



# ShoreLines

Newsletter of the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association

Fall/Winter 2020 • Vol. 43, No. 3

## What? The Beast of Bray Road Returns?

By Gary Storandt, LLIA Secretary

In this year's spring issue of Shorelines, our History Column featured the tale of a hairy, werewolf-like creature—now known as the legendary Beast of Bray Road—who stalked the Elkhorn area in the 1980s and 1990s. Google it!

Now, as if COVID-19 hasn't given us enough to be concerned about, some are now suggesting that the Beast may be back—or, never left at all. A recent article in The Beacon reports that a local resident, Ron Rice,

spotted the creature in broad daylight near Lyons this past May.

"This thing was over 7-feet tall," Rice said. "It was brown and hairy with coarse hair and it walked out and picked something up, then turned its back to me and went back into the woods." Two weeks later, Rice said he saw the Beast again.



Another more recent sighting was reported in February 2018 in the town of Spring Prairie. So, keep your eyes peeled. This old boy may not be gone just yet.

## At a glance...

- **Fishapalooza Annual Ice Fishing Derby** will be held on Saturday, February 6. Specifics will be posted on our website at [LLIA.org](http://LLIA.org).
- **Ice Castles is back at Geneva National Resort.** A spectacular display of ice artistry, Ice Castles will open and close depending on weather conditions, but is expected to stay open into March. Check it out at [icecastles.com](http://icecastles.com).
- **A big thank you to those who have purchased and posted LL signs.** Order forms can be found at [LLIA.org](http://LLIA.org). Click on "Extras" on the home page and select "Lake Address Signs" on the drop down box.
- **Discover "Discover Wisconsin."** Televised locally, (check your local listings) this is the nation's longest running tourism show and is dedicated to all things Wisconsin—supper clubs, vacation spots, and unique discoveries. Enjoy!



Non-masked, non-social distancing cranes. Photo by Patty Hargrave

*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

## News from Walworth County

By Darrin Schwanke, Walworth County Code Enforcement Officer and Josie Hanrahan, Walworth County Conservation Technician—Urban

### Vegetation Management

This past summer, the Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management Office saw an increase in the number of people visiting our offices or calling with questions. Two of the most commonly asked questions had to do with vegetation removal along the shoreline and building boathouses. We'll address those topics briefly, but the complete code can be found in the Walworth County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Section 74-174.

Vegetation removal is prohibited within 35 feet of the ordinary high water mark (shoreline) with a few exceptions. Following is an abbreviated list of those exceptions:

- Vegetation removal for the creation of a view/access corridor. The strip of land within 35 feet of the shoreline is permitted to have a view/access corridor that does not exceed 35 percent of the shoreline frontage on the parcel.
- Vegetation removal for locating those structures permitted within the shore yard.
- Selective removal of exotic, invasive, damaged vegetation or vegetation that must be removed to control disease or poses an imminent safety hazard, provided that any vegetation removed be replaced by replanting with vegetation approved by the Land Conservation Division, in the same area as soon as practicable.

Vegetation removal allowed by one of the exceptions is subject to a County approved conservation plan and permit. Depending on the scope of the project there may or not be a fee for the plan and permit.

The vegetation regulations do not apply to the removal of dead, diseased, or dying trees or shrubbery within 35 feet of the shore yard setback, if verified and approved by the County. There is an exemption permit that you can fill out and provide a picture of the tree to get a quick turn around on the permit.

exceed 400 square feet in size. If the boathouse is located on slopes greater than 12 percent then it shall not exceed 150 square feet.

The parameters for a boathouse would be the same no matter the size. The structure would have to be outside the floodplain, within the view/access corridor, and at



### Boathouses

The Walworth County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance was amended a few years ago to allow dry boathouses on waterfront lots. A boathouse means an accessory building in the shore yard on the same lot with a house, designed for the protection or storage of watercraft and related marine equipment. The size of a boathouse is regulated by the slope of the land where it will be constructed. If a boathouse is located on slopes of 12 percent or less it shall not

least 3' from the side lot line. The structure's side walls shall not exceed 10 feet measured from the finished grade to the eave of the structure and the roof pitch shall not exceed a 4:12 pitch. A zoning permit and a land disturbance permit are required.

If you need further clarification or have questions on other projects you may have, please contact our office at 262-741-4972.

## Shoreland? But I don't live on the water!

There is a common misconception among landowners that “shoreland” refers to waterfront properties exclusively. Actually, “shoreland” refers to any property within 1,000 feet of a lake or 300 feet of a navigable stream. If you have a project, even small amounts of land disturbance can be detrimental to water quality. This is why Walworth County requires an Erosion and Sediment Control Permit for nearly all projects within shoreland-zoned areas. Staff is then able to review your project and help ensure your soil stays where it belongs. Land disturbing activities include any grading, filling, removal of vegetative cover, demolition, building, clearing, or grubbing. The staff in the Land Use and Resource Management Department is eager to help property owners with any questions regarding projects, permits, erosion and sediment control, and ways to keep the lakes clean. Please give us a ring at 262-741-4972 the next time you are considering a new project. We're here to help.

## Stabilization outside the growing season.

Many lakefront properties owners choose to start construction after the summer fun has come to a close. For some projects, that means working through the winter months when grass is no longer growing. In recent years, Walworth

County winters follow a freeze/thaw pattern leaving disturbed soils subject to erosion.

Erosion can be greatly minimized with thoughtful planning of temporary stabilization. There are many products on the market that can be applied to frozen ground. Erosion Control blankets or matting is a great option for projects that have large areas of exposed soil. If properly staked in place, it does a great job of holding the soil in place and preventing erosion from rain and snow. Another positive quality of erosion control blankets and matting, is that they are designed for vegetation to grow through them. Come spring, when grass can be planted, they can continue to be utilized. Tarping is a good option for smaller land disturbance areas, including topsoil stockpiles. If a tarp can be secured completely around a disturbed area, it can protect the topsoil from splash erosion caused by the weather. Sediment control measures such as silt fence should always be utilized on lakeside projects, as they are the last line of defense to stop eroded soils from reaching the lake. As always, check your erosion and sediment control measures often.

Be sure to keep in touch with our office if any runoff events or product failures occur. Again, we're here to help. If you need further clarification or have questions on other projects, please contact us at 262-741-4972.

# Help Track Our Fishery

The Fish Committee is inviting all fishermen and fisherwomen to capture species, size, and location of fish caught on Lauderdale Lakes. This information will be invaluable for planning our fish-stocking activities. Please enter your catch on the simple form at <https://www.llia.org/fish-psd-survey>. See Corky's Corner in this issue for more info.

The image shows a screenshot of a web form titled "Help Track Our Fishery". The form is set against a white background with a black border. It contains the following fields and elements:

- Fish Species \***: A dropdown menu with "Bass - Small Mouth" selected.
- Fish Length \***: A text input field with the placeholder "Enter fish length in inches".
- Lake Fish Was Caught In \***: A dropdown menu with "Green Lake" selected.
- Date (Optional)**: A label with the placeholder "Enter date fish was caught". Below it are three input fields for MM, DD, and YYYY.
- Name (Optional)**: Two input fields for "First Name" and "Last Name".
- SUBMIT**: A black button with white text.
- ENTER MORE FISH**: A black button with white text.



# Corky's Corner

## Angling For A Stronger Fishery

By Jim "Corky" Corcoran, LLIA Fish Committee Chair

Corky here to let you know what we've accomplished this year and what's to come. First, we had a great season with outstanding weather and great fishing conditions. We completed four fish cribs and successfully dropped them with the help of our friends at the Boat House of Lauderdale Lakes who again provided their barge to move the cribs and drop them in place. I would also like to thank the crew members who donated their time on Wednesday evenings during the summer to help construct the cribs.



*Crib building perfected...the LLIA Fish Committee assembly line*

As for stocking, approximately **5,000 Smallmouth Bass between 5 and 7 inches went into the lakes!** And we also stocked 1,000 LARGE Perch. In a year or two, our Perch fishery is going to be fantastic! The larger size fingerlings have a better survival rate, so we get more return on our investment. We should also expect a decent Smallmouth Bass fishery to revitalize in a few years. And those babies really bend the rod!



*Crib building crew members adding the finishing touches for new inhabitants*

If you are not aware, **we are conducting a CREEL survey** in which we are asking all fisher-people to help us collect data on fish species, length, and on which Lauderdale lake the fish was caught—all to gather data regarding the health of the fishery and see how our stocking efforts are paying off. There is an electronic form on our website which makes it simple for you to input your data. Go to LLIA.org, click on "Endeavors" on the menu bar, then "Fish" in the drop down box. This brings you to the Fish Committee page with the PSD Survey information which contains a link to



*Fresh from the fish farm, Corky and JJ Jilek welcome new inhabitants of Lauderdale Lakes*

the survey. I also have cards available at The Lauderdale Landing on which you can record data and then either upload it yourself at a later time or drop the cards off at the Lauderdale Landing and I can enter the data for you. With COVID-19, the DNR has not been doing the usual lake surveys. We were scheduled to get a comprehensive study this upcoming spring, but the DNR is backlogged and it's likely that we will not receive our next survey until 2022. This creel survey will give us data to make more accurate stocking decisions until we have the new comprehensive population study completed by the DNR.

**Our annual Fishapalooza ice fishing derby is on again.** Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 6th! The specific format is being discussed and more information will be available on our web site at LLIA.org. It will still be a 100% payout derby with all entry fees paid out to the winners like in the past. We will be very careful to minimize the risk of COVID-19 and ask that all participants socially distance while fishing and mask up as per CDC guidelines. There is no "weigh in" so we should be able to do this completely virtually, including registration!

With COVID-19 still haunting us, it would be impossible to host an after-party responsibly this year like in the past. Consequently, we will not have the usual fundraiser raffles and party. **The Fish Committee has proposed that we do a cash Raffle!** Tickets are \$10.00 and we will sell 500 tickets. Assuming all tickets are sold, first prize will be \$1500, second prize is \$500, and there will be a third and fourth prize of \$250 each. Tickets are available at the Lauderdale Landing, Pepperoni Pub, and several other locations. I will have some available for sale and other Fish Committee members will also.

Meanwhile, stay safe, have a great holiday season, get outside this winter... **and remember, take a kid fishing!**



*Today's stocking for tomorrow's big catch*



# History Column

## The 1918 Flu Pandemic In Walworth County

By Kathryn Calkins, LLIA History Chair

As we lovers of Lauderdale head into what appears will be a long, lonely winter, we can look back on the summer of 2020 to warm ourselves with thoughts of sun, bright lake waters and outdoor fun. COVID-19, indeed, made the Lakes more precious, because they offered us a relaxing family hideaway when other options disappeared.

So, what was it like around Lauderdale during the last similar event, the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918? Walworth County was, of course, much less populated then. The 1920 U.S. Census puts the population at 29,327 compared with 103,868 in 2019. More than half of residents lived in rural areas rather than towns or cities. World War I continued in Europe, ending in November 1918. The U.S. had sent troops in April 1917, and people at home were buying bonds and making sacrifices to support the war effort.



The war, in fact, played a big role in spreading influenza around the world. According to an excellent article by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (see this link: <https://www.wiscontext.org/virus-shut-down-wisconsin-great-flu-pandemic-1918>), it may actually have begun in a mild form at a U.S. military base in Ft. Riley, Kansas in about March 1918. Soldiers took the strain to Europe, where it mutated into something much more vicious. The virus took a terrible toll in Europe in the spring, then began popping up again in the U.S. at military bases, including the Great Lakes Naval Training Station north of Chicago. On September 26, 1918, the *Whitewater Gazette* ran a short item stating that 4,500 men at the station had contracted "Spanish Influenza." The item ran under the title, "100 Sailors Die of 'Grip'". It added that the station's commander, Captain William Moffett, had issued a statement "to allay fears

of relatives of men in training and to set at rest sensational rumors of the ravages of the malady." The piece concluded by adding that Capt. Moffett reported the situation was "well in hand."

This, however, proved optimistic. *The Beacon* of Delavan reports in a Spanish Flu retrospective from 2018 that on September 25, 1918, "doctor Ray Rice was called to his Delavan sanitarium to treat a sailor who had been stricken with Spanish flu while visiting the city." Dr. Rice caught the disease and died on October 2. Similar stories of servicemen bringing the flu to various Wisconsin towns document how the spread began. Like COVID-19, the Spanish Flu floated through the air from an infected person's coughs or sneezes to others breathing in the same space. This flu had terrible virulence. It struck and killed young and healthy people, possibly because it turned into a devastating type of pneumonia if victims did not rest completely for two weeks after coming down with it.

Places in Wisconsin where fatalities were highest per capita included cities like Milwaukee and rural areas. Towns like Elkhorn and Whitewater tended to fare better, perhaps because they had enough healthcare resources for their numbers of residents. In all, only 56 people in Walworth County died from Spanish Flu (not counting armed services members who died elsewhere), while in Milwaukee County, 1,292 people died. In total, more than 8,000 Wisconsin residents died from Spanish flu before the pandemic ended, only a few months after it began.

Of interest, Wisconsin had instituted a State Board of Health in 1876, an entity that many other states lacked, according to the Historical Society. The state had also decided that a local board of health and a public health officer would be designated in every town in Wisconsin. In 1918, there were 1,685 boards of health statewide. This meant that when the Spanish Flu hit, which it did first on the East Coast, the state health officer, Dr. Cornelius A. Harper of Madison, could quickly put in place an education campaign and other public health measures to try to stem the flu's spread.

With the aid of local public health boards, Wisconsin taught citizens to stay home if they had cold symptoms and to refrain from coughing or spitting in public. The state board required local boards to post placards at homes where infected people were quarantined. Physicians reported the numbers of cases they were seeing in their practices. And on October 10, Dr. Harper ordered



all public institutions closed. The order included schools, theaters, movie houses, and other places of public gathering. Wisconsin was the only state to do this so widely and completely.

In fact, according to a *Whitewater Register* piece from Oct. 4, 1918, that city's high school was closed a full week earlier. The board of education closed the school on Oct. 2, "Because of the rapid spread of the epidemic of influenza which is sweeping the city." The school had 41 students and two teachers absent on Sept. 30, with one teacher requiring hospitalization.

Although some backlash to closing churches was recorded, the orders to close institutions seem to have been obeyed for the most part. Perhaps because of the wartime backdrop, people showed great civic-minded purpose. Many volunteer organizations helped out in hard-hit places like Milwaukee. Citizens wore gauze masks and followed public health rules.

News coverage of the pandemic at the time was sparse. According to the *Beacon* article, deaths of some citizens were reported in local papers. An Elkhorn newspaper also exhorted people to stop gathering in public to avoid shutting down the town. "If people insist on gathering in stores, hotel lobbies, saloons, etc., and fail to take the precautions recommended, we are certain to have another outbreak of the influenza and another outbreak would close the town absolutely," the Editor wrote.

By December 1918, the number of new cases had slowed to a trickle. Although the flu continued into 1919, it was mostly over in Wisconsin by the end of the year. The Spanish flu had killed more Wisconsin residents than World War I, the Korean War and the Vietnam conflict combined. Only World War II and the Civil War have claimed more lives. To date in 2020, COVID-19 has officially caused 50 deaths in Walworth County.

Photos: Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives

# Member's Post

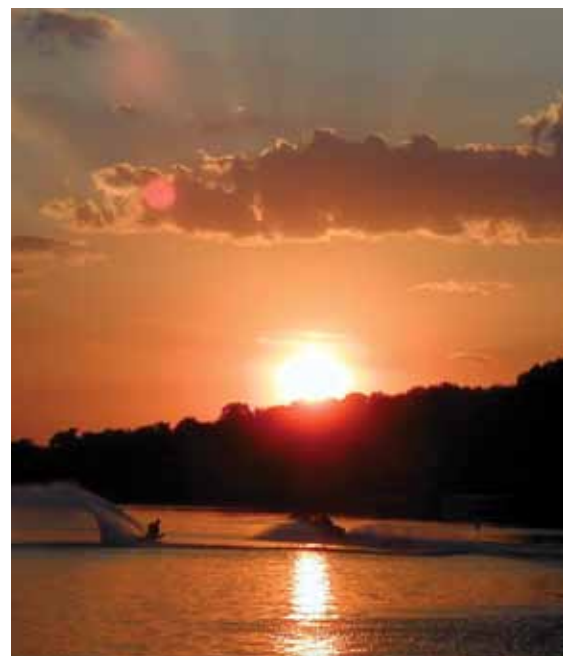
*All LLIA members are invited to contribute to the MEMBER'S POST. Maybe you have a favorite recipe to share...or a great photo capturing the alluring beauty of our lakes...or maybe you'd like to pass along a thought, suggestion or reflection about life on Lauderdale Lakes. If you have a message to share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

## Tell Us What You Think

Given the Pandemic, these are most unusual times—even historic. Please take a few minutes to send us your thoughts on what Lauderdale Lakes has meant to you during the season of COVID-19. We would like to publish your thoughts, your reflections and your anecdotes in *ShoreLines*. Specify if you'd like to remain anonymous. Email us at LakeViews@LLIA.org.



*Approaching Weather by Jack Sorenson*



*Final Run by Jack Sorenson*



*Another "first" as LLIA Directors meet via ZOOM*



*Winter Begins to Arrive on Don Jean Bay by Elisabeth Partyka*



*Crisp and Clear Winter Day by Elisabeth Partyka*



*Peaceful Summer Sunset by Elisabeth Partyka*

## Reflections on COVID-19 and Life At The Lake

The lake has been a gathering place since we bought our home in 1999. We couldn't hold several larger events that have become traditions with family and friends. With my parents in their late 80's and our first grandchild born this spring, we have family members who needed a getaway place to enjoy time together. Our lake house became that treasured place where the closest members of our family could be together, a few at a time, and enjoy our lake, the outdoors and smiles and laughs...and based on the boats on the water this summer, I know many other families did the same.

*By Debbie Ferrari*



*Sandhill Crane by Jack Sorenson*

# Lake House Fixin's

## White Chicken Chili

*A perfect alternative to traditional chili on a winter's day. It's loaded with hearty beans, tender chicken—all in a rich, creamy broth. Just try it!*

*Submitted by Glen Willmeng*

### Serves 6

#### Ingredients:

- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 30 oz chicken broth
- 1 (7 oz) can diced mild green chilies
- 1-1/2 tsp cumin
- 1/2 tsp each: paprika, dried oregano, ground coriander
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese cut into small cubes
- 1-1/4 cup whole kernel corn
- 2 (15 oz) cans cannellini beans, drained
- 2-1/2 cups shredded cooked chicken, turkey or rotisserie chicken
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh cilantro
- Tortilla chips or strips and shredded monterey jack for topping (optional)

#### Directions:

1. Heat olive oil in 6-quart dutch oven over medium heat. Sauté onion 4 minutes. Add garlic for 30 seconds longer.
2. Add chicken broth, green chilies, cumin, paprika, oregano, coriander, cayenne pepper, salt & pepper. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes.
3. Drain & rinse beans and set aside. Put 1 cup of the beans in blender or food processor with 1/4 cup broth. Puree until smooth.
4. Add cream cheese, corn, whole beans, pureed beans and simmer 10 minutes longer.
5. Stir in chicken to warm, lime juice and cilantro and top with tortilla chips and monterey jack cheese if desired.

# Other Lake Organizations

## Sailing Club: Another Great Season

By Glenn Hansen, LLSC Commodore

What a long, strange year it has been. Along with this lousy pandemic came masks, social distancing and concerns of whether or not we could have a competitive sailing season at all. Although the strains of COVID-19 put a hold on our social gatherings, we were able to get out on the water and have one of our best seasons of Sunday morning racing. If we can sum up our summer on the lake this year, it would be...crowded. That's not to say that this gracious community didn't give us room to maneuver, but since many had more flexible schedules, we saw A LOT of boats out on the lakes this year.



Young Michael leaning out upwind

Peter and Rob reviewing the course downwind

Jack Sorenson won 2 of the last 4 races including the Bud Weiser trophy. Doug Ward finished another strong season winning the final club race. Another great story was Team LaRue completing their inaugural season with our club. They took advantage of a scratch start and stayed in clear air to win the Ladies Appreciation trophy. Jon and Wes followed that up by winning the two-hand Harry Truman race that ends our season. Quite the accomplishment!! Bob Wojda won the single hand trophy by winning the Truman Cup for individual sailors. Nice work, Bob.

Jack Sorenson not only won the Summer Series, but also the Yacht Club Regatta Series and was declared our Sailor of the Year. Jim Johnson finished in the top 4 of the last five races and completed another phenomenal season. We've got to find a way to slow these guys down.

Until next year, enjoy hard water season and please stay safe. We will get through this together even if we can't always be together.



Chaos at the mark rounding. Mike, Bob, Jack and Ben jockey for position.

## Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club: And The Show Went On!

By Peg (Thelander) Eggert, LLYC Commodore

Well, I don't think we can complain about our weather this summer; it certainly cooperated. What a most interesting season we've had. However, the LLYC did the very best in changing things to accommodate the COVID-19 virus. (That just doesn't seem right!)



Finally, a largely intact 2020 event and a good time was had by all!

We had a couple events scheduled after the summer *ShoreLines* publication. Our August 7th annual Pleasant Lake event was changed to a "Concert on Sterlingworth Bay" with Tim Rush "Steel Drum & Marimba Band". At one point there were over 30 boats plus numerous people enjoying from the shoreline. As our fall event was cancelled, we added a "Concert on Sterlingworth Bay" September 4th. The entertainment was "Cork 'n Classics" who always does a great job accommodating the audience with their requests. This was also well attended and there was a lot of dancing on shore and boats that day. A HUGE THANK YOU to Mike & Kathy Alagna for their generosity in the use of their deck for the band setup.

The "Golf Outing" was August 22nd. OH MY GOODNESS!!! This was an absolute success. There were over 50 golfers and many others joined for the box lunch afterward. One hole was designated as a fundraiser with all proceeds going to the Lauderdale/LaGrange Fire Department. Many Thanks to Barry Lutz, Al Batemen & the entire

committee for making this such a great event. What a terrific job this group did and another HUGE THANK YOU!! This was so much fun, and due to high demand, we're going to have another one next year.

Currently, our Event Chairpersons and their committee members are diligently working on next year's schedule, which will be published in the spring LLYC Flag Hoist, and LLIA *ShoreLines* including the websites.

Our Fireworks are already set for Saturday, July 3rd. We had a good response for donations this year and we hope they will continue as the display is completely funded by your contributions. I guess you could say "the more BUCKS, the bigger the BANG!" By the way, you can donate anytime throughout the year.

Only time will tell how things will be next year, but there is no doubt the Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club will make events happen. In the mean time, LLYC hopes everyone has a safe, healthy winter as we look forward to seeing you in the spring.



Golf Outing strives to fill the boot for LLFD



# 2020 at Lutherdale—A Year Like No Other

By Jeff Bluhm, Lutherdale Executive Director

The vision for Lutherdale in 2020 was very bright and optimistic. That all changed with the COVID-19 pandemic. Life became safer at home, which resulted in an abundance of cancellations in our sponsored programs and many of our rental groups.

Despite our operation being shut down, work continued on the NEW Hope Conference Center. The new center is complete and is a beautiful addition to our campus and the community. Unfortunately, the scheduled open house events for the new center had to be canceled. We plan to have another event in the future when you can come and take a tour. If you drive by our sign out front on Hwy 12, you may notice that there is a new banner sign for the Hope Conference Center.

Our plans for summer camp had to be modified. We opened camp on July 5th and we ran 9 half-week residential programs. A total of 200 youth participated and it was a great success. We were prepared with pages of new health protocols to ensure a safe and healthy camp. There were no cases of COVID-19 in any of our programs. We ran an exemplary program and the youth who participated enjoyed a few days of life that felt normal.

Plans are in the works for the coming 2021 season. We are looking forward to welcoming back everyone as we continue to move beyond the pandemic.



*We look forward to sharing our NEW Hope Conference Center in 2021*

## A Walk In The Woods With KMLT

By Greg Rajskey, KMLT Executive Director

Walking is a popular activity around Lauderdale Lakes, and with good reason: it's a healthy form of exercise, keeps us connected to a sense of place, and can be practiced while social-distancing out-of-doors. And, as of autumn 2020, there is new trail to include in your walk.



*Masked students, tools in hand, build a pedestrian bridge for the trail*

Following a route more-or-less parallel to Oak Park Road, the path, paved in wood chips, adds about a quarter-mile

to the trail system at Petersen Island Woods. The new trailhead is readily accessible, a few hundred feet down the road from Lauderdale Landing or—at the other end—halfway up the hill from the parking area trailhead at the east end of Oak Park Road.

Volunteers with Kettle Moraine Land Trust did the advance preparatory work late in the summer at the direction of board member Justin DeAngelis, who had observed, “I often see people walking for exercise on Oak Park Road. With our preserve right there, we could offer a safer route that would also help people appreciate the natural beauty of the preserve.” And on the autumn equinox, September 22, a cadre of teenaged volunteers from Elkhorn Area High School finished the work of clearing debris from the route, building a pedestrian bridge, and spreading woodchips.



*A portion of the completed trail, covered in woodchips ... ENJOY!*

Participating students were enrolled in Advanced Placement Biology and/or Advanced Placement Environmental Science taught by faculty members Deanna McClung and Dana Straw, respectively. Both teachers were on hand to help KMLT staff and volunteers in supervising the work. The service-learning project, orchestrated by KMLT, was made possible in part through a grant from United Way Walworth County. And now all of us can take a (longer) walk and reaffirm our connection to this special place.



*Elkhorn Area High School student volunteers assembled for a full day of work to complete the new trail*

# Bits & Pieces From The Town of LaGrange

By Don Henderson, LLIA Planning & Zoning Chair

## Town Road Speed Limits

Currently the speed limit on unposted Town roads is 55 mph that is established by Wisconsin State Statutes. Many streets and roads around the Lakes in the Town are populated by houses on adjacent lots that range from 50 to 100 feet wide. State Statutes provide guidance that speed limits of a maximum of 35 mph are permitted on roads and streets where home densities fall into a range of 5 or more per 1000 feet of road length. The Town Board has reviewed all streets and roads that meet these requirements. During the August Town Board meeting the public requested the Town seek approval of lowering the speed limit on these roads to 25 mph. The Town has requested the State of Wisconsin DOT for final approval.

## Town of LaGrange Election – April 6, 2021

The Town Board is composed of The Town Chairman and Four Side Supervisors. This year the Second, Third, and Fourth Side Supervisor positions will be elected for a two-year term. Elections will be held the first Tuesday in April, which is April 6, 2021. Candidates must file their nomination papers with the Town Clerk between December 1, 2020 and January 4, 2021.

## Town of LaGrange Highway Department

The Town Highway Department has their snowplow trucks ready for winter snow and ice. They plow and sand the 66 miles of Town roads to assure residents can drive safely throughout the winter months. The Town asks homeowners to park their cars in their driveways and not on the narrow town roads during winter months to permit the road to be fully cleared of snow and sanded.

The Town of LaGrange has an Ordinance regulating the placement of snow on roadways by Town Residents. SECTION 1 states there shall be no placing of snow on any roadway in the Town of LaGrange that would create a hazardous condition for vehicle travel and **persons shall not plow snow across the roadway from their driveway**. The homeowner or renter is responsible for snow placement, and you are responsible for the snow regardless if you hire a person to plow snow for you.



*Snowplow trucks stand at the ready for winter*

Snow on your property should stay on your property, and it must not be pushed across the road when you clear your driveway and walkways. Please inform your snow-plowing contractor if you hire this work.

**Please Drive With Care When Following A Snowplow Truck.** Wisconsin law requires motorists following a

Snowplow Truck to stay back 500 feet. Town Highway Department employees ask all motorists to use extra caution and please stay back the required distance. This is especially important at intersections when snowplow trucks often need to plow around a corner and then back up before turning to plow the other direction.

## LAUDERDALE-LA GRANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dave Nelson on behalf of all the Lauderdale-LaGrange Fire Fighters thanks the entire community for their wonderful financial support of the Department this year. Their new education and training building being constructed by the Fire Fighters using seven 40-foot shipping containers is now funded. \$43,000 has been received by the Department in support of the project. Construction is underway for the multi-floor building located behind the new Town Highway Garage across from the Fire Station.

The LLFD members ask each homeowner to be diligent during the holiday and winter season. Remember to check the operation and expiration date of your smoke and CO alarms and replace the batteries or the entire unit if it is outdated. Check your chimneys and furnace vents for any blockage. If you are not sure how to do this call a professional. The winter months always

see an increase of chimney fires and CO calls. And remember a burning candle left unattended could easily ignite a fire within your home. **STAY SAFE!!**



*Construction underway on education and training building*

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

By Jack Sorenson, LLLMD Chairman

## Boat Speaker Noise

As previously reported, our Board has heard many complaints about excessive volume and inappropriate content from boats with elevated speaker systems. Lake Geneva is considering an Ordinance to limit such boat noise. We will monitor their progress and will likely add the subject as an agenda item to our future meetings. In a nutshell, the Lake Geneva Ordinance proposes to limit the noise from a boat speaker to 75 feet. Obviously, enforcement would be difficult and the Ordinance calls for people who object to excessive noise to record evidence of the offending boat and then contact the safety patrol who would give warnings prior to citations. We would much rather ask for cooperation and respect for fellow boaters than to create more laws.

## Safety Patrol

Commissioner Jim Kroeplin is working jointly with the Lauderdale Safety Patrol and the Town of LaGrange on improving the coordination and communication for response to lake-oriented 911 calls. The concern is the result of a non-life-threatening water skier accident in which there was confusion regarding the accident location leading to a longer response time. With the lake being more crowded, the Lake District and Town of LaGrange are working together proactively to improve incident response time.

**At our first meeting, one of the Town of LaGrange emergency responders suggested that when an incident happens, the call to 911 should originate from a cell phone at the scene of the accident if possible. This gives the dispatcher very accurate location coordinates for the accident site.** This information and improved communication between the Lake District and Town of LaGrange responders will aid in faster response times and provide information helpful to the ambulance and emergency responders.

I want to thank Jim Kroeplin and his committee, Chief Blanke and his team as well as the Town of LaGrange for all of their enthusiastic efforts reviewing this process for all of our safety.

## Aeration Systems

Current Town regulations allow aerators or bubblers to keep water from freezing in a wet boathouse structure (and up to ten feet away), provided the riparian

has received a permit from the Town of LaGrange. The Lake District has been asked to review this policy and perhaps make a recommendation for any changes to the Town of La Grange, therefore, we will add it to our next agenda for discussion and possible action. The major question is one of safety with open water around various parts of the lake. Lake Beulah and Lake Geneva currently do not allow private parties to aerate or bubble. If you have a thought on this please contact any of the District Board members.

## Golf Course

I want to welcome Dean Bostrom to the Board of Commissioners; he has agreed to oversee the golf course. 2020 was a great year for the golf course. We had approximately 15,000 rounds of play (as measured by our new Point of Sale system). I want to thank Kristy and Sparky for their efforts at keeping our golfers safe through the challenges of the COVID-19 virus. Last year the Board approved repairs to the Clubhouse to ensure its safety and comfort. Additional repairs, maintenance and improvements to the envelope of the Clubhouse will continue. The repairs have been well received and should give the building years of future use.

The course itself is in great shape. We have changed the old irrigation pumps allowing more efficient irrigation and Sparky has enlarged the forward tee boxes of holes two and eight along with adding fairway drainage on hole number three and removing bunkers on holes one and seven. Again, a big thank you to Kristy and Sparky!!

## Aquatic Weeds

Commissioner Greg Wisniewski has recently applied for a grant for assistance in funding the purchase of a new weed harvester. Our existing harvester has been well maintained but is now on its last legs. The replacement will be paid for between the reserve account and grant funds from the DNR.

## Treasurer

Greg has recently completed his "continuing education" program for District Treasurers. During the course a question arose regarding posting of financial information. The instructor directed the class to look at Lauderdale Lake District's website as an example of what financial information to post. Thanks to Greg for all his great efforts on our behalf.

## Environmental Efforts

Commissioner Jim Kroeplin has submitted Grant Applications to the DNR for funding for both the Lauderdale Lakes Watershed Study as well as the Don Jean Bay Golf Course shoreline stabilization. We will keep you posted on these ongoing projects.

## Piers

If you are considering building or having a new pier built or significantly remodeled, you are required to get a pier permit. The Lake District handles the inspection process for the permit, which is issued under the Town's authority. If the pier is found to be compliant (within the Town's pier ordinance) the permit is issued. However, should the pier require a variance or be in a sensitive area it will require Town Board action. The hearing and enforcement are handled by the Towns of La Grange or Sugar Creek. The District and the Town of La Grange have been reviewing the Town Pier Ordinance to update it for legislative changes.

## Septic Systems

State law requires every typical septic system to be pumped minimally once every three years. The Lake District does this for most electors. This activity allows for the District to be aware of any systems that may be breaching or threatening to harm our lake resource.

## Internet Service

State law requires every typical septic We continue to monitor the installation of higher speed Internet. Currently Edge Broadband has run fiber optic cable North along Hwy 12/67 from Hwy A and down Plantation Road and now along Sterlingworth Drive and Country Club Dr. I understand that their plan is to continue north along the east side of Lauderdale Lakes. If you are interested in being served by them, call them to express your interest. The phone number is 262-458-4220. They will add you to their mapping, and apparently they use this information as they plan their service routing.

I understand that high speed Internet service in our area is provided on a first come first service basis. Therefore, should you use a different provider, I would suggest calling them as well to relay your desire for higher speed services. The Lake District is not working with or endorsing any of the Internet providers, but simply trying to make you aware of the opportunities.

**For more information on any of these topics, please go to [lauderdalelakedistrict.com](http://lauderdalelakedistrict.com).**



# ShoreLines

**Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association**

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