



Fall 2016 Newsletter

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

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

By Jim Schultz

As incoming president, I would first like to give thanks to my predecessor Dan Mathein. Dan's tireless effort and leadership skills have successfully guided the board the past three years. His unique humor has made our meetings fun and productive. It is an honor to serve in this capacity and I look forward to working with the dedicated group of people on our board of directors and with many of the volunteers who work on our committees and projects.

By way of background, my wife Marti and I moved here from Kenosha in 2012 after retiring from a 30 year career in local government. We were drawn to this area during our first trip here in the 1970's on a cross-country ski outing. After many more visits, we decided to make Door County our retirement destination and purchased some land for our future home. Little did we know back then that our location along Bay Shore Drive was so special. The beauty and natural resources here are unmatched. We have much to

enjoy and appreciate, but also share a responsibility to protect what we have for future generations.

During the course of my career in Kenosha, I had the opportunity to be involved as an active member of several neighborhood and business organizations. Looking back, even though they were based in an urban setting, they shared a common vision with BSPOA of preserving and enhancing the surrounding environment. Much can be accomplished by people working together around common interests and goals. We should keep in mind BSPOA's stated purpose: "to maintain the safe, natural and aesthetic character of the Bay Shore Drive Area".

BSPOA's mission, history of success, and how it governs motivated me to initially become involved on the board. I now look forward to leading our organization with you as we approach our 20th anniversary next year.

CHANGE & INSTANT GRATIFICATION

By Dan Mathein

I have always been fascinated by the misplaced need for CHANGE. Politicians tout the need for huge change and people buy into it. I guess that is how they get themselves elected. Almost everyone wants CHANGE. But, when things change too rapidly, some people cry “Oh my Gosh – what happened.”

Think about changing lanes on I43. Do we really make a change, or perhaps is it simply a minor adjustment? When you are traveling at 70 miles per hour and you make a sudden change, the results can be less than desired. In our world today, we are all going 65 or 70 mph. Perhaps a more appropriate approach might be to make an adjustment. When going at these speeds a minor adjustment in the steering wheel will move you in a safe manner to another lane.

Another example might be a local government. If all of the people leading the group are changed at once, the total organization becomes gridlocked as all the new members learn how to get things done. Perhaps that is why there are staggered terms so that the “newbies” and the “oldies” can learn how to dance together without stepping on toes and continue to serve the community.

This works the same with landscaping, invasive species control, wild flower plantings, retirement planning, and diet. If we take the approach to adjust our behavior in any area, we can generate lasting improvement. NOPE, not me, I am going to lose 50 pound this month – then you better dial 911. If on the other hand you say, this month I’ll lose 4 pounds, it might actually be doable.

It seems to be endemic in US culture to look for the silver bullet. Perhaps it comes from listening to the Lone Ranger on the Philco. Thirty minutes of intense excitement followed by a conclusion. This want for instant gratification seems to be passed on from generation to generation. Real change takes many small adjustments and a lot of time.

As I pass on the title of President, two things I will miss are having my own 747 and secret service detail.

Having been your president for a few years has shown me that the volunteers who make up our board are strong people. Their commitment to bringing about adjustments for the benefit of our members is an inspiration. Adding up adjustments is almost like compound interest. Over time it quietly builds. I am looking forward to working with the new board for the continued benefit of all of our BSPOA members.

BSPOA INC. 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

By Deborah Mancuso

On October 1st, 2016, the Annual Meeting of Bay Shore Property Owners Association, Inc. was held at the Horseshoe Bay Golf Club in Door County. Ram Rojas, International Professional Artist and Muralist, was the featured speaker. Ram enlightened the over 120 attendees with his presentation “Door County Murals and Beyond”. The audience enjoyed a very interesting and interactive prezi presentation detailing his international artistic past, and also covering his various present work. Ram shared several details of the many paintings, murals and frescos he has done locally, nationally and internationally. He also discussed the intricate connection he has with Sturgeon Bay and Door County, and interlaced it all with comedic stories of his life and various experiences.

BSPOA’s annual business meeting was then conducted by President Dan Mathein, followed by a delicious luncheon, and concluded with a door prize drawing of one of Ram’s mural fresco books.

Very special thanks go to Ram Rojas, the Horseshoe Bay Golf Club and their wonderful staff, chef, and event coordinators. BSPOA sincerely appreciates the hard work of the volunteers and all those who contributed in some way to help make this annual meeting such a success!

BRINGING CITIZEN SCIENCE TO YOUR OWN BACKYARD

By Kari Hagenow, Door County Invasive Species Team Coordinator

The first step in protecting Door County from invasive species is knowing what is out there. As natural resource professionals we call this “inventory”, but what does that really mean? In a very broad sense it is taking notice of the plants that are common on your property and looking for patterns. People often think that you need to be a plant expert to identify invasive species. Sometimes all it takes is observing something new that you’ve never seen before or the rapid spread of a plant that you’ve had on your property for years. Once you’ve noticed something ‘different’, there are people and tools that can help with identification - like the Door County Invasive Species Team or Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, with a list of online identification tools at <http://ipaw.org/TheProblem/Identification.aspx>.

Once you’ve identified an invasive plant on your property, reporting what you’ve found is essential. The Door County Invasive Species Team has a simple, online reporting form at <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/InvasiveForm.htm> or you can email dcist1@gmail.com. If you’re tech savvy, there are now reporting apps for your smartphone like the easy-to-use Great Lakes Early Detection Network app (learn more at <http://apps.bugwood.org/apps/gledn/>). **Why is reporting important?** First, it helps us prioritize at a small scale. Knowing common invasive plants along Bay Shore Drive can help us create targeted educational materials, seek or direct funding toward the specific problem species, or gather a coalition of concerned neighbors ready to help. It also helps us prioritize our efforts across the County. If we never know that garlic mustard is a problem in a certain area, it cannot be addressed in our County-wide planning efforts. Lastly, it helps on a

much larger scale. Researchers in the state are using invasive species location data to inform habitat suitability models that will show us Door County’s most ‘at risk’ areas for invasion by a specific species. There are other regional projects using invasive species data to project spread under climate change scenarios and more! **A single point recorded in your backyard where you’ve found an invasive plant is as important to these models as any other.**

And that’s how you can become a citizen scientist in your own backyard. Right now is a great time to spot some of our common invasive plants, which tend to hold their green color or leaves much longer than their native counterparts. The small, low-growing rosette of garlic mustard for example may stay green well into the winter months and can be easily seen after native vegetation as long browned. Other examples include the rosettes of dame’s rocket, houndstongue, and non-native thistles. Shrubs such as honeysuckle, autumn olive, and buckthorn may also hold leaves through the fall and into the winter months. Sometimes all it takes is stepping out the Door and taking a look at what’s there. You may or may not find invasive plants (I really hope you don’t), but there will certainly be a wealth of interesting native flora and fauna waiting for you too.

In Memoriam

Robert Graef March 31, 2016

Charter Member and Treasurer for many years

Shirley Sykora June 5, 2016

Darlene Harmann July 8, 2016

Dorothy Litten August 2016

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Nancy Buhl, Membership Chair

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

Chuck & Stephanie Baer

Ed & Adele Douglass

Ian & Lindsey Kazian

Thomas & Lynne Patmore

Tom & Kathy Rolling

COMMUNICATIONS

Too much / too little / or just right. Finding the perfect balance is always a challenge. At this point in time BSPOA uses three approaches to communication with our members. The twice yearly newsletter goes back many years. The addition of the website – BSPOA.org – greatly expanded the amount of information available. The website is updated regularly and contains forms, photo's, and many other items of interest.

This past year, through the use of a software product called Constant Comment, we have added the ability to provide you with monthly updates via email. We use restraint when sending emails because your board does not wish to fill up your inbox. In addition to keeping you up to date on time sensitive issues, we have also used on-line surveys to get feedback from our members.

Feedback from members indicates that some people think there is too much. Others feel too little. Your board will continue to refine our communications effort to meet the needs of all of our valued members.

LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE

Early this summer I heard a well-educated person suggest that when it comes to invasive species we need to let nature take its course. I find this statement to be disconcerting to say the least. Over the past few thousand years nature created native plant communities in which there was a balance.

Not unlike kids on a soccer team, who grew up and played together, the native plants learned how to get along and thrive.

If we add an NFL linebacker into an 8th grade soccer team there might be problems. If a 240 pound 21 year old player, running full speed, bumps into a 100 pound 13 year old, the odds for damage are great. This is the situation that occurs in a native plant community when an invasive is introduced. The invasive, with no natural enemies, such as guards and tackles, will dominate the field of play.

On our playing field, Door County, we now have many aquatic, herbaceous, and woody plant invasive species. Nature did not bring them here. Humans, by choice or coincidence, brought them. Since nature did not bring them, letting nature take its course has no effect. The invasive species have no controlling critters within a native plant community.

Two actions are essential. First we must avoid introducing exotic species to native communities. Examples might include; garlic mustard, Russian olive, bush honeysuckle, or barberry (not enough room here to list the other 2 or 3 hundred). Second, each of us can assist our native plants by removing the invasive's. This is easy to do when there is one or two on your property and they are small. If we ignore the problem the newcomers will become very well established and it will take an act of Congress to solve the huge problem (and you know how likely that is).

Letting nature take its course on a problem caused by humans will not work. As a child, I was taught that if I made a mess, it was my job to clean it up. Need help? Check out the 50/50 program on our website.

BAY WATER TESTING

A group of BSPOA volunteers coordinated by BSPOA member Dan Collins have performed e.coli sampling again this year. Our Bay of Green Bay water quality study has been ongoing since 2004. Below are the results of the six locations tested along the shore.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1- Coliform: >2419.6 | E. Coli: 727.0 |
| 2- Coliform: 141.4 | E. Coli: 1.0 |
| 3- Coliform: >2419.6 | E. Coli: >2419.6 |
| 4- Coliform: 1732.9 | E. Coli: 3.1 |
| 5- Coliform: 1413.6 | E. Coli: 31.5 |
| 6- Coliform: 1986.3 | E. Coli: 14.3 |

We greatly appreciate the help from Dr. Kleinheinz' and UW-Oshkosh each year in performing our E. coli tests and interpreting our results. Test results indicate that we have an E. coli hot spot (location 3) at the Bay Shore Drive culvert found near fire number 5777. Prior year data has shown similar results.

To determine the source of this pollution, Dan Collins suggested we conduct DNA testing. The tests were performed on samples taken at location 3 on 8/26 and 9/12 with testing conducted by the UW Milwaukee school of Fresh Water Sciences. Specifically the DNA testing is to determine if we are dealing with human, bovine or other sources. The UWM lab results (edited for this newsletter) are:

1. Human-specific bacterial markers found in sewage contamination (hum-Bacteroides and hum-Lachnospiraceae) were not detected in these samples.
2. General fecal indicator, E. coli, was not detected.
3. Ruminant-specific marker was not detected.

This information indicates that, based upon these water samples, the source of the pollution is neither human nor bovine. While this is a good result it still does not tell us why we have a hot spot. It is hoped that continuation of this multi-year study will yield more definitive results.

HORSESHOE BAY CAVE OPENED FOR PUBLIC TOURS

On August 20 & 21, 2016 a section of the Horseshoe Bay cave at Murphy Park was opened to the public under the direction of the County Parks Department. Approximately 140 persons made the tour, mostly first-timers both young and old, including lots of children. Volunteer help was provided by the Friends of the Door County Park Group and BSPOA. According to Paul Graf of the DC Friends Group, "people really found the cave crawl fascinating, interesting, amazing, wonderful, exciting, and other adjectives heard as cavers exited".

Horseshoe Bay Cave is one of the longest known caves in Wisconsin and has been identified as a significant bat hibernaculum. It provides critical habitat for four state bat species, all threatened by white-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease caused by a fungal pathogen. It contains fragile karst features, and serves as a conduit for rapid groundwater movement. A management plan for the cave was recently developed and can be found at www.co.door.wi.us/parks/.

In addition to volunteer support, BSPOA provided funds to purchase safety gear for persons entering the cave. The gear included headlamps, helmets, coveralls, rubber boots, and knee/elbow pads. The Parks Department plans on opening the cave to the public again in 2017.



Geologist Dr. Roger Kuhns lectures a tour group about the Niagara Escarpment in front of the Horseshoe Bay Cave during a Land Trust field trip.

NEW COUNTY SHORELAND ZONING CHANGES FINALIZED

The Door County Board recently approved a rewrite of the County Shoreland Zoning regulations, which is set apart from the county's overall zoning laws. These changes, impacting the entire state, were mandated by the Wisconsin Legislature in March 2015 as part of the state budget. The provision prohibits local shoreland law that is stricter than regulations contained in state statutes or NR 115, the Department of Natural Resources rules.

The new shoreland regulations are reported to be weaker than the previous zoning ordinance which was developed over the years on what could be built along Lake Michigan and Green Bay, which is said to be the longest shoreland of any county in the United States at approximately 300 miles.

Mariah Goode, Director of Planning, at a recent meeting mentioned one significant change in regulations concerning the height of buildings along the shore. Door County's ordinance restricted maximum height of 26 feet; it is changed to 35 feet.

Other substantive changes to the zoning ordinance as necessitated by the state include:

1. Substandard lots: Generally speaking, legally created lots will have no "grandfathering" lot area and width minimums required to be considered buildable. These rules affect well over half of all parcels in the county's zoning jurisdiction.

2. Nonconforming structures: Nonconforming structures which have no portion of the structure over a lot line or within an easement and/or road right-of-way, and which do not house a non-conforming use, and which will meet other ordinance standards (e.g. density), will be allowed to be reconstructed within the three-dimensional space occupied by the current structure.

3. Road setback: Road setbacks will be allowed to be decreased when, in conjunction with the ordinary high water mark setback, minimal or no buildable area remains. This change is related to shoreland standards, but

is not required because of those standards.

A complete copy of the new Shoreland Zoning Ordinance can be accessed online at <http://map.co.door.wi.us/planning/>. For more information contact the Door County Planning Department at 920-746-2323.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are happy to have two new board members approved at the annual meeting. Joining the board this year are:

Greg Miller – Greg and Nancy Miller have been residents of Door County since 2007 after moving from the north shore of Milwaukee. They have rehabbed several homes and are currently working on their last (hopefully) project on Bay Shore Drive. Greg retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after thirty-one years of service. Nancy retired from Manpower Headquarters as a tax accountant. Greg and Nancy enjoy spending time with their four children and nine grandchildren. Greg will attend County Board, Board of Adjustment, and Resource Planning Committee meetings.

Jim Nellen – Jim and Joan have owned property in Door County for years and became full time residents after building their home in 2015. They previously lived in Milwaukee where Jim worked for Smithfield Foods and Joan taught. Prior to that they lived in Green Bay where Jim was a lawyer for Fort Howard Paper and Joan was an instructor at NWTC. They enjoy hiking, biking, exploring Door County and gardening. Jim attends Sevastopol Town Board and committee meeting.

9 VOLT BATTERIES

One of life's little mysteries is how long a nine volt battery will last. The fire department encourages all of us to change our smoke alarm batteries when we change from daylight saving time to standard time. It is a great idea because, if you do not, the battery is pre set to fail between three and four AM.

BAYSHORE DRIVE SPRING CLEANUP

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped clean up trash on 12½ miles of roadside from Sturgeon Bay to Murphy Park and 4 miles of roads leading off of Bay Shore Drive on May 7th. We had 28 families volunteer, plus those from Windemere. An effort was made to try to have residents pickup as close to their home as possible. Thanks to the Door County High-

way Department for the signs and the pickup of the bags of trash. It's amazing how much accumulates each year!

It was nice to have many join us for a celebration at Birmingham's at 11:30. Bay Shore Drive looks cleaner because of everyone's effort. **Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 13, 2017.** We'd love to have you help again.

FUN ALONG BAYSHORE DRIVE



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, nonprofit association. Its mission is to provide a forum for discussion and action on issues that impact the residential character of the neighborhoods and those that affect the character of Door County and/or the property rights of Bay Shore property owners.

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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