

Shorelines

A Publication of the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association (LLIA)

WWW.LLIA.ORG

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the LLIA.

LLIA claims all rights reserved as to the entire content of this publication



March 2016 / Volume 39 – No. 1

MESSAGE FROM THE LLIA PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first 2016 edition of Shorelines. I would like to thank all of our members for your terrific financial support. In 2015, we set a record for LLIA members, organized and funded an aggressive fish stocking campaign, built/installed 6 new fish cribs, and added some talent (and youth) to our organization. That said, we do not plan to take any time off in 2016. Our goals for the upcoming year are even loftier:

- 1) Goal #1 is to meet or exceed our 2015 membership level. This means having 550 + members! Please continue to support LLIA AND remember to tell your neighbors to do the same. Our staff of volunteers are committed and work diligently for the community. For \$35/year, we are a bargain!
- 2) Goal #2 is to continue the fish stocking efforts. We typically raise \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year to stock our lakes with game fish (walleye, small mouth bass, perch and northern pike). Your donations are the engine that drive this machine. For 2016, we hope to double our funding. If you have any avid

fishing enthusiasts in your family please consider donating to this cause.

- 3) Goal #3 is to increase the fish habitat in the lake. This is a long term initiative that aims to replace needed natural fish habitat in our lakes. We've been building and installing fish cribs for several years, and will continue to do so in coming years. In 2016, we hope to raise enough funding to begin adding rock beds for walleye habitat. Please contact Brian Walsh or Dave DeAngelis if you want to become involved with the LLIA fish stocking or habitat restoration efforts.
- 4) Goal #4 is to attract more members of our community to become involved with our efforts. Working with one of our committees is a great way to meet people on the lake. It's also the best way to learn about the awesome natural beauty that surrounds our community. The following are areas where, as a volunteer, you can make a difference; writing, publishing, advertising, social media, website development, local

<u>Articles Inside This Issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
Lauderdale –LaGrange Topics	2
Web Site Report	3
Water Safety Patrol	3
2016 Boating Safety Course	5
Lake District	5
Fish Committee Report	5
Audrey Green Article	6
LLIA Membership	7
LLIA Membership Form	8
Kettle Moraine Land Trust (KMLT)	9
Sailing Club	10
Lake District Topics	10
Lauderdale Yacht Club	10
Recycling Dying Ash	11
Photo Sharing	11
Water Quality Report	12
Lauderdale Aqua Skiers	13
Lauderdale History Article	13

government, research, environmental monitoring, invasive species control, fish stocking and habitat, wetland restoration, and building stuff. Please consider joining one of our great teams!

Dave DeAngelis

LAUDERDALE-LAGRANGE

TOPICS

By Don Henderson

LAUDERDALE-LAGRANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2015 Fire Department Activity

The volunteer fire fighters and EMT's serving the Lauderdale-LaGrange Fire Department responded to 217 total calls for support during 2015. Total calls were 21 more in 2015 than in 2014, and the Department averaged 4.2 call responses per week during 2015. Once again the Emergency Rescue Team had the most activity answering 165 calls for assistance, and this was 20 more than in 2014. Fire fighters responded to 52 calls during 2015 an increase of one more than 2014. On average over the past three years the Department responded to 209 calls per year. That is the equivalent of **4.0 RESPONSE CALLS EACH WEEK.**

"Volunteers continue to be the vital link making this department a success," related Fire Chief John "Curly" Duerst. The volunteer fire fighter staff level is currently 35 members with no members on leave of absence. The approved staff level is 42. The Department staff is lower now than in recent years and as usual some members will be retiring and from time to time others move away. Chief Duerst stated "new members are needed now especially to support the Emergency Medical Rescue operations". If you or someone you know is interested please call Chief Curly Duerst at 262 495 8610. Especially needed are men and women that could be available during the weekdays.

The area property owners and residents are true partners by supporting our Department through gifts and fund raisers. Our Department is classified as a 501c3 organization. Your gifts are generally eligible for tax deduction, and a confirmation letter will be provided for larger gifts. If your employer provides matching gifts please notify them of your gift so that they may also make a matching contribution. "Your past support has been great, and I extend my personal thanks to all of you for making the Department very successful" said Chief Curly Duerst.

Annual Firemen's Dance To Raise Money For Department Equipment

The Lauderdale-LaGrange Fire Department's annual dance will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016. Tickets will be mailed to Town of LaGrange property owners and residents about three weeks before the dance. The proceeds from the dance will be used for upgrading the Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). All fire fighters entering a burning building must wear a SCBA to assure they can breathe fresh air, and they are not overcome by smoke. The SCBA equipment includes a face mask, regulator and tank of air. The tank is carried in a back pack.

All of the surrounding community fire departments have upgraded their SCBA units to the high pressure design. Thus it is very important that Lauderdale-LaGrange also upgrade now. The Department plans to replace all of the SCBA units, with 16 new SCBA high pressure design units and an extra 20 high pressure backup tanks this year. In addition a new high pressure air compressor to refill the tanks will also be purchased. Total cost for the upgrade is estimated to be \$125,000.

Fund raising events this year will support the purchase of SCBA equipment and the compressor. Watch for your Firemen's Dance tickets that will arrive in your mail during March, and please remember to support the Department. Your Lauderdale-LaGrange Fire Department is totally staffed by volunteer Fire Fighters from the local area, and all donations are used for improving the equipment they use.

Lauderdale - LaGrange Fire Department Team enters Fight for Air Climb Competition.

Help the Lauderdale- LaGrange Fire Department raise money for our 4th year of the American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb. On March 19th we will be climbing 1,034 steps through 47 floors of the U.S. Bank Building in Milwaukee wearing 50 lbs. of turnout gear. If we can climb to help someone breathe easier, it is the least that we can do! 89% of donations go towards programs - Milwaukee was 2015 highest earning event - 2016 Milwaukee event goal is \$750,000 - **Lauderdale-LaGrange Fire Dept. was**

the 2013, 2014, 2015 highest fundraising fire team!

Tonight, February 17th, we had our first practice climb at Wells hall at UWW. 12 floors, five times to equal the 1037 steps and 47 floors of the US Bank building in Milwaukee on Sat, March 19th. We will do this every week until the event.

HOW TO DONATE: Mail donations to the LL Fire Dept. C/O Fight for Air Climb so we receive them before **March 10th** at W6080 Highway 12, Whitewater, WI 53190 (Checks payable to American Lung Association). Questions? E-mail Eric at etaylor002@centurytel.net

2016 TOWN OF LAGRANGE ELECTION

The Town Board Chairman and First Side Supervisor are positions up for election in 2016. Elections will be held the first Tuesday in April, which is April 5, 2016. Candidates elected to the Town Board serve two year terms of office. Candidates must be Town of LaGrange residents, and they must file formal nomination papers to be on the election ballot. Frank Taylor is the current Town Chairman and Marcia Sahag is the current First Side Supervisor, and both filed nomination papers to be reelected, and are running unopposed.

Frank Taylor has been an elected Town Board Member for the past 16 years. Initially he served as the 4th Side Supervisor and since July 2005 Town Board Chairman. Frank grew up on his family Homestead Farm at N8676 Tamarack Road. He is the fifth generation to live and make farming his profession on this farm. Frank and his wife Lisa have three sons and five grandchildren. They hope a sixth generation will be able to continue to operate their Heritage Farm in years to come.

They have expanded their farm operation to over 1200 acres using the latest technology in improved seed and crop management, new tillage and planting methods and manage and track overall operations with computer software data analysis to enable good operating decisions.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

In addition they have invested in new grain storage buildings in the past two years to allow more effective management and marketing of the corn and soybeans they raise.

Frank stated, "As Town Chairman I must manage the Town resources wisely and make decisions based on what will benefit the entire Town not just for the next six to twelve months, but for many years to come. I must also treat everyone that comes before the Town Board equally. One must not be more favored than another. As a fifth generation resident of LaGrange, I feel I'm just a caretaker of the position. If I make wise decisions, future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy life in our little corner of the world as much as I have".

The Town of LaGrange under Frank's guidance has worked effectively with Walworth County to complete Smart Growth Plans, facilitated and supported excellent cooperation between the Town and Lauderdale Lake Management District, endorsed and supported the establishment of one Water Safety Patrol managed by LLLMD, supported efforts that significantly improved Public Boat Launch Ramps, updated property signage to assure Fire Department Trucks and Emergency Rescue Vehicles will reach those in need quickly, and upgraded the Town Highway Dept. equipment to meet road maintenance needs without increasing staff.

Marcia Sahag was appointed First Side Supervisor one and a half years ago when Dan Wilson resigned this position as he relocated outside of the Town of LaGrange. Marcia is the Chair of the Communications Committee that implemented the new Town website. Marcia previously served for many years on the Town Safety Committee and the Finance and Personnel Committee. She continues serving on these committees now as a Town Supervisor.

She enjoys working at the Town Hall on election days and serving as a poll volunteer. This allows her an opportunity to become better acquainted with Town residents that come to vote. She always enjoys meeting Town Residents face to face. However, this year she is on the election ballot and will not be able to work at the

April election. Marcia welcomes contact from Town Residents and property owners at any time.

Marcia and her husband Rick Callaway moved to the Town of LaGrange in 1994 and live on her family's Pleasant Lake property purchased in 1962. Since then they have both been active in Town Government and Lake Association activities. Marcia serves on the Pleasant Lake Property Owners Association and Pleasant Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District boards. Marcia is impressed with the friendly and caring attitude of the people in LaGrange. She encourages maintaining these values and the agricultural character and environmental integrity of the community. She welcomes input from all Town residents and property owners, and has pledged to do her best to balance the inputs and concerns of all community members as their representative on the Town of LaGrange Board.

WEB SITE REPORT By Kevin Henderson



The LLIA web site, www.LLIA.org, is a terrific source of information about what is happening throughout the year around the lakes. Information includes updates from the Executive Council, copies of minutes from Directors' Meetings, links to area resources, and much more.

We have been making updates to the web site to keep the content current and ensuring links are valid as other organizations make changes to their sites. Approval for changes to LLIA.org comes from the Communication Committee.

We have added to this Shorelines and all future Shorelines a QR code image, when scanned with a QR Reader, it will open the LLIA.org web site directly. Try it. It's neat how it works.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 6

DATE	EVENT
4-16	Annual Fire Dept. Dance
4-23	LLIA Directors Mtg.
5-8	KMLT Bird Walk
5-14/15	Boating safety Course
6-4	LLYC Cocktails with the Commodore
6-11	<u>LLIA Annual Membership Mtg.</u>
6-11/12	Boating safety Course

If you have interest in web site management or have ideas to share for improving our site maintenance, we would enjoy having you join the website committee! Please contact Kevin Henderson to discuss.

WATER SAFETY PATROL By Debbie Ferrari

WATER PATROL:

The Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District will continue to



manage Water Patrol operations for both Pleasant and Lauderdale Lakes for the 2016 Boating Season. Funding is provided by both the Town of LaGrange and the Lake District and each receives reimbursement from the DNR for a portion of the operating cost. The Lake District Water Safety Committee has the responsibility for the overall Water Patrol operations. This Committee is chaired by Debbie Ferrari, LLLMD Commissioner, with Town of LaGrange Chairman Frank Taylor, Town Supervisor Mark Bromley, Lake Property owners Ken Roehl, Dr. Jim See-gers, Jeff Angst, and Marcia Sahag (Pleasant Lake) and off-lake Town resident Mike Hurlburt as members.

The Water Patrol daily operations will continue to be managed by Chief Ken Blanke, who has served on our patrol team for 39 years, and assisted by Sergeant Janene Littmann, who has 29 years of experience on our lakes. They lead a team of Officers numbering 15 to 20. Each member of our team is a certified law enforce-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

ment officer in the State of Wisconsin and, as such, must meet ongoing training requirements specified by both the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the WDNR. Two patrol boats will be located on Lauderdale and one patrol boat on Pleasant Lake. Patrols begin in May and end in the fall.

Wisconsin boating falls under the jurisdiction of the WDNR as well as local ordinances enacted by the Towns of LaGrange and Sugar Creek. For more information and links, please go to the **NEW** Lake District website at

www.lauderdalelakedistrict.com, and on the menu bar beneath the heading click on "Projects" for a drop down menu and then "Water Patrol". There will be additional current information included when we get closer to the boating season. Local ordinances are also included in the LLIA Directory which each member receives.

The more common violations on our lakes include:

- ✓ **Registration** – make sure yours is current and displayed.
- ✓ **Boating Safety Certification** – see the article "2016 Boating Safety Courses" for the requirements and information on courses offered by our Water Patrol.
- ✓ **PWCs** – you must operate at slow-no-wake within 100' of another watercraft, pier, raft, etc and 200' of the shoreline (see boating laws for details).
- ✓ **Speed Limits** – observe the special speed limits for Lauderdale Lakes on weekends and holidays ... max 10 mph from sunset to 9 am. In addition, from Memorial Day through Labor Day on weekends and holidays, the max speed is 50 mph at all other times.
- ✓ **Lights** – **DO** use navigation lights between sunset and sunrise (both the red and green bow light and an all-around white stern light) and **DO NOT** use docking lights while in open water.

A reminder on a couple of newer laws:

- ✓ You must operate at slow no wake speed within 100' of a Water Patrol or Emergency vessel displaying an emergency light or siren.

- ✓ No watercraft may display blue colored lights that may be confused with either a Water Patrol or Emergency vessel.
- ✓ Watch for the "No Anchor Zone" buoys in the Pebble Beach sand bar area and keep a safe navigation lane between these buoys and shore.
- ✓ Obey the "Electric Motor Only Here to Shore" buoys to protect the most fragile, shallow and environmentally rich area along the northern shore of Middle Lake within the slow no wake area on the west end.

An upcoming change to the local ordinance:

- ✓ You may not tow anyone on skis or any towable device through the marked slow no wake channels between Green Lake and Middle Lake and between Mill Lake and Sterlingworth Bay.

And finally, please be a courteous boater...

- ✓ On Sunday morning when our Sailing Club holds races, please give them some extra room and do not create hazardous wakes.
- ✓ If you attach watercraft together, do not obstruct navigation or access to homeowner piers and property.
- ✓ Music – we each love our choices, but others may not, so be considerate of content and volume.
- ✓ Big wakes – they are fun when you wakeboard or surf, but when you are not, consider the enjoyment of swimmers, kayaks, sailboats, canoes, paddleboards and paddleboats.

The non-emergency contact number for Ken Blanke, Chief of the Water Patrol, is 262-882-2030. The non-emergency number to the Water Patrol office is 262-742-4300. If no one is in the office, the call will automatically be routed to the patrol boat or to Chief Ken Blanke.

CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES !

A WORD ON WATER SAFETY:

During 2015, we were fortunate that we did not have any major accidents, injuries or fatalities on Lauderdale Lakes. Other



lake communities were not so fortunate. The Annual Program Report for 2015 released on Wisconsin Boating by the WDNR, showed that there were 115 boating accidents resulting in 58 people being injured and 21 fatalities in 2015, three of which were in Walworth County. Alcohol use was involved in 37% of the accidents involving fatalities. Where PFD use was reported, 90% of the fatalities were not wearing a PFD. As you may know, a lake community in our area already experienced 4 fatalities in 2016.

In 2015 we had a total of six citations for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI). This is a high number for our lakes and endangers everyone on the lake. I recently contacted Jason Roberts, the WDNR Recreational Safety Warden for our area, asking what message the DNR would like to convey to our lake community. He shared the following.

"We stress from both a legal and safety standpoint the need to have life jackets on or at least readily available whenever on the water. While on patrol we often see people without life jackets on kayaks, canoes, paddle boats and stand up paddleboards. All of these vessels require a Personal Flotation Device (PFD). People routinely overestimate their swimming abilities and do not appreciate the challenging dynamics associated with swimming in open water. All but 2 of the 21 fatal boating incidents in 2015 can be attributed to the lack of accessibility to a PFD."

In a recent meeting with Jason, he added that he has "never investigated a drowning fatality where the individual could not swim". Fatalities are not occurring because a person cannot swim, they are occurring because they overestimate their swimming ability and underestimate the challenge of swimming in open water and the impact of adverse weather, waves, cold water, darkness and the effects of alcohol on both judgment and abilities. Jason also shared that in a car if you survive the impact in an accident chances are pretty good you will survive. In a watercraft, the accident or incident often causes individuals to be thrown into the water resulting in the real risk of subsequently drowning when they do not wear or have quick access to a PFD.

Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

As we look forward to our 2016 boating season ... let's all remember to put safety first on our Lauderdale Lakes!

2016 BOATING SAFETY COURSES

By Chief Ken Blanke

IMPORTANT!

Anyone born *on or after January 1, 1989* (and at least 16 years of age) must have a boating safety certificate to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waterways. If you will be 27 this year (or are younger) you need complete a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR to operate a motorboat (without parental supervision) or a PWC.

Two Wisconsin DNR-sanctioned boating safety courses will be offered this spring and summer by the Lauderdale Lakes Water Patrol. We strongly recommend you take advantage of our local courses since they include information on our local boating ordinance. The two-day class dates and locations are as follows:

May 14-15 LaGrange Town Hall – max class size 25

June 11-12 LaGrange Town Hall – max class size 25

The LaGrange Town Hall is at N7899 County Road H, Whitewater, WI (intersection of H and Territorial Road).

HOW TO REGISTER FOR 2016 BOATING SAFETY CLASSES

You must register online on the Wisconsin DNR website AFTER March 1ST 2016.

The website is: dnr.wi.gov. Click on "Education", then "Safety Classes" on the drop down menu. (Note: To enroll in a safety class you must have a DNR Customer ID. You can obtain this ID online, or by calling DNR customer service 1-888-936-7463, 7 days a week, 7 am – 10 pm.) Once you have a DNR Customer ID, click "Yes" on the Safety Class page and you will be directed to a Search page for classes. Select "BOAT" for the Class Type and "WALWORTH" for county. Then you can select 1 of 2 classes offered by Lauderdale

Lakes Water Patrol. If you have any questions the Instructor Officer Adam Freund's phone number and e-mail address will be listed.

On the day of the class, bring the DNR Customer ID number with you as part of the final registration process. There is a \$10 course registration fee that will be collected during registration on the first day of the class.

The courses are open to adults and to children, 10 years and older. A parent must accompany their child to course registration which will take place between 8:30 – 9:00 am on the first day. The formal class will start at 9:00 am. The classes will run until 4:00 pm on the first day (Saturday) and until approximately 1:00 pm on the second day (Sunday). Although complimentary water and soda will be provided, students need to bring a sack lunch. When attending the class, wear comfortable clothing and bring paper and pencils. There will be a written test at the end of the course.

Lake District By Scott Mason

As we concluded 2015, all of our core projects finished on plan. In addition to our core projects we commenced two new projects in 2015 which will continue into 2016 and beyond:

- Develop a plan to provide more effective communication to the community
- Develop a long range plan for our property

More Effective Communication: This challenge involves blending more frequent District Dialogues with the development of our new website. The new website is up and running and is the vehicle we needed to post the District Dialogue as well as provide electronic access to a great variety of additional resources.

Effective immediately, the Lake District Board will publish the District Dialogue on a quarterly basis to better inform our residents. All District Dialogues will be posted on our new website and the traditional August Dialogue will continue to be printed and mailed to all District property owners.

Long Range Planning: In 1996 when we purchased the Lauderdale Lakes Country Club, it was easy to segregate the management and financial accountability for that project. In time, we acquired the 7-acre wetland on Don Jean Bay and the Community Center property adjacent to the golf course. What was once just a golf course property now provides infrastructure to support many activities, including weed harvesting, the water safety patrol, meeting and office space, environmental projects, the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers, and more. Golf course staff now help maintain the lake outflow dam, community center, wetlands, and the detention pond at Gladhurst - in addition to their primary duties maintaining our golf course. As the board approaches development of a long range plan for our property, we are looking at our core property as "Lauderdale Park". An important component of the long range plan is to better serve our community by incorporating additional recreational activities along with golf.

I am grateful that we have such a talented and diverse board to carry out these new and exciting projects, but we need your help to develop the best possible plan.

Please use the features of the new website to let us know what is important to you.

Additionally, **please provide your email address so we can send you the quarterly District Dialogue or any other time-sensitive communication.** Rest assured, your personal email address will be treated with the utmost respect.

FISH COMMITTEE REPORT By Brian Walsh

By the time you are reading this, I hope I can say happy spring to all of the anglers of the Lauderdale Lakes community. I hope each and every one of you had a safe winter. As you can see from some of the photos in this edition of the shorelines, there was some good fishing to be had this past winter. As 2016 quickly moves towards summer, the fish committee is also gearing up for a busy and productive 2016...With your help.

(Continued on page 6)

If this edition of shorelines makes it to you in time, and you want to help volunteer with the fish committee, we are meeting in the LLMD building by the golf course on **March 12, 2016 at 9:00 AM.** We will be finalizing the plans for 2016. This year we will be stocking fish again (species and amount yet to be determined), continuing with the fish crib program, hosting the annual kids fishing jamboree, and attempting to build a rock reef to help with walleye reproduction.

The fish committee continues to work closely with the WDNR. Our overall fishery report will be finalized in the next few weeks. One item that is being added to the report which is unique to these reports is a subsection detailing the efforts of the fish committee. Our fish biologist is truly impressed with all the efforts the fish committee, with the support of the community through the LLIA, has contributed to the lake. They are including our crib program and fish stocking program in the report. I take this as a great compliment of all the work we do and a sign that we must be doing something right!

In order to continue with our aggressive agenda, we need your donations. We are always looking for new volunteers to help, which are the best type of donations. We also need monetary donations for the fish stocking, fish cribs, and rock reef. Please remember, 100% of your donations go directly to the program of your choice, on Lauderdale Lakes.

We have some of the lumber for the floor boards that will be used to build the fish cribs in 2016. This year the floor boards have been milled from lumber out of the conservancy between Green and Middle Lake which adds an extra element of awesome. A big thank you to Frank Taylor for the use of his barn to store the wood. Frank always comes through for us when in need, so a big thank you Frank.

During the ice fishing season of 2015-2016, I heard and saw great fishing for bluegills, crappie, perch, northern pike, walleye, and even bullheads. With the fish I saw being caught, and mostly released, it looks to be a great 2016 season. Get out there and let us know how the fishing is.

PROTECT YOUR LAKE – PROTECT YOUR WALLET

By Audrey Greene, Lake Specialist & AIS Coordinator for Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management

An environmentally sound lake, with good water quality, a balanced fishery and healthy native plants provide a number of important benefits locally and statewide. Clean lakes provide many recreational opportunities such as boating, waterskiing, fishing and swimming. These and other leisure activities encourage spending by homeowners and visitors alike, which provides a great deal of revenue for the local economy. In order to get a better idea of just how much a lake means to the local budget, a study of Delavan Lake (**What is the Value of a Clean and Healthy Lake to a Local Community**), was conducted by the Fiscal and Economic Research Center of the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater in 2005. The UW-Whitewater research team studied the spending habits of residents and visitors to Delavan Lake and how water quality affects their behavior. Results showed that direct and indirect spending by residents and visitors to Delavan Lake equaled \$77 million per year, and that approximately 812 jobs resulted from the influx of dollars to the area. The study also showed that if water quality decreased, these figures would decrease as well.

In addition, studies have also shown that the better the water quality of a lake, the higher the property values will be. Between 1989 and 1993, Delavan Lake underwent an extensive restoration project that made a huge improvement on the water quality. The UW -Whitewater investigation of Delavan Lake analyzed lakeshore property values from before and after the restoration project. These property values were compared to property values on

Lake Beulah, Lauderdale Lakes and a non-lake community. Results from the study found that between 1987 and 2003, the average Delavan Lake shoreline property increased in value by about \$177,000. This figure is over and above the average increase seen on the other lakes the other properties studied. The increase in property value is a huge benefit to the property owner of course, and it also translates into lower property taxes for non-lakefront property owners.

The evidence is very clear; to protect property values and promote a healthy economy, we must protect our lakes and streams. Once water quality degrades, it is extremely difficult and expensive to restore. Please consider these very important but relatively easy ways for a lakeshore property owner to protect their lake.

1. Don't Clean It Up: Unfortunately, owners may unknowingly damage the lake and shoreyard when they try to 'clean it up'. This clean up may include the removal of native trees, shrubs, grasses, herbaceous plants and/or the duff layer from the shoreline area. In Walworth County the area from the ordinary high water mark, upland 35 feet is legally a no-touch zone but unfortunately this message does not always reach new property owners until it is too late. Without the vegetation to protect the soil, rain and high winds can cause significant soil erosion.

When soil erodes into a waterbody, it carries nutrients like phosphorous, which contribute to algae blooms and excessive plant growth. Sediment transported into the lake will bury aquatic species habitat, food and fish eggs. Intense erosion from the shoreline may also result in a loss of shoreline frontage and loss of water depth.

(Continued on page 9)

2. Lake Friendly Yard Care: Test your soil before fertilizing and use non-phosphorous fertilizer unless a soil test shows a true need. Never rake leaves or grass clippings into the lake or place compost piles close to the lake. Do not place burn pits close to the lake.

3. Keep Them Out: Protect Wisconsin from invasive species. Before introducing any new plant, do a little research on it

(Continued on page 9)



Sue Dessent shows her first fish ever caught through the ice.



Carly Dessent shows of two nice walleyes caught in Lauderdale. Proving when it comes to fishing,

Dear Lauderdale Lake Resident;



We are calling on all residents of Lauderdale Lakes to become members of the LLIA. In 2016 the Association will be celebrating its 110 years for its Charter of Incorporation which was granted in July, 1906. **2016 Is a special year.**

This anniversary we could not have met without the assistance of homeowners like you. Our lakes may have changed, but many of the issues and concerns remain the same. People are drawn to our lake community to enjoy the pristine water quality, the great recreational boating opportunities, sailing, and fishing. The location, tranquilly, and beauty of our lake community make it a wonderful place to live.

The Association remains dedicated to preserving the natural state of our lakes and land to the best of our ability. In addition, the LLIA has several key functions that provide tremendous benefits to the community:

- We provide an open line of communication between the homeowners and the local government.
- We publish a quarterly newsletter, (Shorelines) that members can receive via mail, email or can be viewed online at www.llia.com. The newsletter and website allow members to keep abreast of activities on our lakes and in the Town of LaGrange.
- We provide bi-monthly water quality testing on all three of our lakes from April through October. Data collection includes water clarity, oxygen levels, water temperature and chemical analysis. This information is extremely important to the community in that we want healthy lakes now and in the future. This testing allows us to proactively address the health of our lakes.
- The LLIA Fish Committee organizes and coordinates annual fish stocking in our lakes each fall. This committee works closely with the WDNR to ensure that we are stocking the right fish at the right frequency. Fishermen are seeing the benefits of this committee. The increase in bass, northern and walleye caught in our lakes in recent years has been incredible. The LLIA, along with contributions from individual residents, has paid for nearly all of the fish that have been stocked in our lakes
- . We partner with the Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club and Kettle Moraine Land Trust to hold an annual Children's Fish Jamboree every July. This Jamboree encourages and educates our children about fresh water fishing and the lake environment.
- We are publishing a new LLIA Directory. This is a valuable resource for LLIA members. The directory includes addresses and contact information of LLIA members, important local ordinances, Lake District Information, Town Officers, and a guide to local businesses that support the LLIA. The directory is provided free with your membership.

Please complete a membership form today and return it with your payment to the address listed on the form. The annual membership cost is only \$35. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Bud Vance

Communications Chairperson, Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association

2016 LAUDERDALE LAKES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 3- 2016

(Please fill in the complete form)

You may choose to receive your LLIA newsletter "Shorelines" via the Internet or as a paper Document via U.S. Mail. Please CIRCLE your preference: INTERNET - U.S. MAIL PLEASE PRINT

E-MAIL-ADDRESS : _____

L.L. NUMBER: _____

NAME/S: _____
(Last) (First)

LAKE ADDRESS: _____ ELKHORN, WI 53121
(Street address)

LAKE TELEPHONE NUMBER : (262) _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS:: _____
(Street address)

(City) (State) (Zip)

PERMANENT ADDRESS TELEPHONE NUMBER: (_____)

CELL PHONE NUMBER: ____ (_____) _____

COMMITTEES-Check if interested in helping

Conservancy _____ Communication _____ Fish _____ History _____ Membership _____
 Planning & Zoning _____ Water Quality _____ Web Site _____ Water Safety _____ Property (environmental issues) _____

The LLIA needs your help and input! Your Association has a proud history of members who generously help protect our lakes and you are welcome to join this on-going effort by serving on a committee.

Please note: If you indicated an interest in the past, but have not been contacted, please be aware that committees have varying needs and assistance. As these needs change from time to time, committee chairs contact volunteers as necessary. If you check a committee, it indicates your willingness to serve beginning with this membership season. If you have any questions about the activities of these committees, call Dave DeAngelis President (847-223-6268).

Note: **First time LLIA Members receive a Lauderdale History Book as a welcome gift**

ANNUAL DUES.....\$ 35.00

Optional:

(Fill in any appropriate blanks)

LAKE PRESERVATION FUND: \$ _____

FISH STOCKING: \$ _____

LAUDERDALE HISTORY BOOKS:

____ (Qty.) @ \$9.00 each \$ _____
 Includes postage & handling

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

**LAUDERDALE LAKES IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

Mail to:

Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association
 c/o Charles H. Sharpless, LLIA Treasurer
 33W541 Brewster Creek Circle
 Wayne, IL 60184

(Continued from page 6)

using the scientific name. Look at Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule, Wis. Adm. Code Chapter NR 40, (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/classification.html>) to see if it is listed as a restricted or prohibited species in Wisconsin. Please be aware that it is illegal to introduce any aquatic plant, native or non-native into a waterbody without a permit from the DNR.

4. Protect Surface Water and Ground

Water: Properly dispose of gasoline, oils and pesticides. Never allow them to spill or be poured onto the ground where they could leach into groundwater or be carried in runoff. Never dispose of any waste or chemicals where they may be washed into a storm drain which often outlet directly into lakes and streams.

5. Know the Rules of The Road: In order to protect all the lakes, Wisconsin State Statutes require each County to adopt and enforce State shoreland zoning regulations. To protect our natural resources, Walworth County has also adopted erosion control and stormwater runoff ordinances. Please, before starting any project within 1000 feet of any lake, pond or flowage or within 300 feet of a river or stream, contact the Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management Department at 262-741-4972 to find out if any permits are required. Also, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates activities in and around lakes. If any of your project will take place in or adjacent to a navigable waterway it may require a permit from the DNR. For more information please see WDNR website <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/>.

KETTLE MORaine LAND TRUST

By Dave DeAngelis

Greetings Shorelines readers. You may feel as if you are experiencing déjà vu. This is my first Shorelines article as the KMLT President and my 2nd article as a President for this Shorelines edition. I'm delighted to help lead this thoughtful and committed group over the next few years, and hope to see many of you, our Shorelines readers, participate with our group to help protect our local natural habitats. That said,



KMLT WANTS YOU! We need volunteers, especially photographers to help photograph our 4 beautiful preserves. Videographers are also needed for our education events. For the hard core enthusiasts, you can learn about land stewardship best management practices like removing invasive species, maintenance of our preserves or, if you are a closet pyro, controlled burns. Please contact Maggie Zoellner at 262-949-7211 if you want to help us.

While the snow and ice has been blanketing the county, KMLT has been busy drafting management plans for several large woodlands in the area. Working in partnership with private landowners is an important aspect of KMLT's community impact. By providing landowners technical guidance about woodland management techniques, KMLT is helping improve habitat on private lands for native plants and wildlife. The Trust focuses on large intact blocks of woodlands because they provide food and shelter for wildlife, help clean our air and water and are stunning to look at. Oak trees in particular, support more than 600 other species like nesting birds, mammals, butterflies and moths.

We have a terrific schedule of upcoming events. Please keep these in mind for the coming months.

KMLT will once again host our annual Mother's Day Bird Walk on May 8th. This family and Mom-friendly event is free and open to all ages. All that is required is an interest in learning about local natural habitats and especially the beautiful migrating song birds who return to Wisconsin every spring. Whether you want to spend time with your mother, Mother Nature, or friends and family, this is an enjoyable way to learn about our springtime feathered friends by sight and sound. Final details for this event are being worked out so please check our website after March 1st for details.

We are also pleased to be co-hosting an author of national acclaim - Heather Holm. KMLT is joining Wild Ones, a national organization that promotes landscaping using native plants, to host Ms. Holm at the Mukwonago Public Library on Saturday, April 9th at 10:00 AM. Heather is an avid photographer and native plant enthusiast who has recently published a book that highlights the fascinating partnership between native flowers and insects.

(Continued on page 10)

Become a Kettle Moraine Land Trust Member

Join us in becoming a Kettle Moraine Land Trust member with your tax-deductible membership. In addition to supporting KMLT work, members receive newsletters and notices of special events.

☐ *Yes, I would like to become a Kettle Moraine Land Trust member!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail this completed form with your check to:

Kettle Moraine Land Trust

**P. O. Box 176
Elkhorn, WI 53121**

KMLT is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Membership Levels

Member \$35 - \$99 _____
Conservationist \$100 - \$249 _____
Naturalist* \$250-499 _____
Visionary* \$500 - \$999 _____
Legend Builder* \$1000 and up _____

(Continued from page 9)

Ms. Holm's new book, *Pollinators of Native Plants* (2014, Pollinator Press, Minnetonka), will be highlighted in her presentation. The book is not only a reference, but a guide for gardeners and nature-lovers written in a clear, engaging and accessible style. A reception will follow this presentation. A limited quantity of free native plant seed for pollinators will be available, and books will be available for sale and signing. Details on this presentation are available on the KMLT website.

Are you looking for a scenic way to get some exercise while learning a bit of natural history? We have an event that is right in your back yard! KMLT Executive Director Maggie Zoellner invites you to join her for a walk through beautiful Island Woods Preserve. Starting May 12th Maggie will be leading an informal walk on Thursday mornings on the trail that meanders up and down hills and through one of our favorite local natural hot spots. Maggie will give you pointers for identifying spring wildflowers that can be viewed from the trail. Each week is sure to bring new wildflowers to enjoy. Trail walks will start at the Island Woods Preserve Parking lot at the end of Oak Park Drive. The trail through the preserve is 0.5 miles long one way and ends at West Shore Drive.

Its surface is earth and wood chips. For those who want a longer hike you can walk (at your own risk) on West Shore Drive back to the trail entrance which will add a mile on to your stroll.

Details about this community friendly outing can also be found on our web site : www.kmlandtrust.org after March st. See you in the Woods!

SAILING CLUB By Peter Van Kampen

Some of the nicest people you'll ever meet. Care to join? write Peter Van Kampen, pvk1655@gmail.com



A new traveling trophy honoring the Sailor's Wives was presented by Georgia Bullock to this year's winner Peter Van Kampen



LAKE DISTRICT TOPICS By Peter Van Kampen

Septic:

The grass is always greener over the septic tank was a humorous book about suburbia written by Erma Bombeck in '72. Actually, the grass over your septic tank should not be greener if it's working properly. During 2015 we inspected and pumped 1/3 of the septs in the Lake District. We identified 20 properties with very old septic systems. These are systems that were probably put in to replace the out-house when indoor plumbing was introduced. Those systems were buried, and the thought at the time was that the liquids would seep out and down to be cleaned by the soil as they make their way down to the aquifer below. (The aquifer is the place where we get our well water). Today's systems use a shallow "field" for the liquids that come out of the septic tank. The bacteria in those liquids are now digested by the aerobic (air breathing) bacteria which are 20 times more effective than those that don't get air. Old systems without vents or fields depend on the less efficient anaerobic bacteria to do the job. Up to 30 percent of the liquid in the field-type system is evaporated. Virtually all of the liquids in the old-style systems go down and are only partially digested by the good bacteria when they leave the tank.

If your tank is built of bricks, limestone, steel, or fiberglass, has a small (less than 18 inch) opening on top, and

does not have a field downstream from the tank, it is a very old, inefficient system. If you would like to know more about the type of system you have, you can contact Lance at Associates Septic and he would be happy to explain it to you. You can reach Lance at 495 7004. When the grass is greener over your septic tank, you have a problem. Don't call Erma Bombeck - Call Lance.

Piers:

Easiest way to replace your pier is to go to the NEW Lake District web page lauderdalelakedistrict.com and then click on Pier Inspection which will take you to a page that gives you the necessary contact information as well as a link to print out the permit. Complete the permit and get in touch with the pier inspector and the rest is all downhill and shady. You can rebuild it yourself or contact one of the many qualified builders. Not sure who to call, check with the pier inspector for a complete list or look in the LLIA directory in the advertising section.

LAUDERDALE LAKES YACHT CLUB (LLYC) By Commodore Reid Patterson

Come join your closest 200 friends at the LLYC this summer and build some great memories! You can join into as many parties as time permits (see

below), sail with other sailors in the over 15 regattas and races on our lakes, relax on pontoon boats while the sunsets on select Wednesdays, and enjoy the great local beach at nearby Pleasant Lake.

Date	Event	Leader
6/4/2016	Cocktails with Commodore, Evergreen	Laura Allen
6/17/16	TGIF at Pleasant Lake Beach	Tom Short
7/4/16	Fourth of July Fireworks, Lauderdale L.	Pete Spaulding
7/5/16	Green Lake near Lutherdale	Reid Patterson
7/16/16	Vegas Poker Run in Personal Boats	JJ & Patty Jilek
8/3/16	Green Lake near Lutherdale	Reid Patterson
8/20/16	Golf outing & Meeting, Lauderdale	Barry Lutz
8/24/16	Western Train Ride & Dinner	Jane Doyle
Thursdays	Pizza at Lauderdale Landing Rest.	

(continued from page 10)

Have a barbecue and watch fireworks on the lake's edge, take the kids to learn to fish during the Fishing Day and water ski with the ski team, or grab your clubs and join our annual golf tournament. Join us this next summer for the fun and fellowship and meet new friends!



PHOTO SHARING

WE SHARE THESE BEAUTIFUL LAKES WITH A LARGE VARIETY OF WILDLIFE. IF YOU HAVE PHOTOS TO SHARE AND MAYBE WITH A BACK STORY, PLEASE SEND TO BUD VANCE AT BUDV@SBCGLOBAL.NET.

We'll try to include them in future Shorelines. Thanks



I heard the crows making a racket and knew something was around bothering them. I looked up and on the roof was this huge Great Horned Owl. It sat there for over an hour with the crows alternately dive-bombing it or sitting in a nearby tree squawking. Crows will harass hawks and owls until they leave the neighborhood.

Photo by Peter Van Kampen

The above photo is of a Barred Owl. They are local residents that court and lay eggs in February. Look for them when you hike Island Woods.

Photo by Jim Marrari."

RECYCLING DYING ASH TREES LOCATED IN KETTLE MORaine LAND TRUST PRESERVES Herb Sharpless KMLT Stewardship

Over the past two years, Emerald Ash Borer has continued to migrate through Illinois and into southern Wisconsin. This insect quickly kills most of the older Ash trees in any area it reaches. Dying trees have D-shaped holes in the bark where adult EAB laid their larvae. As the Larvae hatch, they burrow through the cambium layer of the bark, reducing water flow to the leaves of the tree and eventually killing the tree. The premature dropping of leaves during summer or the lack of leaf blooming in the spring is indications of the tree infestation; the other is the attack of the tree bark by wood peckers seeking the larvae.

Bald eagles are not a common sight on Lauderdale Lakes. But January 3rd, I was lucky to catch these two perched in a neighbor's tree along the north shore of Mill Lake. Bald eagles rely heavily on fish as their primary food source. They tend to live near large bodies of water with a good fish population in forested areas and prefer little human disturbance. You see them frequently Up North but they are not common in our area. They are not considered true "migrants" but they must move to areas of open water as lakes freeze over (which can be south, but also to coastal areas or to large rivers that don't freeze). Their migration in the fall is leisurely and they may stay places a week or two before moving on following open water, which is why you may see them in our area during this movement. These two were obviously looking at the open water in the middle of Mill Lake on this day. I was hoping to catch them going for fish, but after about 30 minutes they decided it was time to move along and made a graceful but majestic exit.

Apparently the return to their nesting grounds in the spring to breed is much faster, which is why you may not see them at all during their return trek.
Photo by Debbie Ferrari

In the KMLT Preserves, our management plan leaves dead trees standing, as long as they are not deemed to be a big safety issue to preserve visitors. Some of the Oak killed by Oak Wilt stand for 10-15 years, providing food and habitat for wildlife. When they fall in the woods, they are left to degrade, creating nurse logs which support local plant and wildlife with nutrients and habit.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Unfortunately, the dead Ash trees do not stand for very long. Many fall over as their roots degrade and some are snapping off in the wind at various elevations along the tree trunk. This behavior makes dead Ash trees fairly dangerous.

Within the preserves, our volunteer stewards can drop leaning trees and those that have snapped off sections. Since the Ash tree grows fast and fairly straight with a smooth trunk, much of the trunk makes good material for use in fish crib construction. Logs 6 feet long and 5-10 inches in diameter are cut from the down trees and stacked along the trails for hauling to the Lauderdale Landing parking lot, where the fish cribs are constructed.

Unfortunately, some of the dying trees are located in areas that volunteers cannot remove them. There were several trees fitting this description located along Oak Park Road identified this past spring. If they were to fall towards the road, they could block traffic, and possibly injure private property or people. So KMLT contracted Arbor Images, a KMLT Business Legend Builder, to remove these trees this fall. They have equipment that can help their staff remove large trees without damaging nearby, healthy trees or adjacent power lines. The collection of photos (the whole operation was captured in photos – see <http://kmlandtrust.org/Ash%20Tree%20Removal.html>) taken during the removal process in December shows a bucket truck providing access to the upper section of each dead tree. The operator trims limbs he has secured by rope for lowering to the ground. Ground crew hauls these branches to the chipper. When the limbs or trunk were the right size for fish crib logs, the crew cut, stacked and hauled them to the fish crib log pile in the parking area. The main sections of the trunk were grasped by the mechanical arm of the large, transport truck. It holds the tree trunk upright while the bottom cut takes place and then lowers the trunk section to the ground. This arm then grasps the trunk sections and loads them into the truck. Working through the morning, the Arbor Images crew removed 10 dead trees from along the shoulder of Oak Park Road. Obviously, this work is expensive, so KMLT was fortunate to have sufficient Stewardship Reserves donated by LLIA to fund this work.

The most obvious recycling opportunity is the generation of fish crib logs. When fish cribs are placed into the lake to create fish habitat, it takes added weight to sink the logs, tons of added weight. The fish committee crib design has used plywood and framing lumber to make a floor, where a mixture of large stone is then added to provide the sinking weight. Over time, the plywood will degrade, possibly releasing some of the stone ballast. So LLIA contracted Arbor Images to saw the larger trunk material into 2 inch thick planks to be used for the flooring of future fish cribs.

These planks are now drying in storage at Chuck



Taylor's farm! The final recycling opportunity was the collection of the chipped branches for use in trail surface restoration, to avoid further erosion. You can see a really large pile of nice clean chips

dumped at the Oak Park Trail entrance. These chips will be spread over the steeper sections of the Three Kettle Ridge Trail this spring during the KMLT, LLIA and Elkhorn Fund sponsored Day in the Woods with Elkhorn Area High School students.



The last photo shows how KMLT recycles invasive brush and dead tree limbs that are removed from along the trail. Several years ago, two large Oak trees fell across the path, near the trail entrance on Oak Park Road. After cutting out a section to reopen the trail, the area between the



fallen trees has been the location of a major brush burn pile. Over the year, it slowly fills, and when there is sufficient snow cover to prevent ash from spreading fire into the woods, the pile is burned.

This past year, a lot of larger logs were added as several large Ash trees fell nearby, blocking parts of the trail. You can see these larger logs feeding the fire this year as Herb Sharpless and Rev Gerry Petersen braved a cold winter day in January to manage the fire. Fire is another form of recycling, as it releases nutrients captured in the wood. The burn pile ash makes good fertilizer, which gets spread in the adjacent meadow area.

So this spring, as you walk along Oak Park Road you will see a little more open space in the preserve, along the roadway and the trail entrance where the dead Ash grew. Nearby trees will now be able to expand their canopy, capturing the added sunlight. Nature recycles too!

Water Quality Report By Dave DeAngelis

One of the many things we monitor every year are "Ice-On" dates for our three lakes. The Ice-On date is defined as complete ice cover from one side of the lake to the other over the deepest spot on the lake. The 2016 Ice-On dates for Lauderdale Lakes are as follows:

- Mill Lake – 1/6/16
- Middle Lake – 1/6/16
- Green Lake – 1/12/16

With the "Ice-Off" dates right around the corner, I listed the Ice-Off dates for the previous 5 years in the chart below. The winter of 2015-2016 has been mild in terms of temperatures and snowfall. In past years, this has resulted in early open water. For Lauderdale Lakes, this means open water near the middle of March.

Lauderdale Lakes ICE OFF Dates 2011 - 2015			
	Mill Lake	Middle Lake	Green Lake
2011	3/23/11	3/25/11	3/25/11
2012	3/10/12	3/11/12	3/12/12
2013	4/8/13	4/10/13	4/12/13
2014	4/10/14	4/10/14	4/11/14
2015	3/26/15	3/30/15	4/1/15

(Continued from page 12)

Ice Safety

A mile winter means more danger of ice accidents. Thin and unstable ice creates hazardous conditions that can have deadly consequences. Many people ask, "Is the ice safe to walk on?" Below is a handy chart that helps answer that question. If you don't have an ice auger to drill a hole in the ice, ask an ice fisherman- They will know exactly how thick the ice is.



LAUDERDALE AQUA SKIERS 2016 By Jeff Auberger

The Lauderdale Aqua Skiers (LAS) are The Waterski Show Team of Walworth County. We are a unique organization, focused on FUN, FAMILY and FRIENDS. LAS create an opportunity for individuals, friends and generations of families to participate together in a great sport.

LAS has created a TEAM focused environment which nurtures sportsmanship, leadership, camaradery, teamwork and water-safety through show skiing activities. We practice three to four times per week and provide free family oriented entertainment through weekly waterski shows during the summer.

We Want You! LAS needs increased participation and support. Children, teenagers and adults, at any skill level are encouraged to join our team. We have parents who are certified boat drivers, parents who build stage-sets and assist with equipment maintenance even parents who sew costumes and run our concessions; AND, we have parents who ski with their families in the show. Ours is the only sport where everyone in the family, and their friends, can participate at whatever they enjoy doing most, all in a TEAM effort to have FUN with FAMILY and FRIENDS. We invite you to Watch

Us, Join Us and Support Us!

We are very excited about the 2016 season. We will be having shows regularly on Friday nights on Lauderdale Lake and virtually every Saturday night on Elkhorn Lake at Babe Mann Park. Check our website for detailed schedule information. The addition of The Lauderdale Landing show site and Elkhorn Lake at Babe Mann Park create a wonderful ease of access and viewing dynamic for our spectators. We hope you'll join us this at the lakes this season!

LAS continues to grow and mature as a water ski show team, always adding and refining acts to keep pace with this exciting sport. We now compete at both State and National tournaments. Further, in an effort to serve our community, we are a 501(c)(3) status, which designates us as an educational, charitable organization. With this status, we do several learn to ski days for the community and for Lakeland school for children with special needs, and your donation is tax deductible!

We carry out many fundraisers during the year, and depend heavily on the generous sponsorship and support of individuals, businesses, organizations, and community groups. For information about show dates, locations or to learn more about membership and sponsorship opportunities, please visit our new website at: laswaterskiteam.com

LAUDERDALE LAKES HISTORY ARTICLE BY Kathryn Ingle Calkins

Fish Tale, Part 2: *The Fish Committee, the DNR And Our Fish Population*

For the first half of the 20th Century, Lauderdale enjoyed a reputation as a fine fishing destination, as evidenced by oral histories and by newspaper columns of the time. LLIA members stocked the lake with sport fish, but even without stocking the breeding populations of large fish like largemouth bass and northern pike were intact. By the 1970s, however, Lauderdale's fish population was suffering. Dredging of large sections of shoreline and of the entire Don Jean Bay in 1965 destroyed many fish nurseries.

Also, reported lake resident and former Fish Committee chairman Floyd Pochowski, fishing tournaments held on the lakes in the 1970s by organizations from as far away as Rockford, Ill. took their toll on the large fish—the apex predators—which help keep the natural system in

balance. These tournaments were conducted before proper releasing procedures had been developed, so caught fish were often injured in the process, said current Fish Committee chairman Brian Walsh. Worse, some tournament organizers kept the large fish participants had caught and trucked them away instead of returning them to the lakes. This, Pochowski said, left only a population of smaller bass to breed in our lakes. "Large fish breed large fish, and small fish breed small fish," Pochowski explained. The bass left in the wake of such tournaments only grow to about 12 inches in length. Although their growth is not stunted, they won't get much bigger, he said.

During this period, the LLIA requested that the Wisconsin DNR come and conduct another survey of fish populations to direct stocking efforts. The last fish survey done by the DNR had been in 1966. Former LLIA president Gerald Petersen noted that before about 1955, the DNR did not have an integrated approach to managing lakes, and that the LLIA had negotiated with separate parts of the DNR for fishing services, water quality and so forth. Around this time, however, the DNR came under pressure statewide to make lakes more accessible to the public.

Because of an acrimonious relationship over boat ramp fees that then grew up between our lakes, the surrounding community, and the DNR, the department did not recognize Lauderdale as a public access lake within Walworth County. The LLIA decided to conduct stocking itself without the benefit of a survey.

A memo from 1988 reads "PROBLEM: Due to heavy fishing pressure and inactivity of the DNR stocking programs since 1966, sport fishing on Lauderdale Lakes has been relatively poor for all species except largemouth bass."

The memo continues by mentioning that if the DNR resumed stocking efforts it would most likely advertise this fact to the public "which would substantially increase the boating traffic, perhaps to unsafe levels." The memo also notes that the La Grange Township Board had granted a request by LLIA that created a slow no wake zone in Bubbling Springs, which the association hoped would improve fish habitat. By stocking fish itself, the LLIA hoped to improve the fishery's health without involving the DNR. However, documents show that by 1991, the DNR had halted any stocking efforts until a scientific fish study could be conducted.

(Continued on Page 14)

Shorelines

Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association
325 Cherrywood Rd.
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SKOKIE, IL.
PERMIT NO. 245

Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association Officers

Dave DeAngelis, President, 847-223-6268
Debbie Ferrari, Vice-President, 847-680-7036
Herb Sharpless, Treasurer, 630-497-5152
Gary Storandt, Secretary, 708-870-7814
Don Henderson, Executive Board, 262-742-4970
Ron Mueller, Executive Board 847-635-5668

Bud Vance, Shorelines Publisher / Editor 847-459-8127

By the late 1980s some residents, including LLIA member Abe Goldsmith, a senior vice president of Goldman Sachs in Chicago, had had enough. Goldsmith asked Pochowski to help the LLIA's fish committee with the goal of getting the DNR to come to Lauderdale and conduct a fish survey. Pochowski set about mending the situation. He attended La Grange town meetings, county meetings and DNR events. He built relationships with DNR officials. According to Justin Jankowski, a member of the fish committee at the time, "Floyd worked behind the scenes," making contact with DNR fisheries biologist Doug Welch, asking his advice and even inviting him to his home. The LLIA also reduced boat ramp fees and increased parking areas. The DNR conducted a limited fish survey in 1992. Pochowski said that LLIA members were so excited that they lined up to go out with the DNR biologists, much to the surprise of the biologists, who conducted their survey between about 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. in late autumn.

The survey was inconclusive, although it showed that our lakes retained a good diversity of fish species. Many of the fish caught, however, were small, smaller than the minimum legal size for each species. The DNR scheduled a more comprehensive survey and slowly returned to conducting regu-

lar surveys and allowing our lakes to be stocked. Pochowski's hard work and that of many others had paid off.

Pochowski remembered that it even produced unlooked for dividends. At a meeting, he was put in contact with a man who was about to open a huge Bass Pro Shop in northern Illinois. Floyd and his Lauderdale friends were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the shop before its official opening, even attending seminars from professional fishermen and receiving a free lunch in order to critique the shop's food service. "It was huge. The guys just loved that," Pochowski recalled.

As the LLIA's relations with the DNR improved, Pochowski and his wife, Ann Marie, turned their attention to another fishing issue that they believed was as important as improving the fishery: getting children interested in fishing. Floyd had shown Ann Marie some articles on the importance of families fishing together, and she took the lead, talking with Lauderdale Landing owner Fred Tribby about hosting a fishing event for kids. Tribby agreed, and Ann Marie raised the money to start an annual contest. According to Pochowski, Ann Marie soon saw that the contest aspect was counterproductive, causing too much disappointment among participants. What is now known as the Fish Jamboree resulted, a festi-

val that encourages kids to fish, teaches them about the wildlife surrounding our lakes and provides them with plenty of free tackle.

Brian Walsh thanked all the volunteers who have come before him for their hard work. According to Walsh, the Lauderdale fishery's health is good, both for panfish and gamefish. The committee believes that continuing to improve fish habitat in the lake will be essential for leaving a sustainable fishery for future generations.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!!

Their support is critical to the publication of our Directory and they appreciate each of us supporting their business. When you purchase goods or services from an advertiser, please try to remember to thank them for their support of the LLIA. Many advertisers have been purchasing an ad in our Directory for a very long time and we thank them for their continued support. We also welcome our new advertisers (or those we have not seen for awhile), who look forward to your business: