



# Summer 2008 Newsletter

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*By Russ May*

By nature I am not a patient person. I don't wait well — rather than quietly sitting, I pace or fidget. Process — taking all the steps needed to reach a goal — does not come easily either. I understand process and use it often (it isn't necessary to like a tool that needs to be used). Often I can see the outcome before others (at least my definition of what that outcome should be). It is tempting to shortcut process by naming conclusions others have yet to reach. Gets me in trouble every time. Every time!

The only way folks go somewhere together is to get on the train together and agree on the destination. That way we all take the same trip. The trick is, you must agree on the destination in order to all get there together. That may sound logical. We may even agree that to reach a common goal it's good to journey together. Problems arise when some have no intention of ever leaving the station, others want to go an entirely different direction and some won't support any idea other than their own.

Most likely you know of what I write. Remember the times you tried to get the kids to agree on a vacation destination or which restaurant to stop at or determine how late "late" actually is? It happens at work, happens in school, happens in most areas of life — especially nonprofit groups like BSPOA.

When we began in 1997, our energy was sparked by the proposed Westwood Shores condo-

minium development on Bay Shore Drive. Since then, our energy has continued to focus on a variety of activities that support the BSPOA mission. We have been involved in limiting construction of solid fill dock piers along the Green Bay shoreline, eradication of invasive species, water testing, Horseshoe Bay land development, spring cleanup, and we have participated in many initiatives such as the Sevastopol Land Use Survey and Sevastopol's public access channel. We have monitored County Board and Town Board meetings and have served on ad hoc county committees. We spoke out against the degrading of 42/57, asked the City Council to do impact studies for large, retail development and advocated that there be no budget cuts for Smart Growth and the Stewardship Fund.

Now the BSPOA Steering Committee would appreciate your help, as we review the organization's goals and directions for 2008 – 2009. Enclosed you will find a survey asking your opinions regarding our future together. Whatever you think our future direction should be, please share your thoughts with us. For those who prefer, the survey will also be emailed. Thank you for your time.

At our Annual Meeting September 27, we will share what we have discovered and will continue the process of shaping our future together.

Hope to hear from you soon.

## BSPOA PARTICIPATION HELPS DCLT OBTAIN INVASIVE SPECIES GRANT

*By Jodi Milske, Door County Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator*

**A unique partnership between the Bay Shore Property Owners Association and the Door County Land Trust (DCLT) has won an \$18,000 land restoration grant award from the DNR's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP).** The money will be used for removal of invasive plants on and near the Land Trust's Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve with the goal of restoring native plant communities and enhancing wildlife habitat. The targets of this eradication effort are two very aggressive and destructive exotic shrubs: common buckthorn and bush honeysuckle. Both invaders are widespread on the Blufflands Preserve and on many of the residential lots along Bay Shore Drive. Left unchecked, they will destroy our diverse forest with its rich assortment of trees, ferns and ephemeral flowers, and will replace it with a "monoculture", an ecological wasteland of one, or at most, a few, non-native species.

Since invasive species do not recognize ownership boundaries, a partnership eradication effort among landowners seemed an ideal approach to the LIP application process. Participation by BSPOA would also provide an educational opportunity for members to learn how to recognize invasive plants and how to control them. In December 2007, Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator Jodi Milske presented the idea at the Association's monthly board meeting, where it was unanimously endorsed, after much thoughtful

and productive discussion. The Land Trust submitted the application in January of 2008 and received notification of full funding in March. The project began in May and will be completed by December of 2009.

**So how does the LIP grant work, and what is the role of BSPOA?** The grant will fund a professional invasive control contractor to eradicate the most heavily infested portions of the Blufflands Preserve between the escarpment and Bay Shore Drive. Additionally, the LIP award is a "matching" grant, in which the Land Trust and its grant partners must match the value of the monetary award by providing some of its own cash, or by providing "in-kind" items, such as equipment or staff/volunteer work time. All of the match for the Bay Shore Blufflands restoration grant will be in the form of Land Trust staff time and supplies, and by volunteer hours performing control work outside of the contractor area. At its December board meeting, BSPOA pledged a total of 396 of those volunteer hours. Each volunteer hour is the equivalent of \$12.00.

The DCLT appreciates the BSPOA commitment, which helped to procure the grant, and will help to restore the Blufflands Preserve. This Preserve contains a magnificent, diverse forest, and as stewards of the land, it is important for us to remove invasive species from the area, so that the natural vegetation can return.

## WISCONSIN PASSES GREAT LAKES COMPACT

*By Barb Bunning*

Congratulations to Wisconsin! In May Governor Jim Doyle signed the Great Lakes Compact, making this state the fifth of eight Great Lakes states to sign the agreement. Minnesota, Illinois, New York and Indiana have also completed their legislative approval, but Ohio and Pennsylvania are not yet committed.

The compact, when completed, will protect the Great Lakes resources by banning long-dis-

tance diversions and provide a framework for ensuring sustainable water use in the Great Lakes basin. As water resources in high-density areas across the country dry up, it's imperative that the Midwest water resources be protected. If a city in another state wants to drain the Great Lakes, this compact would prevent that from happening. You can refer to BSPOA's 2008 winter newsletter that explained the issue in detail.

## A CALL FOR INVASIVE SPECIES VOLUNTEERS

*By Jack VanLanen, BSPOA Invasive Species Coordinator*

It's needed! It's for Mother Nature! It's fun! It's good company! It's easy!

**Volunteers are needed to eradicate bush honeysuckle and common buckthorn.** (Refer to the "BSPOA Participation Helps DCLT Obtain Invasive Species Grant" article in this issue.) Given the importance of this need, the Steering Committee endorsed the Door County Land Trust request for volunteers to assist with eradication. Steering Committee members volunteered their time and we hope many of you will join their efforts. **How can you help?**

**1. You can join work parties,** which are held at the Blusfflands Preserve, located off of Reynold's Road just north of its intersection with Townline Road. Most work parties are held on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 AM through noon; call me for a list of upcoming dates. The Land Trust provides the tools, herbicide and other necessary materials. You work in a team of two. BSPOA volunteers, who have had eradication instruction and know about tracking and documenting volunteer hours in order to comply with the LIP match reporting requirements, will be able to get you started.

**2. You can participate in the invasive control workshop** scheduled for Tuesday, August 26. Contact me so that I can put you on our notification list.

**3. You can eradicate honeysuckle and buckthorn on your property.** Please contact me for information. I can assist you with identifying honeysuckle and buckthorn on your property, learning correct control methods, the borrowing process for DCLT equipment and I'll supply the specific forms for tracking work hours. Call me at (920) 746-4465 or email [franvanlanen@hotmail.com](mailto:franvanlanen@hotmail.com).

For further information about invasive species, the LIP grant, or the Door County Land Trust, please contact Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator Jodi Milske at 746-1359 or [jmilske@dcwis.com](mailto:jmilske@dcwis.com).



Work party learning the best way to eradicate Wild Honeysuckle (invasive species) from properties. (L-R): Jim Bunning, Betty Parsons, John & Mary Law, Jack Van Lanen, Bill Rix.



## ANOTHER BAY SHORE DRIVE SWEEP

*By Betty Parsons*

This spring Bay Shore Drive was mostly litter free for a two-week period beginning May 17. The sweep by Windemere residents and BSPOA members occurred over a two-week period and covered a 13-mile stretch, an impressive amount of roadside, which began at the city limits and ended at Murphy Park. Added to the list of uncommon items were a hubcap, microwave and lampshade. Interestingly, total litter collected was about half of other years, so we hope for a repeat next year. Thanks to members



Mary Kenny



Randy Kenny

Diane and Larry Austin, Linda and Donald Berns, Barb and Jim Bunning, Marge Fink, Barb and Fred Frey, Mary and Randy Kenny, Mary and John Law, Russ May, Betty and Bill Parsons, Elaine and Jim Pasqualucci, Bill Rix, Bryan Troutman and Bob Warth, who assisted with clean-up and to Bob Graef for doling out supplies. Fourteen members, along with Maude and Bob Graef's son and daughter-in-law, then rendezvoused at Birmingham's to enjoy good conversation, beverage and nourishment.



Participants from the "Sweep" replacing lost calories and having fun at Birmingham's. (L-R): Barb Bunning, Elaine Pasqualucci, Jim Pasqualucci, John Law, Mary Law, Russ May, Jim Bunning



(L-R): Diane Austin, Larry Austin, Peggy Losse, Mike Losse



Russ May



Cleanup supply distributors: Bob & Maude Graef

## BSPOA ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

*By Deborah Mancuso, Annual Meeting Chair*

**BSPOA's 12th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008, at the Horseshoe Bay Golf Club.**

Last year over 100 members, officers and friends had the opportunity to meet new people, renew friendships, and to learn more about BSPOA and Door County while enjoying a fabulous meal in a beautiful setting. So mark your calendar and join us for a great luncheon gathering! Detailed information will be sent to you in a separate mailing late summer. We hope to see you in September!



## PROPANE PURCHASE PROGRAM

*By Bryan Troutman*

Propane prices are subject to a number of influences, namely crude oil and natural gas prices and supply and demand. The Chinese are now net purchasers of crude oil, which also affects supply and demand. While propane production is not seasonal, residential demand is highly seasonal. This imbalance causes inventories to be built-up during the summer months when consumption is low. A colder than normal winter, such as we had this winter, will reduce inventories and put a further upward pressure on prices. Since propane is a direct by-product of crude oil, its price is influenced by the price of crude oil. Just follow the prices at the pump and you'll know what's happening to propane prices.

Historical prices of propane have continually climbed. In 1990 the price was 97.7 cents a gallon. It then broke a dollar in 1996 and broke the two-dollar mark this winter. However, there are some promising signs. NYMEX future propane prices will peak this coming winter and then decline in the spring of 2009. Even with some encouraging signs, I expect to see prices for our Purchase Program remain high. Sorry!

BSPOA sent letters to all the suppliers. FerrellGas indicated a price of \$2.05 per gallon and Lakes Gas responded at \$2.39 per gallon. Door County Cooperative and Milton Gas have not replied. At this time, we can do one of two things. We can wait until early fall and hope prices begin to drop or we can sign an agreement with FerrellGas. Beneficial features of a program with FerrellGas include a 12 month contract, not 6 months as the case may be with other suppliers, and month to month billing based upon usage rather than having to pre-purchase gas up-front. When one explores the futures prices for propane gas, locking in a price today seems to make the most sense.

As a residential user, here are some suggestions that will help you improve your position now: 1) Consider purchasing your tank, if you are currently leasing, 2) Conserve energy by turning down the thermostat, and 3) Insulate your attic.

BSPOA has 60 homeowners who have expressed an interest in this program. Our group purchase represents more than 100,000 gallons of propane. This is significant enough to give us

some leverage, especially when we combine forces with Whitefish Bay and Glidden Drive homeowner associations. If you would like to join our group, kindly email Bryan Troutman at **bdttroutman@aol.com** or call (920) 743-9088. Please include your name, address, propane usage, current supplier and if you own or lease your tank. This information will be forwarded to FerrellGas. Thereafter, FerrellGas will contact you directly to complete all necessary arrangements. If you are presently a FerrellGas customer, simply let them know that you want BSPOA pricing.

## TOWN OF EGG HARBOR VOTES ON LAKE ACCESS

*By Mike Standish*

The Town Board of Egg Harbor voted unanimously on May 19<sup>th</sup> to abandon Cedar Road (a north/south connection to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Horseshoe Bay lakefront development) and also to trade public lakefront access of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for 100 feet of frontage adjacent to and just north of Frank Murphy Park. A week earlier the Town of Egg Harbor Planning Commission voted 4-3 to recommend this plan to the Town Board.

In 2006 BSPOA instigated legal action to prevent abandonment of Cedar and giving away the publicly owned lakefront accesses of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> to developers with no compensation. BSPOA was joined in this action by Door Property Owners, Door County, and the DNR. Judge Peter Diltz ruled in the public's favor and against the Town of Egg Harbor in its attempt to abandon the roads.

This new abandonment attempt is more favorable for the public than the 2006 attempt, but questions remain with regard to the legality of the action and the benefit for the public. The DNR will need to have a public hearing if there is an objection by BSPOA or anyone else in the public. The focus of the hearing would be to determine if the exchange of lakefront access is "equal to or better" than what the public currently enjoys.

BSPOA has contacted the DNR and requested that it be notified of any application to abandon lake access. Future action by BSPOA, if any, will occur after a complete examination of all factors involved.

## WATER TESTING PROGRAM

*By Russ May*

During the last five summers, BSPOA volunteers tested the waters of the Bay each week. We were part of a countywide project seeking to determine the source and amount of E. coli pollution in Door County waters. Beaches were being closed because of contamination, but why? In addition to helping the county, BSPOA wanted to determine the safety of the waters along the Bay.

Through the support of our members, BSPOA contributed to this effort in many ways. Tom Manthey and Mike Standish provided the leadership, and members tested the water and made contributions to cover specific costs for each of the five years. The samples were tested by a group of UW-Oshkosh students. Our responsibility was to gather and pay for the testing of our samples. Results were included in the County report.

This spring, Door County Soil and Water reported to the County that only two conclusions could be drawn. First, E. coli contamination comes from storm water runoff during and after rain events. Second, the contamination is generated locally and not from distant places like Milwaukee. As for Bay Shore Drive water, it showed little contamination from E. coli, except following a few rain events.

Based on its information, the County has effectively ended the program of water testing to determine E. coli contamination. That means the BSPOA program has also concluded. If there is a need to test samples in the future, we will certainly consider resuming testing.

The Steering Committee appreciates and thanks everyone who participated in this county effort!

## CLADOPHORA

*By Betty Parsons*

It's that time of year again. If you aren't familiar with the name (it's pronounced *klad-OFF-er-uh*), you're probably familiar with the green stuff, also known as algae, which is increasing, washing up on beaches, and releasing a very unpleasant odor.

In fact, some of our members have talked to us about this situation, as it impacts not only the property owner, but left untended, the odor can also impact neighbors. So what does one do? The Department of Natural Resources requests that residents not push it back into the water. It can be removed with rake and barrel and disposed of in an upland location. For many, however, we recognize this may be a big effort and would be impossible without assistance, as cladophora is exceedingly heavy and huge amounts can accumulate.

We're unaware of any easy, inexpensive solutions and would welcome suggestions from our members.

*Editor's note: Two video DVDs are available to members on this topic. One is from the DNR, and is a record of the Cladophora conference held in Cleveland, WI on 02/28/05. The other is a similar conference at Glidden Lodge, held by the Wisconsin Great Lakes Coalition, on 07/08/06. Both are available at a nominal charge from Laddie Chapman, (920) 743-8400. You may also view them (at a reduced quality) on the web at [doorbell.net/video](http://doorbell.net/video). A high-speed Internet connection is recommended.*

## TENNIS ANYONE?

Any BSPOA members interested in joining an informal tennis group? Please contact Bryan Troutman at (920) 743-9088, or [bdtroutman@aol.com](mailto:bdtroutman@aol.com). I have secured two tennis courts at Horse-shoe Bay and need additional tennis players who would like to play this summer on a regular basis.



## 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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