



# ShoreLines

Newsletter of the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association

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## The Great Fires of October 1871

by Gary Storandt, LLIA Secretary

Most everyone knows about the tragic fire that nearly destroyed Chicago on October 8, 1871—killing over 250 and destroying nearly 3 square miles of the city.

A tragedy for sure. But, there's more to the story.

The summer of 1871 was unusually dry, creating a dangerous fire risk throughout the entire Great Lakes region and beyond. The Midwest was one big powder keg just waiting to blow.

While the Great Chicago Fire is the most well known in history, on that same October 8th in 1871, forest fires and prairie fires—fueled by terrific winds—broke out in Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana and Illinois. For sheer destructiveness and loss of life, the great fires that raged on the weekend of October 8, 1871 will go down in US history as its greatest fire disaster.

The fires around Lake Michigan alone claimed some 200 lives and



Great Chicago Fire, Oct. 8, 1871, Library of Congress image



Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin, Oct. 8, 1871, U.S. Forest Service image

destroyed over 1.2 million acres. A blaze in Holland, Michigan nearly wiped the entire city from the map.

But, what you *may not know* is that also on October 8—almost to the minute that the fabled Great Chicago Fire broke out—the deadliest fire of all exploded to life 240 miles to our north along the shores of Green Bay. Within hours, *the Wisconsin town of Peshtigo was leveled*, wiping out the entire city and destroying 1.5 million acres.

So, while the Great Chicago fire dominated the news, to this day, the Great Peshtigo Fire is the deadliest wildfire in recorded US history with the total number of deaths estimated between 1500 and 2500—more than five times the souls lost in Chicago. Google the Peshtigo Fire for more fascinating (and heart-breaking) facts.

So...is October 8th a day to be feared? Nah. Now might be a fine time to motor up to Peshtigo and visit the Peshtigo Fire Museum.

## At a glance...

- **The 2024 Hardwater Heroes Ice Fishing Event** will be held on **January 27, 2024** to help support veterans and first responders.
- **The Annual Fishapalooza Ice Fishing Derby** will be held on **Saturday, February 10, 2024**. Specifics will be posted on our website at [LLIA.org](http://LLIA.org).
- If you've never visited the **Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce**, give it a shot. Learn of the many things to see and do throughout the lake area.

*The LLIA is an All-Volunteer organization devoted to monitoring water quality, promoting water safety, preserving the lakes' natural habitat, creating a superbly stocked fishery, and keeping lake area homeowners up-to-the-minute on what's happening around the area. For more information, visit [LLIA.org](http://LLIA.org).*

# LLIA Special Reports

## Going Strong Protecting The Lake Environment

by Amber Bixler, LLIA Lake Preservation Committee Chair

Now that the cold weather is upon us, improving wildlife habitat and managing runoff might be the furthest thing from your mind. However, it's the perfect time to start considering whether your property could benefit from the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program, which includes 5 best practices:

- Fish sticks – Tree clusters secured under the water to provide habitat for fish. These are most suitable for bays or protected areas.
- Native plantings – A native garden at the water's edge that is at least 10 ft wide and 350 sf. The Healthy Lakes and Rivers program provides a variety of plant lists, such as butterfly gardens and low growing native plants.
- Diversion – Redirect runoff on moderately steep paths with concentrated flows.
- Rock infiltration – A gravel trench to capture water from roof/driveway or for use with the diversion best practice.
- Rain gardens – A native garden typically 150 – 600 sf in a low point on the property to gather runoff.

**HOW WILL YOU IMPROVE YOUR LAKE OR RIVER?**

Healthy Lakes & Rivers

ILLUSTRATION: KAREN ENGELBRETTSON

**1 FISH STICKS**  
CREATE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT. Fish Sticks are feeding, breeding, and nesting areas for all sorts of critters – from fish to song birds. They can also prevent bank erosion – protecting lakeshore properties and your lake. (Not eligible on river properties.)

**2 NATIVE PLANTINGS**  
IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT, NATURAL BEAUTY AND PRIVACY, AND SLOW RUNOFF. Native Plantings include grasses and wildflowers with shrubs and trees. Choose a template based on your property and interests – from bird/butterfly habitat to a low-growing garden showcasing your water view.

**3 DIVERSION\***  
PREVENT RUNOFF FROM GETTING INTO YOUR LAKE OR RIVER. Diversion Practices move water to areas where it can soak into the ground instead. Depending on your property, multiple diversions may be necessary.

**4 ROCK INFILTRATION\***  
CAPTURE AND CLEAN RUNOFF. Rock Infiltration practices fit in nicely along roof drip lines and driveways and provide space for runoff to filter itself. They work best if your soil is sandy or loamy.

**5 RAIN GARDEN\***  
CREATE WILDLIFE HABITAT AND NATURAL BEAUTY WHILE CAPTURING AND CLEANING RUNOFF. Rain Gardens multi-task - they improve habitat and filter runoff while providing a naturally beautiful view.

IMPROVE HABITAT AND NATURAL BEAUTY ~ SLOW, DIVERT, CLEAN AND FILTER RUNOFF

\*Eligible for shoreland properties within 1000 feet of a lake or 300 feet of a river.

The Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant Program goal is to protect and improve the health of Wisconsin lakes and rivers by increasing shoreland property owner participation in projects that restore habitat and control runoff and erosion.



During our first year with the program, the LLIA has sponsored 2 completed native plantings and next year an additional native planting, rain garden, water diversion, and rock infiltration will be completed. In addition, we have applied for 4 new native planting projects for 2024. A rain garden, sponsored by Geneva Lakes Conservancy, has also been completed.

You might be wondering how to figure out if your property is right for a Healthy Lakes and

Rivers best practice. The Healthy Lakes website (<https://healthylakeswi.com/>) has a step-by-step guide to help you choose a best practice. Generally, if your property is within 1,000 ft of the shoreline, relatively flat, with some open or grass-covered areas, a best practice could be suitable. The LLIA Lake Preservation Committee is also available to visit your property and provide in-person assistance. Contact us at [LLIAHealthyLakes@gmail.com](mailto:LLIAHealthyLakes@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## WATER QUALITY REMAINS GREAT!

by Mark Curcio, LLIA Water Quality Committee Chair

Water testing for the year is complete. I would like to thank my fellow volunteers, Larry Slight and Kim Coleman, for their help in collecting data.

As everyone may recall, the DNR had cut funds in regard to collecting info and reporting the health of Wisconsin lakes. Fortunately, a new platform has been developed. It is called WEx, which stands for Wisconsin Water Explorer. With the help of our liaison at the DNR, I have been able to obtain some information as to the conditions of our lakes. Overall, everything is looking good!

Water clarity was up in all three lakes. Phosphorus levels were all down from last year. Chlorophyll levels remained constant. If anyone is interested in more details, please visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website. Select "Environment" on the top menu bar, then "Lakes" from the selections below, then "Lake Water Quality Data", and finally "Walworth County." Find which lake you are interested in (each of our three lakes are monitored) and select "Details." From there you can open the Water Explorer and explore information on our "Watershed" or the lake using "Lake Tools."

# Remember: Ice is Never 100% Safe!

by Peg (Thelander) Eggert, LLIA Water Safety Chair

As winter approaches, we should all remember about the dangers of ICE! Remember ICE IS NEVER 100% SAFE! New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Ice seldom freezes uniformly. The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. Ice conditions will change near springs, permanent piers and wet boat houses with aerators.



Always be cautious on the ice. For more ice safety tips, see articles in our 2022 and 2019 Fall/Winter ShoreLines which are on our web site, [LLIA.org](http://LLIA.org).

Open water and structures near the shoreline (especially the permanent piers) can become

difficult to see with winter snow and drifts, especially at night. When out on the ice,

if possible, do not go alone. Bring a friend, a rope, and life jackets! Safety first!

## Spongy Moths Are Still Here

by Amber Bixler, LLIA Lake Preservation Committee Chair

Remember to be on the lookout for spongy moth egg sacs. They are a beige or rust color with a velvety texture and spongy consistency. Egg sacs can be attached to a variety of surfaces, such as trees, furniture, firewood, mailboxes, or even lawn furniture.



Egg masses you may find attached to different surfaces.

Destroy egg sacs during the winter months by scraping off the sacs, including the eggs, into a container of soapy water

and discard in the trash. Don't just scrape the egg sacs to the ground as they will survive to hatch next spring.

## Did You Know?

We continue to add events to the calendar on our web site, [LLIA.org](http://LLIA.org). To add an LLIA Calendar event to your personal calendar, open the specific event on the LLIA.org calendar and click on either the Google Calendar or ICS link.

This will download a calendar file to your pc/device which you can open and save to your personal calendar tool. (Use ICS for any calendar system other than Google).

# Corky's Corner

## The Fish Just Keep Jumpin'

By Jim "Corky" Corcoran, LLIA Fish Committee Chair

Hey Lake friends, I am writing this as I bask in the beautiful sun of the Gulf of Mexico! My transition from teacher to retired beach bum has begun! With that being said, I would like to announce we have a new Fish Committee Chair, Rick "Deetz" Dessent. I will be transitioning out of the role and Deetz will begin to fill my shoes beginning this winter with his first event being Fishapalooza 2024!

Deetz has been a long-standing member of the Fish Committee and a great supporter of the fishery we all love. He has spent almost his entire life on Lauderdale Lakes, so Deetz was a "natural" as a successor to my role. Deetz loves the lake community and has played many roles in our community and without his commitment we would be lacking in many ways. But, fear not, my commitment to supporting the community, LLIA, and all we love about Lauderdale Lakes, will continue and I will assist Deetz with all I can to make this transition seamless. I am continuing my relationship with the LLIA and look forward to continuing to help improve our beautiful Lauderdale Lakes community.

Wow...now let's get down to what we have been up to and where we are going. Fish stocking happened again this past fall and we introduced 3,000 Smallmouth Bass approximately 5-7 inches and 3,000 Perch from 5-9 inches into our lakes! We have been fortunate to have raised plenty of funds through YOUR generous donations and successful fundraising efforts to be able to increase our stocking efforts. The Perch fishery continues to improve, and I suspect we will

out there! You just need to look for the rocky habitat they prefer and fish deeper than you would for the Largemouth Bass. If you see me out and about, I can fill you in on some spots to target for these incredibly hard fighting fish!

As for our upcoming winter events, the longstanding, ever-so-popular Fishapalooza 2024 will be happening on February 10 so mark your calendars! But the first event is Hardwater Heroes! Hardwater

Heroes is an event hosted by Dave Mordini and his committee of Hardwater Hero volunteers. The LLIA provides funds to support the Hardwater Heroes as a co-sponsor and to assist in hosting the event. Event proceeds are donated to Healing Patriots, a support group for veterans. The event will be January 27, 2024 at the Lauderdale Landing. The event's purpose is to provide both veterans and first responders an

opportunity to have a day of guided ice fishing and a great breakfast as well as a lunch reception following the day of fishing. There is a very moving opening ceremony with a color guard and a traditional singing of the national anthem which is incredible! The day of fishing begins after a hearty breakfast and the



*Small fish, a portion of which are funded by the WDNR, are stocked in our lakes through a tube directly from the truck.*

all have a great chance of catching a fish fry for the family through the ice this season. We have heard of many 10-12 inch Perch being caught this past summer. As for the Smallmouth, the fishery just continues to improve and I was lucky enough to catch several really nice Smallies this season. They are



*YOUR generous donations to our Fish Stocking Fund allow LLIA to purchase larger fish targeted to improve our fishery. Larger fish are netted from truck tanks, transferred to buckets, and placed in our lakes.*



Looks like another very busy winter for the Fish Committee! All the efforts and generous donations to the Fish Committee—either directly or through Fishapalooza raffle proceeds—go back to the lake, or as we say at the events “every dollar we raise goes into the lakes!” We could not do what we do without the generous support of the friends we have here within our Lauderdale Lakes community. Please try to contribute this year to assist us in making Lauderdale Lakes the place we all want it to be!

And remember, as always, **“take a kid fishing”!**

local resident guides assist the anglers in any way they can to make it a memorable day on the ice. The reception afterwards is also spectacular and the public is invited to take advantage of all the awesome raffles available. Please come for the opening ceremonies and then after lunch for the raffles and camaraderie that will take place at the Lauderdale Landing! Please contact Dave Mordini at 815-790-4588 with any questions, to volunteer, or to register a veteran or first responder.

Fishapalooza 2024 will be spectacular and bigger than ever! Our new Fish Committee Chairperson, Deetz, has great plans for the event. He is being assisted by Mitch Flueger again this year. Mitch was a great help with last year’s efforts. The event will take place again out of the Lauderdale Landing and will—as in years past—be the event to be at for this winter! Deetz will have

more on logistics and start time, but save the date: February 10th! Fishapalooza has been a long-time fundraising effort run by a group of community volunteers and supported by the LLIA. Funds raised through raffles and donations have assisted with fish stocking and crib building efforts. This event would not be possible without generous contributions from the lake community and local businesses from the surrounding area to provide awesome raffle prizes for all to win. If you are interested in donating any raffle prizes or a cash donation to be used to purchase raffle prizes, please contact me via email or reach out to Deetz at the Lauderdale Landing.



*Largemouth bass ARE out there! Here is one caught by Corky this fall.*



# History Column

## Indigenous Life on Lauderdale's Shores

By Kathryn Ingle Calkins, LLIA History Chair

The *History Column* has reviewed some aspects of the lives of people who lived by our chain of lakes prior to European colonization (Find those articles on the LLIA.org website in November 2008 and May 2011). But what was daily life like for Indigenous people before Caucasians arrived in southern Wisconsin?

One thing that's easy to lose sight of is just how long people have lived in this area. Humans came as the ice from the most recent ice age receded—roughly 12,000 years ago—forming the water-filled kettles that make our lakes. As the ice left, plants adapted to a gentler climate and moved in, making habitation by humans and other animals possible here.

Several cultures came and went during these thousands of years. Depending on which era we examine, the picture of daily life changes, but the people certainly hunted, fished and foraged for their livelihood, more recently growing crops as well. Many of the more recent groups living in our area were part of the Woodland cultures that extended east to the Atlantic Ocean. Older inhabitants were of the Hopewell and Mississippian cultures.

According to the Milwaukee Public Museum website, southern Wisconsin offered an amazing array of food options before European settlement. Walworth County had a mosaic of wetlands, forests and prairies that made it especially rich. People would have gathered gooseberries, junberries, cranberries, raspberries, grapes, cherries, blueberries and chokecherries. They also would have collected acorns, hazelnuts, beechnuts and butternuts as well as vegetables such as wild potatoes, wild onions, milkweed and the root of yellow water lilies. Woodland people hunted—eventually with bow and arrow—and trapped deer, moose, foxes and several species of wolves for food. For furs, they killed beaver, martens, mink, raccoons, rabbits, otters, muskrats, wolverines and lynx. They hunted or trapped partridges, turkeys, geese and ducks. They caught fish such as trout, walleye and sturgeon using a variety of methods such as fishhooks, lures, traps, nets, spears, bait and lines. They also ate mussels and several species of turtles. Interestingly, groups burned prairie and oak savannah areas, which could flush game but also favor certain plants and animals adapted to fire regulated ecosystems.

Indigenous people lived in communities on the shores of lakes like Lauderdale. In addition to finding and gathering food, they used raw materials around them to make the items they needed. The Milwaukee Public Museum describes woodland housing as primarily dome shaped structures. Families probably spent the winter months in one house and the summer in another, located elsewhere. Some cultures certainly used larger lodges as well. These were oblong, with a fire at the center, and accommodated many more people. People made dwellings from pliable tree sapling frames covered by bark or mats woven from grasses or cattails. They could easily remove the coverings from the frames and reattach them at a different dwelling.

While all this sounds like a great deal of work, people practiced rich cultural traditions, demonstrating that they had time and energy for ceremonies and offerings. The Milwaukee Public Museum website sketches intricate spiritual rites and ceremonies that Great Lakes people practiced. They paid special attention to a person's coming-of-age, when young boys fasted in the woods to bring on visions and girls fasted in a small hut built away from the main community. Any visions that fasting produced could be associated with a new, often secret name given to the young person.

Cultures common near Lauderdale played physical games and shell or dice games. For example, women played a game similar to lacrosse, while in winter men played a sliding game with polished sticks shaped to resemble snakes. Communities performed music and dances, and songs were associated with most important activities, including games and recovery from illness.

One example of the focus on culture and spirituality lies all around southern Wisconsin in the form of ancient earthworks rising out of the natural contours of the ground. When the more recent Woodland



*Implements made and used by indigenous Great Lakes people. The variety of objects and extensive decoration showcase the rich cultural life of the communities took part in. (Credit: Wisconsin Historical Society, WHI-6321)*

indigenous cultures came to Walworth County, they found the area dotted with these mounds. According to a Wisconsin Public Radio piece on effigy mounds (September 2, 2020, by Elizabeth Dohms-Harter), Wisconsin experienced two periods of mound-building. Prior to 750 AD, resident cultures built conical or linear mounds that were each burial sites for many people. These can be found all over the eastern U.S. But between 750 and 1200 AD, the people of southern Wisconsin began to build mounds in the shapes of various animals and even humans. The mounds run for several meters and their shapes are best seen from the air. These mounds, the piece notes, are built like sculptures, running with the contours of landscape features, so that the animals they depict appear to be interacting with the land. Our area has the largest concentration of effigy mounds anywhere.

The *History Column* from May 2011 contains more information on the mounds. This author was shown a mound that sat on the eastern shore of Middle Lake several years ago. The Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve in the city of Whitewater also includes examples of both conical and line and effigy mounds.

As we do today, indigenous groups followed traditions year after year, changing in response to the movement of other groups into the area. Rather than a static snapshot, the 10,000 years preceding European settlement told a dynamic story that just requires a little searching to uncover.

# Member's Post

## A Big Welcome To New LLIA Members!

Welcome to all new members of the LLIA. We now have a record membership of 743. Plus, a special thanks to all of you who generously donated to our Fish Committee and Lake Preservation funds—over and above your \$35 annual dues. And a special, special thanks to all the volunteers who help keep the LLIA moving forward...and to the LLIA Directors who keep our district neighbors informed of just what's going on around Lauderdale Lakes.

Meanwhile, have a safe and healthy winter.



Deer swimming across Middle Lake.  
Photo by Patty Hargrave



Caption: Late afternoon sun shines on east shoreline of Mill Lake. Photo by Debbie Ferrari

*All LLIA members are invited to contribute to the MEMBER'S POST. Maybe you have a favorite recipe to share...or a great photo capturing the alluring beauty of our lakes...or maybe you'd like to pass along a thought, suggestion or reflection about life on Lauderdale Lakes. If you have a message to share (in 75 words or less, please) email us at [LakeViews@LLIA.org](mailto:LakeViews@LLIA.org). And please specify if you would like to remain anonymous.*



Do they know it's nearly Thanksgiving?  
Photo by Debbie Ferrari

## Thought of the Day

*The older I get,  
the more clearly  
I remember  
things that never  
happened.*

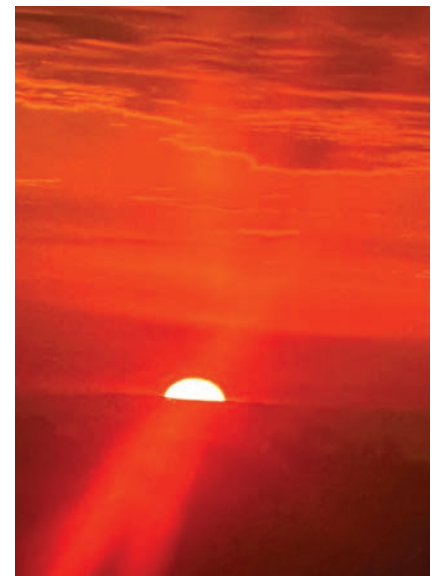
—Mark Twain



Stunning fall sunset. Photo by Elisabeth Partyka



Early morning light on a fall day.  
Photo by Elisabeth Partyka



Brilliant sunset. Photo by Mary Simms

## LLIA EXPECTED TO SUPPORT NEW CLUBHOUSE BEAUTIFICATION

An important part of the LLIA's mission is to help preserve the lakes' natural habitat. In keeping with that tenet, the LLIA anticipates contributing to the fundraising efforts for the new Golf Course Clubhouse—particularly by donating to those efforts that most closely meet our mutual goals.

## Member's Post

Continued

### Lake House Fixin's

#### Shrimp DeJonge

Fancy things up on a cold winter's night.  
*Submitted by: Sandy Christman*

#### Ingredients

1 lb. shrimp, peeled & deveined  
5 tablespoons butter  
2 teaspoons minced garlic  
¼ cup sherry  
1 tablespoon sliced green onion  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup chicken broth  
Pinch of cayenne pepper  
¼ teaspoon paprika  
8 tablespoons dry plain breadcrumbs  
Parsley for garnish

#### Directions

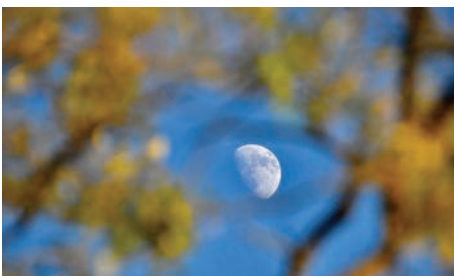
Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 1 to 1-1/2 quart casserole dish.

Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Add garlic and saute about 30 seconds.

Stir in shrimp, sherry, onion, salt, cayenne, paprika and broth. Add 6 Tbsp of the breadcrumbs and stir until moistened.

Transfer the mixture to the casserole dish. Sprinkle remaining breadcrumbs on top and bake for about 20 minutes until browned.

Garnish with parsley.



Moon in the afternoon. Photo Ken Klancnik

## Other Lake Organizations

### Yacht Club Heading Into Another Great Year

*by Linda Johnson, LLYC Commodore*

The Yacht club ended the year with a scavenger hunt around the lake. Everyone had fun touring the lakes, finding the clues and recording the LL number where the clue was located. Three teams won fabulous prizes for the most correct answers to the hunt.



*The Commodore flag is passed from JJ Jilek to Linda Johnson who will fly it proudly and take the reins for the next two years.*

I'm honored that it was at this final event that Commodore JJ Jilek presented me with the Commodore flag to fly proudly on my pontoon for the next two years.

Big thanks and an LLYC jacket go to JJ for his leadership during his two-year tenure as Commodore. JJ was instrumental in getting many new members to join and participate in our events. My goal is to continue bringing the lake organizations together and to hold fabulous events around our beautiful lakes!

Next year, we will bring back some of our flagship events along with a few new ones.

Events planned include:

- June 1 Cocktails with the Commodore, Anthony Cecola as chair
- June 14 TGIF at Pleasant Lake, Tom Short as chair
- June 29 Cardboard Regatta, a NEW event, "Corky" Corcoran in charge
- July 6 Fireworks, headed up by Jeff Angst and Andy Brown
- July 20 Taste of the Lakes/BBQ, JJ Jilek chair
- Aug. 3 Venetian Night, co-hosted by Bill and Laura Harris and John and Janet Summers
- Aug. 24 Golf Tournament, back by popular demand, led by Julie Lawrence
- Sept. 14 Poker Run, led by Karen McKenzie

We hope to have LLYC merchandise for sale this coming year. Watch for more details coming your way. Our spring Flag Hoist will include information about all of these events along with membership information. For all of our current members, I look forward to meeting many of you over the next two years. Please renew next spring and invite new people on the lake to join with you. We're a social organization dedicated to promote and support the general hospitality and friendship of the residents of Lauderdale Lakes.

***And, as always, you don't have to own a Yacht to join!***

### Bits & Pieces From The Town of LaGrange

*By Don Henderson, LLIA Planning & Zoning Chair*

The Town Board, Walworth County and the State of Wisconsin have approved a solar panel electrical generation layout on 36 acres of land. This will be located on the Kincaid Farm south of Hwy 12 near the intersection of Tamarack Road. Construction will begin next year with truck access onto Hwy 12.

The large natural gas storage containers on the western part of LaGrange Township just east of County Highway O and north of Territorial Road are nearing completion. It is anticipated these will be operational in 2025. Once in operation, the facility will be paying taxes in support of the Town.

The Spring election in the Town of LaGrange will elect two Board member positions. The election will have the Town Chairman and the First Side Supervisor candidate positions elected. Any person desiring to be elected must file their nomination paper with the Town Clerk before the end of December.

The Lauderdale LaGrange Fire Department has taken delivery and placed in service a new ambulance. By purchasing the new ambulance and agreeing to have it used as a demonstrator for a relatively short period of time, the cost was reduced by approximately 10% for a total cost of \$264,000. The old ambulance was sold for \$34,000 and the funds used to order a new Heart Monitor which will be installed in the new ambulance.

The Fire Department Steak Fry profits were used to purchase additional new turn out gear that will replace older gear the fire fighters wear when responding to a fire.

The Fire Department is continuing to seek new members. Please notify Fire Chief Dave Nelson if you know of potential members. Both male and female members are needed. All who join are provided comprehensive training and development before they enter service.



# Other Lake Organizations

## Setting Sail for 2024

by Ben Johnson, LLSC Commodore

Greetings Sailing Club Fans! In case you missed it, our 56th season closed with our annual awards picnic hosted by Jack and Nancy Sorenson on September 10th where our team members were honored for their well deserved accomplishments. Highlights include:

### Overall Summer Series

- 1st Place - Chris Zenger
- 2nd Place - Glenn Hansen
- 3rd Place - Mike Jaeger
- 4th Place - Ben Johnson

### LLYC Regatta Series

- 1st Place - Glenn Hansen
- 2nd Place - Chris Zenger
- 3rd Place - Doug Ward
- 4th Place (tie) - Michael Engel
- 4th Place (tie) - Peter Van Kampen

We introduced a new Trophy honoring the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association which was won by Doug Ward.



Summer Series honors to Ben Johnson (4th), Glenn Hansen (2nd) and Chris Zenger (1st). Mike Jaeger (3rd) was absent.



Regatta Series presentation to Peter Van Kampen and Michael Zenger (tied for 4th), Doug Ward (3rd), Chris Zenger (2nd), Glenn Hansen (1st) by Commodore Ben Johnson.



Debbie Ferrari represented the LLIA as the Sailing Club established the new "LLIA Cup", with Commodore Ben Johnson awarding it to Doug Ward.

Our youngest sailor ever, Henry Sorenson (grandson of Jack and Nancy), learned the ropes from Jack for several races finishing the season solo on the last race (Beisswanger Trophy) ... placing 2nd!

Have a great winter and we look forward to seeing you in the spring. Perhaps 2024 is the year you join us...?

## KETTLE MORaine LAND TRUST UPDATE

By Dave DeAngelis, KMLT President

2023 has been a busy year for Kettle Moraine Land Trust. For starters, we added a new board member, upgraded our donor database, hired a new accounting firm, survived another re-accreditation cycle (every 5 years), dramatically expanded the Lyons Biodiversity Project footprint, facilitated stewardship workdays every month, and revamped our



fundraising program. In 2023, KMLT continued to see a steady stream of conservation easement opportunities.

In addition to all the hard work that was accomplished this year, we had a very successful Oaktobefest Fundraiser event at Petersen Island Woods on 9/30/23, with over 75 attendees. It turns out that having a great venue, with great people, great beer & snacks, great live music and (as it turned out) great weather, translates into an awesome day.



A good time was had by all at the Oaktobefest Event held at Petersen Island Woods Preserve

KMLT is in the process of creating The Jim Benes Internship Program for college age students with interest in forestry and land preservation. The Benes Family is a major donor for KMLT and owns a beautifully restored conservation easement in the Whitewater area.



It's never too early to learn to appreciate the natural resources around us!

Lastly, KMLT continues to have stewardship workdays on the last Saturday of every month. Please check the website at [kmlandtrust.org](http://kmlandtrust.org), Facebook page or contact our office if you would like to help at one of our preserves.

# Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District: Keeping You In-The-Know

by Dean Bostrom, LLLMD Chairman

## Golf Course Clubhouse Update

At the September 2nd Annual Meeting, residents voted to approve the New Clubhouse ballot question by a vote of 466 YES to 57 NO. The tax implications presented at the meeting was that the Lake District is planning to fund \$40,000 of the total anticipated \$120,000 annual loan repayment. The annual real estate tax increase was projected to be approximately \$55 per qualified tax parcel. Qualified tax parcels were determined to be all tax parcels that have either living quarters, vacant property with the ability to build living quarters, or commercial property. The actual tax amount for the new clubhouse for real estate tax bills payable in 2024 will be about \$50.

Lake District committees have been established to oversee various components of the new clubhouse.

### The Building/Construction

**Committee** is chaired by Jack Sorenson. Jack McAndrews, who recently retired after working in the construction industry for 35+ years, has volunteered to serve as the Construction Project Manager for the new clubhouse. He will provide invaluable experience in constructing the new clubhouse. Additional committee members who also bring valuable experience to the building/construction process include Scott Ryhan, Pauly Lopardo and Greg Wisniewski.

### The Fundraising Committee

includes residents with various fundraising experiences. These residents include Kim Coleman, Cindy Klima, Patti Jelik, Laura Allen, Scott Ryhan, Tracy Bostrom, Joann Sergi, Renee Saban, Cathy Fregeau, and Joe Ferrari. The Committee is currently



Renderings of the new Clubhouse approved at the September 2nd Annual Meeting.

working toward kicking off the fundraising efforts in the Spring of 2024.

**The Land Planning Committee** was formed to evaluate the long term future of the Community Center; adding new recreation amenities including but not limited to tennis courts/pickleball, and bocce ball; determine location of the new Golf Course Storage Building, evaluate developing rain garden areas adjacent to the clubhouse and maintenance building; evaluate long term vehicle traffic flow using the existing drive adjacent to Sterlingworth Dr; and the future locations of new the septic field and new well. No new taxes will result from any of the issues being evaluated by the committee. Don Henderson is the Committee Chair along with members Pauly Lopardo, Linda Johnson and Andy Brown.

### The Communication Committee

members currently include JJ Jilek and Kristen Monroe. The committee, however, needs additional residents who are interested in evaluating how the Lake District currently communicates with residents and how we can better communicate with residents in the future. Please contact Dean Bostrom, at [dbostrom@lauderdalelakedistrict.com](mailto:dbostrom@lauderdalelakedistrict.com) if you are interested in serving on this committee.

## Golf Course

The golf course had another outstanding year in 2023. Total rounds of 15,997 were up 1,124 over the prior year.

## Water Safety Patrol

by Jim Kroepflin

Below is a list of the Water Safety Patrol activities through October 16th. Special thanks to Chief St. Clair and the Officers for their work on our lakes:

Patrol Hours: 1348.5  
Contacts: 279  
Citations: 72 (3 OWI Arrests)  
Written Warnings: 64  
Safety Inspections: 195  
Persons Assisted: 12  
Vessels Assisted: 10

Navigation Rules violations were the most frequent, with violations of our local ordinances as the next

most frequent. We responded to two boat “crashes” neither of which were technically reportable, however, one report was generated in case damages exceeded \$5000.

We are planning for the replacement of the outboard motor on one boat, which is approaching 5000 hours of use. The reserve account we have established will cover this expense. Additional funding of the reserve account is anticipated in the 2025 budget for upcoming repairs to the other boat.

## Environmental Reports

*By Jim Kroeplin*

The Don Jean Bay Shoreline Erosion project is working well, and vegetation continues to get established. We will be partnering next year with the LLIA to continue the spraying of Purple Loosestrife around the lakes.

We have asked our consultant to provide a proposal to review the 4 or 5 watersheds that have the largest potential impact on the water quality of the lakes. We would like to understand what type and size of Best Management Practice should be implemented in each area. This will allow us to begin conversations with property owners regarding potential easements and to work with DNR on grant applications. We look forward to beginning this implementations stage.

## Outflow Dam

*By Jim Kroeplin*

The bi-annual dam inspection was completed this fall, and all items were reported to be in good shape. (The dam is located in the small pond near the Sterlingworth Condos and Boat House boat launch on Sterlingworth Drive.) The grass on the top of the dam needs to be better established so we will overseed that area in the spring. We will continue to monitor the dam in accordance with DNR requirements. Water levels remain

steady, but on the low side. Hopefully we get heavy snows and good spring rains to fill the lakes.

## Aquatic Plant Management

*By John Gilmartin*

Big thanks to Greg Wisniewski for the great work he has done over the last 12 years in charge of the Aquatic Plant Management program. Both Weed Harvesters have been winterized and will be ready in May for June harvesting in 2024. This year a record 639 tons of weeds were removed from the lake. Joe Johnson and Steve Taylor did an amazing job. It is easy to take it for granted that our weeds just get picked up and hauled away. However, it was a challenging year for Joe and Steve, with the two of them doing all the weed harvesting, repairs, maintenance, and paperwork. If you are interested or know anyone that might be interested in being part of the Weed Harvesting crew as a driver, please contact any Board member or contact us on our website at [lauderdalelakedistrict.com](http://lauderdalelakedistrict.com). We could definitely use the help!

## Piers

*By John Gilmartin*

If considering a new pier or having some significant remodeling and repairs done to your existing pier, permits are required. Pier permit applications can be found on our website. The Lake District handles the inspection process for the permit which is issued under the Township authority. However, if the permit requires a variance or is located in an environmentally sensitive area it would require a Town Board action hearing and enforcement handled by either the Town of La Grange or Town of Sugar Creek. Please contact Kai Cook, pier inspector, at 262.903.8351 with any questions or email him at [pierinspection@lauderdalelakedistrict.com](mailto:pierinspection@lauderdalelakedistrict.com)

## Septic Pumping

*By Jane Larsen*

The Lake District coordinates pumping of each conventional septic system within the District boundaries once every three years. The septic pumping contract was awarded on October 28th to the sole bidder, Associates Septic Pumping. The new cost will be \$230 per system. One third of that cost is included each year on the real estate tax bill of covered properties. The annual cost per septic system will increase from the current amount of \$53 to \$77 for the next three years. Anyone with a conventional septic (not a holding tank) will get 1 pump within the 3-year period. If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding septic pumping, please feel free to email Jane Larsen at [Lauderdale910@gmail.com](mailto:Lauderdale910@gmail.com).

## Treasurer's Report

*By Mike Cochrane*

The 2024 proposed budget was included in the August District Dialog and presented at the September 2 Annual Meeting. The approved Operating 2024 Budget and Tax Levy of \$307,155 represented an increase of 2.85% over 2023. All required documentation has been filed with the appropriate tax authorities. Also, at the Annual Meeting a loan in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 was approved to build a New Golf Course Clubhouse. Of the anticipated annual loan payment amount of \$120,000, the Lake District in 2024 will pay \$40,000 with the remaining amount of \$80,000 being equally assessed to all qualified properties. The amount that each qualified property will be assessed in 2024 is approximately \$50.

As always, check out our website for updates on all our programs at [lauderdalelakedistrict.com](http://lauderdalelakedistrict.com)



# ShoreLines

**Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association**

P.O. Box 542

Elkhorn, WI 53121



*Photo by Debbie Ferrari*