



# Winter 2015 Newsletter

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

## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

*By Dan Mathein*

Wow, time flies when you're having fun. It seems like just yesterday that I was reading about big brother, making a kite out of sticks and newspaper held together with flour paste, wishing I had a roll of film for my box camera, and planning to go to Irv and Elena's to watch TV (they had a color set with an outside antenna). Remember typing a school paper and using white out?

Now we've got cable TV, GPS, Google, digital cell phones with video cameras, and drones that can deliver a pizza. It never ceases to amaze me that I can type a word into google and hit enter with the result being more information than I can assimilate. The PC this newsletter is being

typed on has spell and grammar check. I wonder if I still have a dictionary in the house?

With all these "modern" conveniences, I feel very fortunate that I can choose to ignore them and simply look out at a peaceful winter scene in my yard. The gold finches and black-capped chickadee's are at the feeder, there are deer and turkey tracks in the snow, and the red twig dogwood is bright and cheerful in the winter sun.

Some people don't seem to care much for winter. It is an excellent time to ponder the past and plan for the future. I rather enjoy the slower pace of winter with the crisp air and especially the quiet. If I listen real hard, I actually can't hear it.



BSPOA members volunteer to help the Triathlon. See the Race Events article on page 3.

## VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to all of our members who volunteer. Some of the many tasks include: newsletter mailing, Bay of Green Bay water samplers, spring clean-up crew, invasive species workers, and the group who helps out at the sporting events.

With so many members offering to help, your Board of Directors is challenged to properly utilize such a large and enthusiastic pool of talent. We have heard from several people, who have offered their service and have not been contacted. To correct this communications problem, we are establishing a "volunteer coordinator" position. This position will work to better utilize those who wish to contribute their time to the ongoing improvement of BSPOA. Please hang in there since every display of support is appreciated!

## INVASIVE CONTROL GRANT PROGRAM

BSPOA, Inc. will continue to financially support the matching funds grant program during 2015. The invasive species removal grant is designed to encourage our members to actively engage in the control of buckthorn and honeysuckle on their personal property. These two invasive species are not the only problem plants here in Door County. Many others compete with native species. Your board believes that buckthorn and honeysuckle removal gives us the biggest bang for our buck. If you have other problem species you would like your association to address, please let the board know.

Each BSPOA member is eligible for a matching funds grant of up to \$500 per year. We have set up the per year feature recognizing that invasive plant seeds from prior years may germinate and regrow the problem. Several members have used this program with excellent results.

Keep in mind that application and prior approval are necessary before we commit association funds. Also, the share grant from your association is paid directly to the contractor. Additional information and application forms are available on our web site. If you need more info or assistance, feel free to give Dan a call at 715-923-5000.

## 2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF BSPOA, INC.

*By Deborah Mancuso*

Bay Shore Property Owners Association, Inc. held their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the beautiful Horseshoe Bay Golf Club in Door County. We had our largest attendance to date with 130 participants! Our featured speaker was Glenn Timmerman. As owner, Glenn's presentation of "Horseshoe Bay Farms: Past, Present, and Future" included an enlightening slide show. Attendees learned about the Farm's fascinating past and present history, including how Glenn and his wife Barbara became owners, all interlaced with comedic stories and interesting facts. He also provided an informative vision and the future plans for this special property.

BSPOA's annual meeting was then conducted by President Dan Mathein and was followed by a delicious luncheon, and a drawing for two door prizes.

Very special thanks go to Glenn Timmerman; the staff, chef, and event coordinators at Horseshoe Bay Golf Club; to the BSPOA volunteers and all those who contributed in some way to help make this annual meeting a success!

**Watch for details and a  
special mailing this  
summer regarding 2015's  
Annual Meeting on  
September 19th.  
Mark your calendars! We  
hope to see you there!**

## BAY SHORE WATER TESTING

Under the leadership of Dan Collins, BSPOA volunteers Nancy Aten, Beth Gauger, Bill Rix and Teresa Searing collected water samples in the bay, which were sent to the UW Oshkosh lab. The test protocol for E. coli and total Phosphorus were the same as performed for all of the public beaches in Door County.

E. coli levels above 235CFU/100mL\* at a public beach will generate an advisory while a level above 1000 will result in closure of that beach.

Public beaches are tested daily Monday through Thursday from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Our volunteer crew collected one sample per month (June, July, and August) at six different locations along the shore. Of these tests, one was over 235 and one was over 1000. This result prompted our testers to sample water coming out of Schaefer Creek (5777 BSD). The results there were also above 235. This possible source will justify additional testing in 2015. BSPOA has tested for E. coli at various times and locations going back to 2004. Historic data is helpful in establishing trends.

Phosphorus testing results indicate that our shore waters are above the WDNR recommended level of 0.007 mg/L. High phosphorus levels often lead to noxious Cladophora and hypoxia. Both of these lead to a degradation of the quality of Bay water.

BSPOA looks forward to continuing the sampling process in years to come. For a more extensive report, please visit [BSPOA.org](http://BSPOA.org).

\* *Colony Forming Units. CFU is a rough measure of viable fungal or bacterial cells in a sample, usually expressed as CFU per 100 mL.*

## BSPOA SUPPORTS DOOR COUNTY RACE EVENTS

*By Jim Schultz*

Once again, BSPOA provided volunteer support for the Door County Fall 50 by manning a rest station located on Bluff Ledge Road. On a beautiful fall day in October, 420 relay teams participated in the run as well as over 150 solo runners. For the first time the Fall 50 hosted the USATF 50 Mile Road Nationals for solo ultra runners, which was highlighted by one woman's performance making history. Larisa Dennis of Mill Valley, CA posted the third fastest Women's 50-mile time in U.S. history! Sean Ryan, Event Director, commented on the event, "kudos to the staff, the charities and the community for helping put together another successful edition of the Door County Fall 50. Next year we will once again be hosting the USATF 50 Mile Road Championships. With any luck, we'll have new national records for both the women and the men."

The 2014 Door County Triathlon and Half Ironman were held in July. BSPOA also helped to make this event a success, as our volunteers worked a rest station located on Bay Shore Drive. The 2015 Triathlon is slated for July 18 -19. The Half Ironman event sold out in record time as registration reached its 1,000 participant capacity in less than 24 hours.

Children's Triathlon - New this year for children between the ages of 6 and 14 is that the event will be held at Murphy Park Saturday afternoon (July 18) rather than at the YMCA, as in previous years. Organized in collaboration with the Door County Triathlon non-profit, the Door County YMCA and Door County Ministry Health Care, the site was changed to make the experience more significant and exciting for children, as they will use the same staging, start and finish areas that Sprint and Iron Man competitors use.

Funds raised from these events are contributed to many worthy non-profit organizations in Door County. BSPOA receives \$1,000 from each event. Many thanks to all the people who volunteered their time helping at the rest stations! Numerous comments were received from the athletes on how well our rest stations were operated and the spirited support we provided. We look forward to your help again this year.

## THE HERMIT OF MONUMENT POINT

By Polly Walwark

*Writing for the June 14, 1989, Door County Advocate, local historian John Enigl crafted a richly detailed portrait of George Bergerson, the "Hermit of Monument Point." The date marked the 50th anniversary of Bergerson's death. Enigl, 63 at the time, believed himself "one of the youngest persons that remembers him." He and a friend had visited Bergerson at his cabin in 1938. His recollection of that encounter as well as tales recounted by others provided the engaging narrative which has been excerpted and edited for the following account:*

George Bergerson was born in Larvik, Norway, in 1859. We don't know when he came to Door County. He had a brother, John Bergerson, who lived in Sturgeon Bay, married and had children. But George decided to become a bachelor and to "get away from it all" after being jilted at the altar—probably around 1889. For his exile, he built a one-room shack and a storage shed on one of Door County's last remaining undeveloped shorelines, Monument Point, identified on navigation charts as "Monument Shoals."

The area had once been a somewhat vital logging community. By 1899, that era ended and Robert Parkinson, a Chicago lawyer, purchased a large tract and built "Capri"—one of Door County's first summer cottages. He never evicted the "squatter" who had been inhabiting his land. Instead, he named George caretaker of a six-mile isolated stretch north of "Capri" extending all the way to Horseshoe Bay. Parkinson died in 1927, and his heirs let Bergenson continue to live in his cabin on Monument Point.

The tiny shack's furnishings included a cot and a wood stove: "George never knew a cold evening; even when it was 20 below outside, he could stoke up the little pot-bellied stove to bring the cabin heat up to a hundred degrees...he had no trouble sleeping, with the

only sound being the wind flowing through the cedar trees and the occasional sound of a boat horn from a steamboat on the bay." Nonetheless, these were the days before flashlights, and the woods could be "scary and full of strange sounds that bothered you a little if you weren't in your cabin."

One of the things John Enigl recalls seeing in the shack was the bowl George used to mix pancakes: There was just a small hole in the center of the bowl which he didn't wash until the hole was too small to mix one or two pancakes. "And he always made them with water, not milk."

For heartier fare, "George had an abundance of animals to choose from—all it took was silence and careful aim." One time, he offered a visitor a bowl of soup. "What's in it?" asked the visitor. "Polecat" replied George, and the visitor turned green. George was a fisherman by profession, and in those days, "you could fish right off the shore in waters so clear you could see the bottom."

Additionally, George had a pond boat which he used and would rent out to fishermen. Herbie Anschutz tells the story of when he drove down with some other fisherman in a pick-up truck and rented George's boat. The fishing that day wasn't the best; most of the fish were undersize: "My friend and I were sitting in the back of the truck with the pail of the undersize fish between us, when all of a sudden up drives the game warden, Hallie Row. 'Did you have any luck, boys?' says Hallie. Nope, I says...and George didn't say anything either, so we got off."

Norbert Simonar recalled the Depression when government surplus foods were distributed to the needy. He remembers Bergerson "coming up the road on the way to Urbans (Carlsville store) with a gunny sack on his back!" "But what am I going to do with a whole crate of oranges?" George said of one of those distributions. (Most likely he traded them for plugs of chewing tobacco or a bag of pancake flour.)

In 1938, newly married Art and Milda Werkheiser moved down to Monument Point not far from Bergerson. One day, George came over

to visit Art, and Milda recounts, "When I walked in, all of a sudden Bergerson vanished! That's the only time I ever saw him. I think he must have disliked women."

In early spring of 1939, the town officials found George, age 79, to be in ill health. It was arranged for him to move about a half mile north of Carlsville to the farm of Mrs. John Alears who lived with her daughter Sara and her husband, Marvin Daubner. George did not want to get into the car to leave his beloved Monument Point until he was convinced that he could come back if his health improved.

George couldn't have found a more kind, loving family with which to live.

The meals were better than he had had in many years. But, Sara Daubner reports, he was unfamiliar with how other people ate. At first, if there were a bowl of potatoes on the table, he would take the whole bowl and start eating, for often his own meals would consist of one item. "We don't eat that way, George," said Sara. "We don't eat just one thing. We have all kinds of food on the table, and we take a little of each."

On May 24, 1939, a day when the dandelions were blooming, Sara Daubner was planting her garden, and warm breezes of late spring wafted through the windows of his last home, George Bergerson died. An era in Door County had ended. "He died," Aaron Daubner says, "because the pancakes were too rich."

When John Enigl walked down to Monument Point in the summer of 1939, he found that the town had burned both of Bergerson's shacks, and "nothing remained but ashes and nails. But at least the Hermit of Monument Point had lived the way he wanted to."

*This story has an interesting and ironic postscript: There was, alas, another resident hermit living on Monument Point Road: John Peter Modeer—a Swede, born in 1838, and known as "Old Moody." So great was the antipathy of the Norwegian towards the Swede, that George declined to look in on the man when he was ailing. When Modeer died, George "didn't shed a tear. Now he had Monument Point all to himself." But when the time came to bury George, a pauper, in the Egg Harbor Town Cemetery, where should he end up, but right alongside Old Moody.*

## SEVASTOPOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PLANS EVENTS

*By Laddie Chapman*

SHS has several presentations planned for this year, all to be held at the Sevastopol Town Hall in Institute, next to the school.

Dates are yet to be finalized, but the first one is likely to be about the Schartner family on Sunday, April 19.

Check with [www.townofsevastopol.com](http://www.townofsevastopol.com) for schedules or call Town Clerk Linda Wait at (920) 746-1230. Read Linda's weekly Advocate column on Saturdays for the latest updates.

Other presentations will be by John Thenell on the Orchards of Door County, Sue Today on Croatian immigrants, Tim Ash on his family, and vintage weddings by Donna Rudolph.

If you have anything that might be of interest to Sevastopol historians, please contact Linda Wait. We are collecting pictures and other media as best we can, but need all the help we can get. Why not come to one of our board meetings sometime and give us your ideas? Everyone is welcome—check the Sevastopol web site or call Linda.

All SHS presentations are recorded, broadcast on Charter Channel 986, and posted on YouTube. If you subscribe to our YT channel, you will receive email notifications whenever anything new becomes available. Go to [www.youtube.com/user/shermanbay](https://www.youtube.com/user/shermanbay) to view or subscribe.

## LAKE LEVELS TO RISE

*By Laddie Chapman*

Surprise! Lake Michigan (and Green Bay) is filling up again. After record lows in the 2012 and 2013 winters, it is projected to be at least 3 feet higher than that by July of this year. Right now, it is about 2 ft higher than the nominal 577.5 ft above sea level (chart datum). Just you wait until summer—when all the boats get put in the water, it's bound to go up more!

## E-NEWSLETTER TO BE AVAILABLE

Did you know your newsletter is available electronically? Within a few weeks you will receive an email from BSPOA. It will be a solicitation to change from snail mail or printed version of the newsletter to an email newsletter. Change is often difficult and we want to keep the process simple in responding to your personal preference.

If you would like to change to email delivery of your newsletter, simply reply to the solicitation with the single word "yes" and we will make the change.

If you prefer to keep getting the print version—take no action—and delete the solicitation.

## WELL WATER TESTING

If you rent your cottage to visitors, I believe you must have your well tested annually. If you have a single residence there is no hard and fast rule for frequency of testing. I've been told that if your well water tastes bad, changes color, gets cloudy, or smells bad, you should have it tested. Of course you might have swallowed something interesting before you noticed a slight change.

2014 was a very wet year. Science tells us that all water is connected. With the flooding and high water of 2014, it might be possible that an old septic system or holding tank may have sprung a leak. Perhaps that picturesque farm up on the hill had excessive run off. With this in mind, it might be a good idea to have your well tested before the obvious signs of pollution appear.

Supplies and methodology are available from the County. Contact the Sanitarian's Department for a water testing kit at (920) 746-2308.

## INTERNET SURVEY

Many of our members have less than desired access to high speed internet here in Door County. Your board has been working to develop a residential demand survey to quantify specific needs. We are close to finalizing the survey and implementation process and anticipate conveying it to members within the next few months. Once the survey is completed, we will deliver the results to current and potential providers of internet services in the BSPOA area.

## PROPANE PRICING

*by Bryan Troutman*

We are all experiencing wonderful low prices at the gasoline pump. I can't remember the last time I filled up for \$35. How long will this last and what are the prospects for propane because of these low energy costs? A brief review of our current pricing is important. We are currently paying \$1.64, which this summer was a good price since other propane suppliers were offering anywhere from \$1.69 to \$1.89 per gallon. Our price has several components. The wellhead price plus the pipeline costs to Crivitz, Wisconsin plus the transportation costs to Sturgeon Bay plus margin. When we entered into a contract with Lakes Gas, the wellhead price was approximately \$1.06. Today the wellhead price is approximately 50 cents per gallon.

Why isn't Lakes Gas passing on this cost to their consumers? Because Lakes Gas contracted to buy 80% of all the gas necessary to fulfill our contract. So, they are not benefiting from the current lower wellhead costs. However, there is good news for the next season. Future prices appear to be holding through next summer around 50 cents per gallon. Adding 50 cents as per our agreement, we should expect pricing to be around \$1.00 per gallon. We will begin contract pricing negotiations in May when our contract expires. Have a warm winter, but don't try sleeping in your car !!!

## BAY SHORE DRIVE PAVING PLANNED

A two phase resurfacing project is planned for Bay Shore Drive by the Door County Highway Department.

According to the DCHD, phase one will extend from the Sturgeon Bay City limits to Dunn Road. This phase will probably be started in June of 2015. The exact start date depends upon the weather.

Phase two, using 80% federal highway grant money, will cover the area from Dunn Road to Bluff Court on the north side of Little Harbor. It is currently scheduled for summer of 2016. Public information meetings regarding this phase will be scheduled in late spring of this year.

It is important to note that both phases are resurfacing and will not change the width of the existing surface. Phase one will be an overlay of new asphalt. Phase two may change the pitch and crown in a few locations to meet federal standards. More info on the entire project should be available at the information meeting.

If you need additional information, contact John Kolodziej, DCHD Commissioner, at (920) 746-2500.

## In Memoriam

Robert A. Becker	June 29, 2014
Janet Duebner	October 11, 2014
Terry Lappin	November 2014
(BSPOA Chair 2001-2003)	
David L. Burr	January 3, 2015
Russell May	January 16, 2015
(BSPOA Chair 2007-2010)	

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*By Nancy Buhl, Membership Chair*

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

Gene & Beth Allen  
Anne C. Berkeley  
Richard Birnschein  
Chuck & Cathy Conger  
W. Jean Fulkerson  
Jeanne Gabert & Jane Leveille  
David & Cindy Gerhart  
Bill & Marie Harder  
Tyler & Elizabeth Hubbard  
Dan & Kathy Hubing  
Gordon & Donna Johnson  
Rod & Carol Krueger  
Bill & Julia Meyers  
Scott & Christine Miller  
Casey & Nicole Rabach  
Richard Radell  
Dr. Kelton Reitz & Todd Trimberger  
Glyn Rostoker & Veronica Mathein  
Dave Saksewski & Margie Hagene  
Laird & Lynda Salisbury  
Craig & Sandy Schultz  
David & Mary Ellen Schulz  
Tom & Eileen Schwalbach  
David Shepard  
Steve & Jan Stringer  
Laura Sutherland  
Audi & Ginny Thor  
Daniel Tinti & Faith Wein  
Kenneth & Margaret Turk  
Alfred & Alice Zeller

## 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, Winter 2015 issue

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