

2023 RDLA Memorial Day Newsletter

RDLA Officers

President - Kevin Hendricks
Vice President – Jim McGovern
Secretary – Ruth Tiry
Treasurer – Steve Miller

RDLA Board Members

Rob Walker & John Gerold
Greg & Linda Pittz
www.facebook.com/rockdamlake
E-mail: rockdamlakeassociation@gmail.com

2023 RDLA Spring Meeting / Get Together

Saturday May 27th @ 12:00 Noon

Location: Rod and Gun Club

It's time to get together and kick off another great summer at Rock Dam. Lunch will start at noon sharp. Come on down and bring a dish to pass and your beverages. We will provide the main entrée. It's a great time to see your neighbors & friends and meet someone new! Bring along some cash for the raffles. We'll have the "new" Rock Dam Lake T-Shirts for sale along some previous years available. See you there!

Road Clean-Up

The Haycreek Road clean-up is scheduled for Saturday June 3rd at 9:00 AM. We'll provide all of the Tools, Gloves, Trash Bags and Bug Spray. Come on out and help clean-up one of the main roadways into our great community. **If you'd like to help, please call Ruth Tiry @ 715-267-7398.** We'll meet outside the Rod and Gun Club at 9:00 AM.

New T- Shirts

We have another new beautiful T-Shirt this year which was designed by our very own Virginia Hendricks. We are offering a V-neck option as well as the crew neck. Shirts will be available at all of our events or you can email Kevin and Virginia at khendricks@outlook.com. The campground will also have them, but only in the usual crew neck style.



Fireworks 2023



The RDLA 2023 Fireworks Show will take place on Saturday July 8th. Chairman Jim McGovern has been hard at work making sure this year is even greater than last year. We hear he has another great surprise finale in store for us!

Thanks again to all of our Sponsors!!!

Inside – A Tribute to Bob and Gloria Mohr



Calendar of Events

May

May 27, 2023 – RDLA Pot Luck Lunch / Meeting

12:00pm to 1:30pm - Rod and Gun Club

June

June 3, 2023 – RDLA Haycreek Rd. Clean-Up

9:00am to 10:30am

Meet at the Rod and Gun Club

July

July 8, 2023

Brats on the Beach

11:00am to 1:00pm – Rock Dam Beach

Rock Dam Days Parade

12:00pm to 12:05pm – Main St. Rock Dam

Kayak Race

5:30pm - Rock Dam Beach

Pontoon Parade

8:00pm – Rock Dam Lake

RDLA Fireworks Show

9:30pm – Rock Dam Lake

RDLA Fireworks Raffle Drawing

After the Fireworks – AKA Lakeside

September 2, 2023

RDLA Pot Luck Lunch / Meeting

12:00pm to 1:30 – Rod and Gun Club

Sand Castle Contest

4:00pm to 7:00pm – Rock Dam Beach

Free Family Flicks

8:30pm to 10:30pm – Rock Dam Beach

September 3, 2023

RDLA Pancake Breakfast

8:00am to 11:00am – Rod and Gun Club

The President's Corner

Well, here we are getting ready for a fantastic summer at Rock Dam. We are pretty much back to normal with a full slate of events. It's also the Town of Foster's 100th anniversary. The Lake Association sign is just about ready to be re-set, the High-Speed Internet project is almost completed and with fingers crossed the funding and start of the Boat Ramp might happen this year. We still have other projects to focus on such as the Hay Creek Clean-up and Fish Stocking. We'll be continuing to ask for your help on them. As you have seen, nothing happens overnight but with continued focus and effort a lot can get done. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank everyone that continues to keep the Lake Association going. The Board continues to sacrifice their personal time and efforts whenever asked and truly loves doing it for the community. We continue to be blessed with so many great family and business sponsors and donors that help support our Fireworks, Brats on the Beach & Pancake Breakfast events. None of what happens would be possible without all of them and all of you. Once again, everything we do is to help make special memories at this unique place called Rock Dam. Unfortunately, we lost a number of long-time members and friends over the past 12 months. We will all miss seeing their smiling faces and hearing them laugh around the lake. Our deepest condolences and prayers go out to their families.

I hope you all have a safe and memorable summer. See you around the lake,

Kevin

P.S. Check out our website for additional winter pictures that didn't make it do to space constraints.

Firewise Project \$\$\$ Available

As you may recall, the DNR has a program which helps homeowners reduce wildfire risk on their properties. They provide up to \$500 in matching funds for approved projects like gutter covers, tree removal, fire resistant decking, etc.

Funds will be available for us again this year if assessments can be completed soon. If you'd like to know more or have a project to be considered please contact Kevin Hendricks before 5/25.

khendricks@outlook.com

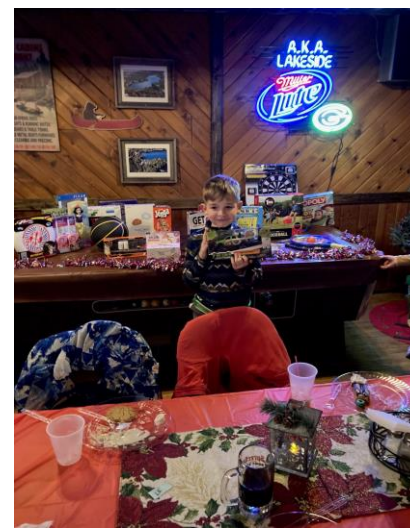
847-530-9957

RDLA Sign Update

Raymond Gahan has been coordinating the installation of the uprights. The sign has been repaired and is waiting to be attached. The Eagle will be set, once the poles are in place and are fully anchored in. We should have the final details to share at the Saturday meeting.

Thanks to everyone that has helped and continues to help get our sign back up. Thanks to Clark Electric Co-op for providing a source for new poles. And a huge thanks to Raymond for all of his time, knowledge and effort!

Rock Dam Xmas Party Pictures



Boat Ramp Update

The Boat Ramp project is continuing to move forward. The first phase, for engineering and grant writing is complete. A grant application was submitted during the last State budget cycle and only awarded 50% of the funds requested. The application was withdrawn and resubmitted for the new budget cycle with high expectations that all of the requested funds will be awarded. The new budget year begins July 1st.

Curtiss Lindner, the Forestry and Parks Administrator has indicated that if all of the moneys are awarded, they will attempt a fall 2023 project assuming a contractor is available. If not, he is confident that the project will be completed in the fall of 2024. No work will take place during the summer boating season.

Help Support the Fireworks

We need your help to keep the Rock Dam Fireworks Show "the Best in the Area". You can help by selling tickets to you friends, family and neighbors.

Contact Jim McGovern or Kevin Hendricks for tickets.

Tickets are also available at AKA Lakeside & Cal's Rock Dam Resort.

High Speed Internet Update

Here is the latest update from Astrea on the High-Speed Internet Project (provided May 16th). "We should have the system finished and ready for customers in 3 weeks.

- There is just a little construction left (mainline fiber placement) and that is underway now.
- We must splice all that fiber.
- The Power Company is scheduled to hook up power to our cabinet with the electronics Friday.
- We will be doing various advertising, mostly as direct mail, to potential customers.
- We will be doing door-to-door sales, off and on, over the next month or two.
- People can call us anytime at 800-236-8434
- Sign up at www.astreaconnect.com
- Or wait for Shawn or Randy to visit with them, when they come to RDL.

The process after sign up will take 3-4 weeks.

- We need to schedule a crew to install the wire from the mainline to the house.
 - The more sales we have, generally the quicker it will be, as we'll try to be economical with sending a crew in there to do multiple locations in a day.
- Then we follow-up with a scheduled install, at customer's convenience.
 - At this step we'll connect the fiber into the home and active the modem, set up Wi-Fi etc."

In Memoriam

Judy Bielecki
1948 - 2022



Judy was a long-time member of the Lake Association and had been coming to Rock Dam with her husband Tony since the 1950's. In the early 2000's they bought a cabin on Bernyce Lane.

Judy always had a smile and something positive to share and was usually the first one to show up with Tony and daughter Jayne for the Road Clean-up crew. Spending time at Rock Dam was a family tradition for Judy and one that continues for her family today. We will definitely miss seeing Judy around the lake.

In Memoriam

Phil Frane
1954 - 2023



Phil was a long-time member of the Lake Association and one of its first Fireworks Sponsors. Phil and Lynne started out as weekend residents, but they moved to Rock Dam after his retirement. Phil loved the outdoors and Rock Dam was always a special place to him. If you ever needed help on a project, Phil was there with advice, a helping hand or a tool. It was always interesting to see just what Phil was restoring. We will surely miss seeing Phil around the lake and we have lost another great neighbor.

HAY CREEK CLEAN UP – YEAR 2

In the summer of 2022, a number of volunteers started the process of clearing fallen trees and a couple of beaver dams blocking watercraft from traveling up Hay Creek. The objective being to be able to take canoes, kayaks, and other shallow depth watercraft up to the point where the Snowmobile/ATV trail crosses Hay Creek. That first summer's work resulted in one beaver dam being removed (the beaver kept rebuilding the second one) and a number of trees being removed, allowing for about 200- 300 yards of additional travel up the creek. The challenge is to keep working to remove the many trees still blocking the waterway. I have included a picture that shows what a challenge it can be in removing the many trees in several spots along the way. As of this writing I have not attempted to travel up Hay Creek so I cannot say what the current conditions are at this time.

The eventual removal of the tree falls and any new beaver dams will also allow the water flow to speed up, hopefully removing, over time, the build-up of sand at the mouth of Hay Creek where it comes into the lake and also improve the fishing in the creek.

I have sent an email to all of those on the Work Crew list from last year, asking for their participation again this year and if they know of any new and able body individuals who would like to help, to have them contact me at jagerold39@gmail.com. I am also asking all of you who are reading this newsletter, to talk to any able body individuals who you know may be willing to join in and help do the work. Have them contact me.

As individuals we also need to let the Forestry and Parks Administrator, Curtiss Linder (Tele: 715-743-5140; email: curtiss.lindner@co.clark.wi.us) and Allen Bower, our County Board Representative, who also sits on the Forestry and Parks Committee (Tele: 715-267-7265) know of the need to find grant funding to pay for the cost of dredging the mouth of Hay Creek and/or cover the cost of hiring a contractor or contractors to help remove the fallen trees from the creek bed and also do anti-erosion work on the stream banks where necessary. They should also be coordinating with the DNR to get help and maybe grant funding from them. Another source of help could be members of the Rock Dam Rod and Gun Club. If you are a member or know members, talk it up with them and hopefully there will be more help available. Teenagers are welcome also.

Sixty years ago, you could take a pontoon boat up to the Snowmobile/ATV trail but over the years due to neglect, etc. that is not possible at this time. It would be nice to enjoy the creek in that way again.

Any help, suggestions, or ideas you may have, please send them my way.

HAVE A GREAT TIME AT ROCK DAM THIS YEAR!

John A. Gerold

RDLA Board Member

Fireworks Sponsors Needed!

We need additional sponsors in order to continue to provide the community the excellent level of Fireworks events that everyone has come to enjoy and love. If you have a business and would like to become a sponsor or if you would like a family sponsorship please contact Jim McGovern at mcfloors@comcast.net or Kevin Hendricks at khendricks@outlook.com. Sponsorship is only \$250. Thank you!

A Farewell to Bob and Gloria Mohr

By Mary Kolbeck

As many of you know, Bob and Gloria Mohr have had their beautiful log cabin for sale for the last year and recently accepted an offer. Bob and Gloria are now planning to continue their retirement years in Stanley where they are originally from.

We will all very much miss seeing them daily; Bob at AKA Lakeside at 4pm or Gloria out tending to her yard. They have been such a huge part of all our lives here on Rock Dam Lake, so I wanted to give them the proper tribute they deserve.

Bob and Gloria have been on the Lake since the early 70's when they purchased their yellow cabin on Lot 15. In that little cabin they spent many weekends and holidays enjoying a get away from their home in Illinois where Bob worked for Caterpillar and Gloria worked at a hospital. Back in those days, you owned your cabin and leased the land from the county. It wasn't until the 80's when the county started selling the land to the cabin owners. The Mohr's purchased their Lot as they were not planning on going anywhere else. In 1995, they retired and moved to Rock Dam as permanent residents and built their log cabin on the same lot just set back a little.

When asked why they came to Rock Dam, Bob shared that they wanted to get a place closer to friends and family in Stanley. He shared, he always enjoyed Rock Dam as a kid, after a long day of bailing hay for family they would go to the lake for swim. I don't know if they ever knew what an impact, they would have on the lake back then. Bob and Gloria haven't only been our friends, family and weekend neighbors, they were a true part of Clark County and the Rock Dam Community. They have been active members of the Lake Association; Bob remembers when the association started. I can't remember a pancake breakfast where Gloria wasn't serving food. They're active members of the Rod and Gun Club, Gloria setting up and planning events, selling raffle tickets and Bob tending bar at all the events throughout the year. Bob did maintenance work for the club house for 20 years. Bob also served on the Town of Foster board for 13 years, 10 years as a supervisor and 3 years town chairman. Bob was part of passing the town's ordinance for getting access for ATVs on the roads. Gloria worked at Lakeside back in the day, cooking and cleaning and then cleaning rental cabins. Bob kept an eye on everyone's property and shared he doesn't even know how many keys to cabins he had in the day. For years Bob removed snow for many of us on the lake.

When asked about some of their favorite memories on the lake, Bob shared there were so many; deer hunting, ice fishing, making wood and Gloria shared celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at the club house and having all their friends and family honking every time they drove past their cabin. Bob also remembered a time taking their canoe around the lake after retiring and then noted how that was the last time too. We will all cherish all our own memories of the Mohr's. Thanks for so many great years on the lake! We all wish you well and hope to see you around the lake.

"Rock Dam Days" Dates 2023 – 2026

2023 - July 8th

2024 – July 13th

2025 – July 12th

2026 – July 11th

The Town of Foster Turns 100!

The Town of Foster, where Rock Dam Lake is situated, turns 100 on July 11th. Although there isn't going to be any official birthday party, we thought it would be appropriate to let folks know of this occasion which almost falls during Rock Dam Days. So, as you are celebrating during Rock Dam Days, keep in mind this milestone and maybe raise a glass in celebration of this great area. Below is some town history courtesy of the Clark County Historical Society.

Happy Birthday Town of Foster!

The Town of Foster was made an official Township by an Act of Governor Blaine on July 11, 1923. Foster Township is part of the 69th Assembly District of Wisconsin and is nearly centered on the western most edge of Clark County. It was established in 1923, after being detached from Mentor township, and was named in honor of the early lumber baron and railroad developer, Nathaniel Caldwell Foster of Fairchild, Eau Claire County, WI. An election for town officials was held on August 6, 1923 at the Cottonwood School with 26 voters present.

During these early years the Town Board meetings were held at the area schools. The Act of Governor Blaine combined part of Mentor with Foster as it is known today.

Some of the subjects the Town Board at that time were subjected to, were the many small one room school houses in the area. The up-keep was one big problem with no electricity in the area, wood needed to be hauled for heat and oil for lamps.

In May of 1926, the Town, purchased an Adams Patrol Grader at \$149.29 and \$1,500.00 was levied for road work. In April 1927, culvert pipes were installed and plank replacement on Hay Creek Bridge and Bear Creek Bridge. The culverts were ordered from Felker Bros. in Marshfield. Four culverts were 14 and 16 gage, 10-20 ft long at a price of \$71.25. In 1933, the Bank of Fairchild closed its doors. The state settled with the Townships at 40% of their banked moneys. Also, in 1933 and 1934, this area was in a drought disaster. The Board at this time joined the Workman's Comp Relief and Drought Relief Program to help people through these disasters. On August 3, 1935, an ordinance to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors in the Town of Foster. In the winter of 1935, if the snow plow did not come through, then the men of the area went out and shoveled the roads.

The Town of Foster, Clark County is the largest Township of Clark County, consisting of 72 sq. miles of which approximately 42,500 acres are County Forest Lands.

Town's first School Bus!



2022 Fireworks Sponsors

AKA Lakeside
Accurate Air Solutions
Bauer Welding
Broadway in Stanley
Burly N' Bucks
Cal's Rock Dam Resort
Chwala's Construction
Dallman Insurance Agency
E & M Technologies
Excel Plumbing
The Gravrock Family
Virginia & Kevin Hendricks
The Jayne, Kolbeck and
Thomsen Families
The McGovern Family
Northwestern Bank
Greg & Linda Pittz and Family
The Raese Family
Rhom Construction
Rock Dam Rod and Gun Club
Shoe's Place
Stanley Tire
Sun-Up Saloon
The Thorp Courier and Shopper
Tieman Realty
The Tiry Family
Rob & Cathie Walker
Wellner Arboriculture

Thank You!!!!

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Newsletter Sponsors

**Woodland Storage
Joe's Refrigeration**

Know Your Wildfire Risks
Debris burning safety tips

Safest	Caution	Avoid	Watch
time to burn <small>No DNR burn permits required when ground is fully snow covered.</small>	Snow must remain for entire burn <small>DNR burn permits may be required.</small>	burning in spring <small>DNR burn permits required, fire danger changes daily.</small>	for dry conditions <small>Critical fire danger subsides as vegetation fully greens.</small>



These are general guidelines. For the most current fire situation and permit requirements, visit dnr.wi.gov, search "fire"

PREVENT A WILDFIRE

 Nearly 1/3 of all wildfires in Wisconsin are caused by debris burning in spring

 Over 70% of debris burning wildfires are caused by people who did NOT get a burn permit

 Get a DNR burn permit — it's free, easy and the responsible thing to do

dnr.wi.gov, keyword "fire"



Please make sure to keep your membership to the Lake Association current in order to continue to receive the Newsletter! Annual membership expires Labor Day each year.

Rock Dam Lake Association

Annual Dues \$20.00

Year 20__

Mailing Address Newsletter: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Additional Information *(Lake address, donation to fireworks, etc.):*

Mail to: RDLA
P.O. Box 24
Willard, WI 54493

Received by: _____

Thanks For Your Support