with a completed application, with contractor bid attached**, prior to the start of on-site work. This signed application allows the program administrator site access for pre and post work inspection. Forms are available on the website or from the program administrator.
- 4. The program administrator will notify the member** when their grant application is approved. Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis until the earmarked funds are fully committed
- 5. The Member must notify the Program Administrator** when the work is completed.
- 6. Grant payout** will be made directly to the contractor performing the work upon completion and inspection of the work. The inspection will be by the Grant Program Administrator or designee.

For fiscal 2013 the program administrator is Dan Mathein, 6126 Gordon Rd, 54235 who can also be contacted by phone at 715-923-5000 or email mathein6126@charter.net

BAY SHORE BLUFFLANDS: A LANDSCAPE VISION

By Jodi Milske, Door County Land Trust Stewardship Director

In 2000, the Door County Land Trust undertook its most ambitious project to date: on a leap of faith, it borrowed and fund-raised \$1.2 million to purchase the 180-acre Hutter Estate along Bay Shore Drive. Thirteen years later, this property has become the core of our 450-acre Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve, which protects over a mile of undeveloped Niagara Escarpment, one of the rarest ecosystems in North America. Our most ambitious acquisition project has now become our most ambitious **stewardship** project.

The richly forested bluff face that provides us such a scenic view from Bay Shore Drive is the enduring symbol of much larger mosaic of integrated and interwoven plant and animal communities. These habitats once transitioned seamlessly, from upland mixed deciduous forest to cool, damp boreal rock face and talus slope, to spring-fed wetlands feeding meandering channels that flowed northwest into Green Bay. Each habitat teemed with abundant resident birds and mammals, and the continuously forested transitions provided safe corridors for migrating species.

This is a picture of the Blufflands as it once existed, before human impacts such as logging, agriculture, introduction of invasive species and ever-increasing residential development fragmented its ecosystem and damaged native habitats. **But it is also a vision of the future**, a vision that Door County Land Trust and its stewardship partners have pledged to bring about through *ecological restoration*.

What do we mean by “restoration”? First, what we do **not** mean “turning back the clock” to pre-European settlement! That is neither possible, nor desirable. Our vision for the Blufflands’ future emphasizes providing opportunities for people to enjoy its scenic beauty and rich ecology. Our challenge is to carry out *the careful and responsible management of this ecological gem*.

When purchased the Blufflands ecosystem was badly out of balance. The *good* news is that nature is surprisingly resilient, and will attempt to heal itself if given a chance. Fortunately, the Blufflands is still very much a complex, vibrant natural landscape that can and will be brought back to ecological health. Our job as land stewards is to remove the conditions that are keep-

ing it out of whack, and to enhance the conditions that will return it to a self-sustaining balanced system. This is the goal of restoration: giving the landscape what it needs to sustain itself.

The first step is to remove invasive plant species. Invasive species destroy habitat and create ecological deserts. At the Blufflands Preserve, the worst invaders are buckthorn and honeysuckle. Many thousands of volunteer hours and tens of thousands of federal and state grant dollars have been invested in eradicating these species, and we are winning this battle. BSPOA members have been instrumental in this effort, both on the preserve itself and on their own properties.

At Blufflands, you can see an example of this natural recovery as you walk the upper trail from Reynolds Road. Ten years ago, the trail meandered through an aggressively spreading thicket of honeysuckle. Today we see a very different picture, thanks to the tireless efforts of our Land Trust stewardship volunteers. The meadow flourishes with hawthorn, dogwood, cherry and other native shrub species. During a recent visit, a DNR representative who had once “written off” this area’s ecological value, marveled that he was actually in the same place!

Other factors can impact an area’s ability to recover. In the area adjacent to the lower trail head on Bay Shore Drive, you will notice that few if any native woody species have been able to colonize. Natural succession (aka “seeding in”) from the surrounding forests should have been occurring for many years. Poor soils coupled with heavy compaction from agricultural use have created a nutrient-depleted “hardpan” that inhibits germination of all but the most tenacious seeds. In this area, the restoration plan will include selective planting of hardy native trees and shrubs to jump-start the healing process. We hope to begin this phase in 2013.

In summary, our goal at Bay Shore Blufflands is to restore a self-sustaining ecosystem to the greatest extent feasible. We take our stewardship responsibility very seriously, for both future generations of human beings, and the plants and wildlife that depend on us to protect their home. We appreciate the support the BSPOA. You are vital partners in our mission.

JIM SCHULTZ

I grew up in Milwaukee where I met my wife Marti in high school. Following graduation from UW- Stevens Point in 1972 with a degree in geography, I worked for a non-profit organization for five years while attending graduate school at UW-Milwaukee. I subsequently obtained employment with the City of Kenosha, WI in the Planning and Development Department completing my Master's Degree in Public Administration at UW-Parkside in 1989. I spent 31 years with the City of Kenosha, the last twenty years managing the building, zoning, and neighborhood code enforcement programs. I currently hold State certifications in commercial and residential building inspection.



various leadership roles. During my leisure time I like woodworking and playing sheepshead.

We have two children and two grandchildren. Our daughter lives in Waukesha, WI and our son lives in Boulder, CO. We travel there as much as possible to hike and take in the scenery. A few years ago I hiked to the summit of Colorado's Longs Peak (14,250 ft. in elevation).

I look forward to my involvement with the BSPOA. I am impressed with the organization's professionalism and what it has accomplished over the years; and I feel my skills and abilities will help further its mission and goals.

My first trip to Door County came in the mid 1970's when Marti and I took up cross country skiing. We really enjoyed the trails in Peninsula State Park for their scenery and challenges. We were also attracted to the accommodations and local restaurants even though they weren't as prevalent back then. Over the years we became more attracted to Door County and what it has to offer especially in outdoor recreation. We enjoy biking, hiking, and golf, and have recently purchased a sailboat and are excited about getting on the water this year.

In 2001 we bought a wooded lot located south of Murphy Park with the intention of building a house there when we retired. We spent most of 2011 designing, planning and overseeing the building project and moved into our new home in February 2012. Our time this past year was mostly consumed by site and landscape work.

During my time in Kenosha I was active in community organizations including Kiwanis, United Way, Neighborhood Housing Services and our condominium HOA where I served in

LATEST BSPOA INFORMATION

Please check us out at **BSPOA.ORG**. We feature lots of information and current news about our organization and about Door County as well as links to other Door County websites. You will also see some nice photography, information from the Wisconsin Tax Payers Alliance and the DNR. You can also expect an occasional surprise such as a funny or beautiful "Flash Video."

PAM HAYS

I am a native Wisconsin girl, raised in Waukesha County. I graduated from Pius XI High School and went to college at UW- Stevens Point. Door County has been a part of my life from my early years. Camping with relatives as a child evolved to staying at a cousin's condo in Fish Creek for summers.



My almost 20 years in the insurance field was spent in various positions, culminating as a Director of Operations for CIGNA Healthcare-Wisconsin with responsibility for all Wisconsin operations. Staff meetings in Chicago and traveling to our offices were all part of the wondrous world of insurance.

My personal life evolved rather quickly. I married my husband Brad in 1988. He had full custody of his two children and I became an instant Mom of a 9 year boy and a 6 year old girl. We started our family life in Greendale, Wisconsin where we built our custom home. Greenfield is just about as far out as you can get in Milwaukee County.

Brad spent his career in law enforcement at the Federal level. He has been a Special Agent with the Secret Service and with Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms(ATF). He has travelled the world and been involved with historic events. I have told him he should write a book, but to no avail.

As a family we are very active. In our younger years, as our knees had all of the cartilage, we ran, roller bladed, downhill skied and camped at Potawatomi State Park. After we succumbed to various knee problems, we continued to be active, hiking, walks and biking

soon took over. As time passed, I realized that I really didn't like waking up in a damp tent. From then on, we rent cottages all over the peninsula. Our children, they spent their summers working in Door County during their college years.

In 2010, we found our place in Egg Harbor. We spent several years trying to find a place that felt right for

us. We purchased a log home on Birch Lane. The house was built in 1988, the same year we married, so it must be a good sign. Buying a log home that had not been routinely used during the last 10 years has brought to light all kinds of new experiences. Thankfully, the bats have found another home (knock on wood), electric base board heating costs never cease to astonish us, and we are well acquainted with the joys of having a septic field.

Now semi-retired empty-nesters, we enjoy the quiet with our 13 year old Westie, Moxy. Brad and I still dabble in real estate. I have enjoyed cooking all of my life. Friends have donned me "the Martha Stewart" of Greenfield. I like all aspects of the culinary world. My love of food and dining has led me into a part-time job of an associate for a food broker with responsibility for the territory of Door County. I interface with distributors and provide product information at the operator level.

Soon after buying our place on Birch Lane a welcome packet from the BSPOA came in the mail. Door County has been a part of me all of my life and I felt membership was an excellent way to give back a little something to a place I love.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 4** Spring Clean Up followed by volunteer lunch at Birmingham
- May 11** Egg Harbor Open book 3 to 5
- May 18-19** Cellcom Green Bay Marathon
- May 31** Sevastopol Open Book 10 AM
- June 3** Egg Harbor Board of Review 6 to 8
- June 8** Bellin Run
- June 17** Sevastopol Board of Review 2 PM
- July 20-21** Door County Triathlon
- Sept 8** Door County Century Bike Ride
- Oct 26** Door County Fall 50
- Nov 28** Festival Foods Turkey Trot

DOOR COUNTY RACE COMPETITIONS

By Bryan Troutman

Once again this past year BSPOA managed the eighth leg of the **DOOR COUNTY FALL 50**. This 50 mile running race is from Gills Rock to Sturgeon Bay. The exchange point was at the base of Carlsville Road on Bay Shore Drive. The race took place on October 20th with 385 teams and 120 solo runners. The winning male was Mark Thompson (6:06:35) and the winning female was Carolyn Smith (6:33:15). The race produced contributions to local charities of \$13,500 and BSPOA earned \$1,000 for its efforts and contribution.

Registration is now open for the **Door County Triathlon** and the **Door County Half Iron Man** competitions. BSPOA will again sponsor the bicycle water bottle exchange. We have sponsored this race since its inception and are always looking to expand the service team.

Other silent sports events are planned – more dates are in the calander.

Volunteers will be needed for both events. If you can help, contact me at BDTroutman@aol.com or via cell at 847.778.8748.

WHO CARES / WHY BOTHER

By Dan Mathein

In addition to volunteering on public lands, many of our members work on their personal property every year to control invasive plants such as garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle, or buckthorn. Those hours are beneficial to the quality of “ye olde homestead” but also to the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) **if they are recorded and reported.**

Hours invested on private property, if reported to DCIST, can be used when they apply for state grant money to fund their county wide efforts. If 100 of our members were to report that they vol-

unteered (worked) for a few hours a year, the impact would be significant. (EVERY hour counts and in 2012 one of our members reported over 40 hours). The reporting forms are available on our website, BSPOA.org, or by snail mail from any Steering Committee member. If you supply a 45 cent stamp and mail the completed form to the BSPOA PO Box – we will make sure it gets to the proper people.

As the saying goes – if it is not written down it didn't happen.

INVASIVE PLANTS

THINK GLOBAL /
ACT LOCAL

By Dan Mathein

I have had the pleasure of being part of the Door County Land Trust work crews to remove bush honeysuckle at the Bayshore Blufflands. I was quite proud of myself until I took a walk out in my own back yard. I have this invasive species in great quantities and rather large sizes. They must have been growing there since Ike was in office.

Thinking Globally I can see the robins enjoying the fruit and spreading the seeds far and wide. By ACTING LOCALLY I can remove the source. If I can remove one mature bush and that one bush produces 100 berries a year I can prevent the reseeding of 100 new invaders. There must be at least 50 on property, so the math works out to preventing over 5000 new seedlings. Now that would be something to be proud of.

To assist in hiring a contractor to eliminate invasive species, the 50/50 grant program was created. But, many of our members chose to do the work themselves. Let's assume that 100 members cut down only 5 honeysuckle each year. Again let's do the math; 5 eliminated X 100 BSPOA members = 500 X 100 seeds per plant = prevention of 50,000 seeds planted. If 100 members kill 50 each the result is one-half million prevented. wow

For assistance in identification or methods of eradication, contact BSPOA or DCIST. We would also like to document the number of hours worked by our members on this problem. See the Who Cares article for more info. For information or assistance you can contact any of us on your Steering Committee.

ACTING LOCALLY can and does have a GLOBAL IMPACT!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Nancy Buhl, Membership Chair

Please welcome our new members and encourage other neighbors to support BSPOA.

William & Candice Anderson
Errico & Patrizia Auricchio
Don & Wendy Beilfuss
Jerome & Charlene Bettag
Faye Callahan
James & Bernadette Conroy
Deanna D'Abbraccio & Barbara Morgan
Donald, Susan, & Elizabeth Gauger
James & Carol Gross
Michael & Carina Helm
Ken & Denice Hubbard
Sally Hunter
David & Jeanne Kennedy
Lawrence & Elfriede Leporte
Edgar & Nancy Muenzer
Tom & Rosa Parsons
Gordie & Teri Planning
Cameron Platt
Ruth Potthoff
Harold & Judy Proctor
Barry & Carolyn Swenson
John & Sylvia Trenhaile
Dale & Margaret West
Jan Wrede

In Memoriam

Patricia Olson
Bob Goldsmith
John Collins
Sue N. Cox
Ken Nelson
Andrew Welborn
George Sykora

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Betty Parsons

I wish all a year filled with joy, adventure, challenge, good health and moments of tranquility.

With sadness, BSPOA lost several members last year, and in particular, I mention **Bob Goldsmith**. For an incredible twelve years, Bob and his son, Mark, owners of Gateway Business Systems Inc., in Munster, Indiana, have given BSPOA the generous and appreciated gift of printing our newsletter. The quality is outstanding, and their contribution has saved BSPOA substantial money. In so doing, these savings have contributed to the success of our organization. While we are extremely careful and efficient with our money, savings afforded by their gift gives BSPOA the opportunity to make decisions that positively help our community and neighborhood. We extend a heartfelt thank you.

I reviewed our activities of the past twelve months. Looking back is a fun process, as BSPOA is an active group that just keeps building upon an impressive summary. Below you'll see highlights of what we all did in 2012. As the New Year marches forward, let's all pitch in to build upon these accomplishments.

Member and Community Benefits

- Initiated quarterly newsletter
- Initiated 50/50 grant program (details in newsletter)
- Invited interested Bluff Ledge Road residents to join the propane program
- Initiated phragmites inventory in Town of Egg Harbor for DC Invasive Species Team
- Continued removal of invasive species at Blufflands, which applies to BSPOA DC Land Trust pledge of 400 hours
- Offered membership Invasive Species information program
- Offered residential identification, training and removal assistance for Invasive Species
- Supplied Sevastopol History Society with CD of 19 BSPOA anecdotal histories
- Contributed \$500 for defibrillators to Sevastopol emergency medical responders
- Wrote letters of support for Michigan Street Bike Lane, Greenprinting Maintenance Contract Renewal, DC Land Trust Blufflands Grant Application.
- Attended Invasive Species and DC Coastal Byway presentation, communicated with Door County Highway Department regarding potential repaving of County B, and supported the successful recycling effort for the Sturgeon Bay Skate Park Initiative
- **87 BSPOA volunteers**, some doing multiple activities, assisted with Steering Committee, spring clean up, Door County Triathlon, Half-Iron Man, Fall 50 and eradication of Invasive Species
- 107 members attended annual meeting, a record

Steering Committee Operations

- Added two outstanding members to SC, Pam Hayes and Jim Schmidt (details in newsletter)
- Initiated an executive committee, which adds efficiency between meetings
- Inventoried mail membership boundaries
- Introduced budget system and further refined monthly budget reporting
- Added additional computer functions

Finally, I extend a huge thank you to every member for your support plus a special thank you to those members who volunteer time and insure that our organization is making a difference.

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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