

Lake Beulah

PROTECTIVE &
IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION

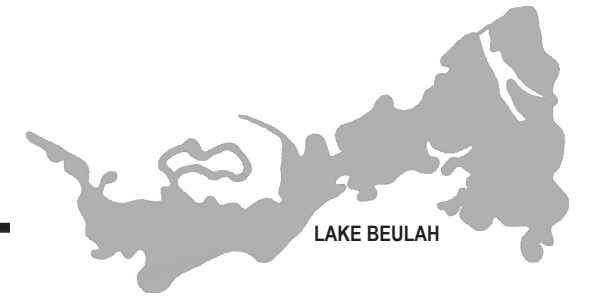


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Spring 2012

From the President's Desk

Welcome to another summer season at the lake, friends and members of the LBPIA! For the first time in many years, we do not have a "well" issue about which to report, but we do have a "dam" update courtesy of Paul Didier, and the informative "Paddle Prattle" column by Scott Miller. We also have some prospective new board members to introduce at our upcoming Spring meeting: Alyssa Klopatek, who graciously has agreed to become our Membership Chair, and Keith Beren, who brings considerable experience to our Water Quality monitor position. Please join us in welcoming Alyssa and Keith (and electing them to the board!) at the Spring meeting on May 19.

Of necessity, for the past several years the LBPIA has devoted much of its attention, and considerable resources, to protecting the lake from the impact of Well #7. With that case put to rest for now, we are able to concentrate more on the wonderful qualities of the lake itself. To that end, we have invited Pat Wilke to be our guest speaker at the Spring meeting. Pat is one of our local fishing experts, and will share some (but probably not all) of her secrets.

Recognizing that we have natural allies in the effort to protect and replenish our shared resources, I would like to continue to reach out to other organizations such as the fishing clubs, one of

which we've partnered with on stocking programs. Friends of the Mukwonago River are another group with a shared interest in protecting the Lake Beulah watershed. They have expressed interest in putting on an informational breakfast meeting at the Yacht Club this summer. Perhaps closer association with these groups will help our respective membership drives, but more importantly the LBPIA's mission to "improve and protect Lake Beulah" can best be achieved by joining forces with sympathetic organizations, particularly when confronted with external threats to the lake's ecosystem.

Finally, another local conservation group, the Kettle Moraine Land Trust, is actively recruiting representatives from Lake Beulah for its board of directors. KMLT maintains the Beulah Bog and has been active in promoting new conservation easements in our area. Anyone interested may contact Jerry Peterson at jerry@kmlandtrust.org.

So please help us get this summer off to a good start by joining us at the Spring meeting. It seems we always have leftover donuts, and the Police Department no longer is eating them.

By: Dan Bach
LBPIA President

LBPIA Spring Membership Meeting

Featured Speaker: Pat Wilke
Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 9:00 AM
Town of East Troy Town Hall
N9220 Stewart School Road, East Troy, WI

*The usual coffee, donuts,
and good fellowship will be available.*

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Lake Beulah Dam Status Report

Given the fact that in 2011 County Highway “J” was reconstructed and resurfaced along with rehabilitation improvements to the Lake Beulah Dam, I thought it would be important to document these accomplishments. In talking with Larry Price, Walworth County Director of Operations, he noted how well the paving project went last year with special praise for “the cooperation they received from local property owners, the Lake Associations, and the DNR”. The casual observer might conclude that the resurfaced roadway and the improvements made in the area around the dam and its spillway look just spectacular but not so fast my friends!

Upon further discussion with DNR staff and the County’s engineering firm, it was noted that during repairs to the concrete spillway, deterioration where the north parapet containment wall meets the top concrete slab supporting the road was far greater than expected. They formulated a plan to fix this when they were informed about the DNR’s grant program for dams. Their plan of action changed and they decided to apply for the grant to replace the spillway since it is at the end of its useful life and the repairs were estimated to last 10-15 years. They applied and received approval for a cost sharing grant up to a max of \$400,000. When they received notice of this good news, they decided to hold off on the more intense repair to the north parapet wall due to the fact they may be replacing the whole spillway in a few more years.

As of this writing, the County and its engineers await a meeting with the DNR to evaluate the details of the work and options regarding time frames and budgeting. Depending the outcome of the meeting with the DNR, the engineers indicate planning could begin for replacement of the entire structure or they may plan to repair the north parapet area and hold off on the replacement.

In conclusion, I believe I can report with confidence that the newly resurfaced County “J” roadway, and the work done in the area around the dam and its spillway, were much needed and aesthetically pleasing improvements completed in 2011. In addition we have some very dedicated and professional people at the County and their engineering firm who are working on a solution to resolve the unfortunate, unexpected deterioration to the old Beulah Dam structure with the expected financial aid from the County’s cost sharing grant, approved by the DNR. While it is my understanding there is no imminent danger of a dam failure, the additional repairs and/or total replacement of the dam structure should remain a very high priority for the long range maintenance and integrity of the dam and Lake Beulah itself.

By Paul Didier, Past President
Lake Beulah Protective & Improvement Association (LBPIA)

Legislative Update

Since last summer, two bills were introduced in the Wisconsin legislature potentially impacting Wisconsin waters. The first bill, SB 24, generally known as the “Mining” bill, included a provision that would have granted new permits for high capacity wells automatically if the DNR did not act on a permit application within a time frame to be set by an as-yet nonexistent rule. In essence, that provision would have limited DNR’s ability to analyze the potential impact of a high cap well before it was approved, contrary to the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s recent statement in the Well # 7 case that the DNR has a statutory and constitutional duty “to undertake the review it deems necessary for

all proposed high capacity wells...”

The LBPIA sent a letter to legislative committee members, including Senators Kedzie and Lazich, opposing such a change in state law. No response was received. Opposition to the Mining bill impeded its passage, and thus any change to the high cap well permitting process.

The second piece of legislation, known as the Wetlands Reform Bill, was enacted and signed into law this past February. This new law has a variety

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Area Chair Network

Spring 2012

Area Chairpersons are committed Lake Beulah residents who serve as the primary contacts for the Association. Should you have an interest or concern about anything regarding the Lake, please be sure to contact your area chair.

Lake Beulah Area	Chairperson(s)
A Country Club Lane & Austin Rd.....	Jane Tanis (262-642-9232) jtanis@wi.rr.com
B Beulah Heights Road.....	Richard Stenglein (262-642-3643)
C Oakwood Lane & It’s A Little Road.....	Jim Holtermann(262-642-3050)
D Lake Road & Windy Way.....	Penny Clayton(262-642-3083)
E County J Road.....	Don Tacke(262-363-4327)
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F Island Drive & Golden Way.....	Jean Maiwald (262-363-0829)
G Brynes Lane & Romadka Park Road.....	Roy Gerloff (262-642-5213)
H Horseshoe Lane & East Shore Road (to Beulah Park)	Josie Midman(262-363-8892)
I Beulah Park Road.....	Ken and Pat Jarecki (262-642-9729)
J East Shore Road & Thistle Lane.....	Vacant
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O Wilmers Grove Road, Wilmers Point Lane & Wilmers Landing.....	Brian Fons(262-642-9613)
P Stringers Bridge Road, New Deal Ave. & West Bay Road.....	Michol Ford(262-642-5189)
Q Beach Road & Deerpath Road.....	Amy Kagabitang (231-622-3093)

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No Osprey yet, but hey, we'll take it!

While out checking the maple sap buckets on the lakefront at Camp Edwards, I noticed a large object on the ice toward the channel connecting the Crooked Lake section of Beulah with the Long Lake section. The channel was open water but the ice flowage wasn't completely gone near camp. I strained my eyes to figure out what it was, thinking it could be one of the stumps near the marsh protruding from the lake bottom. Then, I saw movement. Whatever it was, it was big. I ran to my office and grabbed some binoculars and gazed upon the majesty of a lone Bald Eagle standing on the ice. About thirty seconds later, another eagle approached the first one and landed next to it. Both eagles stood there in their splendor for awhile scanning the surroundings, and as gracefully as they landed, they extended their enormous wings and took flight. I was able to take some photos, but they were too far away to be of any use.



Eagles are not uncommon to Beulah, as I have seen them briefly throughout the years stop by on their trip to who knows where. Normally found near the rivers and coasts, they will vacation at times around bodies of water in search of fish, their main dish of choice. They are a member of the sea and fish eagle group and sit at the top of the food chain. However, until recently, fatal gunshot wounds, electrocution, poisoning, collisions with vehicles, and starvation put them on the endangered species list. In 2007,

WHEN ON THE SQUARE, LOOK UP

There is one bird that is best observed from the East Troy town square. It is the tiny chimney swift. They look like flying cigars in continuous motion while searching for insects flying well above the trees and buildings. In their search for food, listen for their chipping or ticking call as they fly.

These birds have a lot of unique features among the birds in our area, such as their feet. While large feet would result in excessive aerodynamic drag and impede flight, the feet of the Chimney Swift are so small it is incapable of perching in trees. Their feet are designed for clinging to rough surfaces such as the inside of chimneys or hollow trees.



the Interior Department removed them from the endangered and threatened species list, but remained protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

You may have heard that this great country of ours was at risk of having a turkey as our National emblem instead of the eagle. This is true. A committee of three, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, formed to create the Great Seal of the United States, only agreeing on Jefferson's contributed phrase, E pluribus unum, or Out of Many, One. It wasn't until 6 years later, in 1782 when congress approved of the drawing put forth by a Philadelphia naturalist showing the Bald Eagle as a symbol of "supreme power and authority". In 1787, the Bald Eagle became the official emblem of the United States of America...much to the dismay of Benjamin Franklin who felt the eagle was a "coward" and represented "bad moral character". Whereas Franklin observed the eagle take the kill of another bird, and then chased away by much smaller birds, he noted that the turkey does not act as such. The turkey fends for itself and is a much more respectable bird.

When you are walking around, don't forget to look up. You just may see something of interest and a symbol that has lasted generations.

By: Jody Heimos

The nest is a little half-saucer-shaped hammock composed solely of dead twigs that the bird breaks off as it flies past a tree. The two-inch twigs are attached to the chimney wall and fastened to one another by the bird's saliva. As the saliva hardens, it secures the nest so firmly to its support that it can withstand summer rains. Nests have been found from near the top of chimneys to twenty feet down. Since there is only one active tiny nest in a chimney, you don't have to worry about flue gas blockage.

These birds should return to the square during the first week in May and depart for the Amazon basin by the second week in August. It is very likely that the birds you see this year were here last summer.

By: Ray Fisher

Legislative Update continued
of components, but one key feature is that it will enable easier and faster development on wetlands in exchange for mitigation. Mitigation would involve the creation of an alternative wetland area, or a financial contribution to a "mitigation bank" or similar fund used to restore or enhance other wetlands.

Proponents of the legislation claim that it will upgrade the quality of Wisconsin wetlands overall and stimulate development. Opponents point out that the new law does not distinguish the quality of

the wetlands affected, offering no greater protection to exceptional wetland resources which might be eliminated in exchange for unspecified alternatives.

Lake Beulah includes numerous wetland areas, including eight identified in a 1994 DNR study as sensitive and critical fish and wildlife habitats. Polling data generated during passage of this bill indicate that Wisconsin residents strongly favor protection of wetland resources.

By: Dan Bach

Paddle Prattle By: Scott Miller, M.D.

Although the calendar says early March the temperatures are now high enough that the start of the paddling season seems just around the corner! One type of paddle sport that I have never tried but am excited to give a go this year is "Stand Up Paddleboarding" or SUP. On my kayak excursions, I have pulled along side with people doing SUP to ask them about the sport. They uniformly say it is fairly easy to do, a good work out and most importantly, a lot of fun!

The sport has its origins in the Hawaiian Islands where surfing instructors at Waikiki used outrigger paddles with their surfboards in order to take photos of tourists learning how to surf. The basic equipment needed include the paddleboard, paddle, PFD and clothing appropriate for getting wet.

Paddleboards are sized according to the weigh of the user and the width and shape of the board effect its performance. Wider flatter boards are more forgiving while narrower boards are faster and more responsive. The paddle should be 6 – 10 inches taller than the paddler and often have a bent "elbow" in the shaft near the blade. Just like some canoe paddles, this elbow bend should face toward the front so than the blade is perpendicular to the water during the power portion of the stroke.



To start off, some experts recommend paddling while kneeling on the board. This is to increase the stability of your first efforts. When you feel more comfortable on the board you can try paddling while standing up. Paddleboards are steered just like a canoe. The closer you paddle to the board, the straighter the board goes. Alternating strokes on either side of the board will give the straightest path. To turn, simple paddle on the side opposite the turn or brake on the side you want to turn to. The further you paddle away from the board, the faster the turn, just like in a "C" stroke for canoeing. Back paddling on the side you want to turn to will give you the fastest turn possible. Should you fall off of the board, aim to the side to avoid falling onto the board.

All in all, this sport looks like it would be a blast, especially in the early morning no-wake hours on Beulah. I imagine the view from standing up is superior to that of being seated in a kayak, or canoe. One of the comments that I've heard is that "it feels like you are walking on the water." I hope to give this a try once the water gets a bit warmer since I'm sure newbie's spend a fair bit of time in the water rather than on the board...

The Creation of Goat Island & The 1914 Beulah Heights Subdivision

Beulah has a very storied and rich history with many citizens of the Milwaukee and Chicago region visiting a Lake Beulah families or friends cottage or enjoying our own residence on the lakes beautiful shoreline. One storied history that may have been lost to many who enjoy Lake Beulah, is how Goat Island came to be.

Due to the growing urban populations of Milwaukee in the 1900s and the advancement of the motorized automobile and the electric railroad line, Lake Beulah rose to popularity for its natural beauty. Thus, even a hundred years ago, many sought to profit off the lakes natural beauty and resources by subdividing large tracts of land. Fortunately, Lake Beulah still has many camps that provide sanctuary from over development.

In 1913, Samuel D. Austin, an affluent businessman of a Milwaukee brick factory and self-made civil engineer, and Martin Rottier, a Milwaukee architect, purchased all of the Gillard farms, approximately 160 acres located southeast of what is now Beulah Bog State Natural Area and east of Country Club Lane and Beulah Heights Road Intersection to all along Lake Beulah.

Along with Charles Haworth, they began an incredible project to "Scientifically convert a wild farm into beautiful Beulah Lake property" (Daily Reporter 1914). In his advertisement for a "Builders Colony" with 183 lots to be developed with summer homes Charles stated,

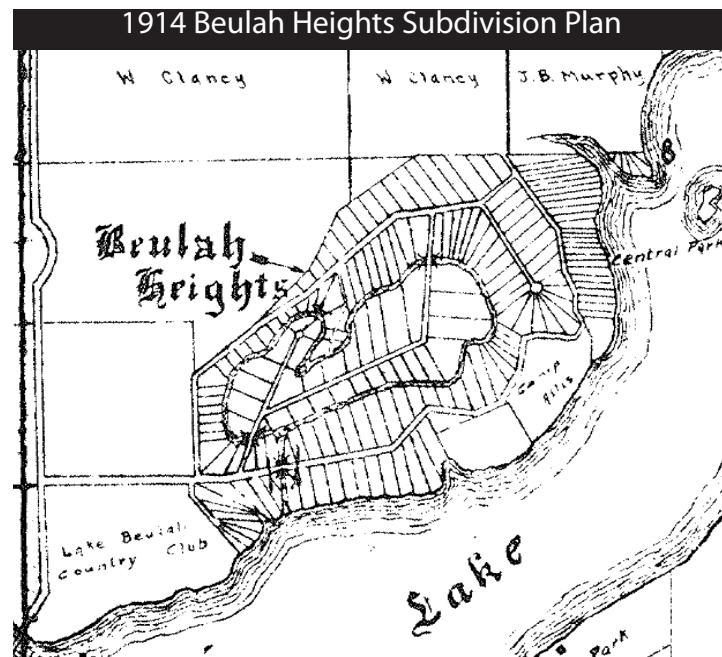
"Combined, the favorable location, topography, and other natural advantages, a competent Surveyor and Engineer, a Dredge in the hands of such efficient operators as Chas F. Haworth and Theo Froemming with \$15,000 to foot the bills and behold the result! Man thinks, plans, works and braves and Nature to art at once behaves" (Daily Reporter 1914).

Around the bog, which became Goat Island, the lag zone was dredged to a depth of eight feet. The new Beulah Heights Subdivision was to have this as its "center of value and attraction." The lag around what is now called Goat Island, Austin called the "Gondola." The winding 25-foot wide channel, 8,000 feet long, was connected to Lake Beulah by a 25 foot canal. It was promised that in springtime, "weeping willows which skirt the shore of this; bewitchingly beautiful Gondola" would be blooming. The bog which became the "Gondola" was underlain by 28 feet of peat, yet 33 lots and a road were platted out by engineers.

An advertisement enticed buyers by warning them "how lake property around Milwaukee is being grabbed in the past 2 or 3 years" (Daily Reporter 1914). Special prices were offered through an arrangement with the newspaper for 31 days only to architects, contractors, builders, and building materials men. Lots were described as follows:

"Owing to location and other points affecting value, the lots run from \$40 (24x300 ft) to one acre lots fronting the Gondola at \$350 to \$500 to \$750."

A First Class hotel and restaurant was to open on June 1, 1914. A line of passenger launches was to enable residents to cross Lake Beulah to the village of East Tray where they could take the trolley to Milwaukee.



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The Creation of Goat Island & The 1914 Beulah Heights Subdivision continued

The dredge arrived on March 17, 1914. A local newspaper reported that one use of the dredge was to dig a ditch 400 feet long, 20 feet wide and 8 feet deep around the "cranberry marsh," which is now Goat Island. The dredging, which was only expected to last a few months, ended up taking over a year of continuous work. This delay led to some investors pulling their share out of the department. The dredging also cut off the eastern end of Beulah Heights Road, which inconvenienced some summer residents and campers at Camp Charles Allis Association. Then disagreements on marketing and selling the lots lead to further disputes in court. The court battles led to dividing up the land amongst Sam Austin and Martin Rottier.

By 1921, only one road had been built, a part of what now is Beulah Heights Road. Several houses were built along the lake on that road, but none of the planned hotels or homes were ever constructed on the Gondola. In the late 1920's, economic depression began and the land could not be sold.

Submitted by:
Eric X. Tarman-Ramcheck

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Lake Views is published periodically by the Lake Beulah Protective & Improvement Association. Every effort has been made to provide correct and accurate information. There is, however, no guarantee as to the total accuracy of information included. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the LBPIA Board of Directors. Individuals who wish to submit articles, artwork, poetry, calendar items or photography may send contributions to Lake Views Editor, LBPIA, P.O. Box 153, East Troy, WI 53120. Articles in Lake Views may be reprinted or reproduced for further distribution, with acknowledgment to the Editor.