

2017 — \$13,481, per past reporting.

Vos made several domestic trips, including

gifts" section, which must be listed if the value is more than \$50.

Those three weren't the

Foundation for Government Accountability-sponsored seminar in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., "focused on the

government and politics, and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

In my opinion

Working to slow water, silt runoff to the lake

By Mary Pat O'Connor
CONTRIBUTOR

The Delavan Lake Improvement Association, Walworth County Conservation and private lakefront property owner are working together to slow water and silt runoff from upland farms to the lake.

The DLLA is an organization that advocates for clean water quality in Delavan Lake. Our lake is challenged due to the enormous size (over 24,000 acres) of the watershed and abundant cropland within its boundaries.

On July 12, 2017, Walworth County experienced multiple rounds of rain and flash flooding causing Delavan Lake to receive major amounts of sediment runoff. Property owners, Jay and Cindy Longbottom, who live on South Shore Drive, witnessed this runoff and were aware of the considerable sediment that enters the lake during lesser storms.

Because Jay experienced the consequences of runoff, including eutrophication, on a lake in Minnesota during his youth, he recognized the risks for Delavan Lake and began taking steps to

investigate.

"I learned about efforts to manage the Delavan Lake watershed and reduce damaging runoff through the DLIA and was pleased to hear that Walworth County was taking an active role in this effort," according to Longbottom.

The DLIA partners with Brian Smetana of the Walworth County Conservation Department to identify farmers willing to establish cover crop, buffers and water control basins to help reduce cropland runoff. In this case, Brian's task was to educate and convince the property owner and the operator of the farmland directly east of South Shore Drive to work with us developing a system to reduce sediment released from this spot.

Shortly thereafter, a meeting took place at the Walworth County office to discuss a project on private property directly east of South Shore Drive off County F. Brian developed a plan which consisted of the construction of a water control basin, waterway and a separate pond.

In addition, the property owner agreed to allow a

buffer around the basins for native plants including pollinators. This project was funded by private & public funds and individual contributions with no cost to the landowner who allowed the construction of these water control practices on their land.

After completion of the project, Mr. Longbottom noticed the improvement.

"The benefits of the work were immediately visible, and I hope more projects like this can be completed as they will definitely protect landowners' property from run-off damage and improve the lake water quality," he said.

This is one of the largest and most successful watershed projects the DLIA has participated in since starting its partnership with Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management Department.

As we continue to experience heavy rains and challenging weather conditions it becomes more important than ever to maintain a balance between soil and water. The DLIA is committed to finding new and improved ways to control sediment carrying

phosphorous into Delavan Lake.

If you notice a runoff situation in your neighborhood, please feel free to contact the Delavan Lake Improvement Association to see if we can help.

Together we can improve and maintain a clean, healthy and prosperous lake.

Mary Pat O'Connor is the president of the Delavan Lake Improvement Association. The DLIA is entirely funded by membership and donations from the public and is a 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization. For more information visit the website at www.delavan-lake.org.

Local doctor dies of heart attack

Scott Beatse was competing in triathlon

Dr. Scott Beatse, a longtime obstetrician and gynecologist at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center in Elkhorn, died Sunday morning of an apparent heart attack during a triathlon.

"I never thought I would post something like this. Scott Beatse the love of my life passed away this morning," his wife, Marsha, stated in a post on Facebook Sunday evening.

She included a photograph of her husband that she had taken that morning.

"I took this picture of him just before he got in the water; he was doing a triathlon... had a heart attack and died," Marsha Beatse wrote.

"I am numb right now; so devastating... everyone loved him," she added.

Word spread quickly and by late Sunday night, people who had worked with Dr. Beatse to the mothers of children he delivered — were sharing their disbelief and grief on Facebook and other social media platforms.

A complete story about Dr. Beatse will appear in next week's edition.

Letter to the editor

Memorial Day meaningful thanks to many

On behalf of Delavan's American Legion Post Commander and Master of Ceremonies, LTC John Loomer, as well as Memorial Day Chairman Len Hahn, we would like to thank all who made Memorial Day 2019 a very successful event.

The weather was perfect for a parade, rain threatened but held off until after the

parade and ceremonies.

We would like to give special thanks to the Delavan-Darien High School Band and their director Nick Stark, along with buglers Erik Penniman and Myles Lockhart.

Our guest speaker State Senator Stephan Nass did an excellent job as he honored those who gave their lives for our liberties and freedom.

We also would like to thank our Auxiliary Vice

President, Connie Lindloff and Emma Nieuwenhuis, our Poppy Princess, as they honored each veteran that was called to their eternal rest this year.

We would also like to thank Rev. Micah Schlobohm from Delavan's UCC Church, for the invocation of our ceremonies as well as De Drymalski who signed for the deaf.

See THANKS, Page 9

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Delavan Enterprise

CIRCA Summer/Fall 2018

Jackson Creek Preserve crucial

By Mary Pat O'Connor
CONTRIBUTOR

You may have seen the stream that flows under the Highway 67 bridge just south of I-43 in Elkhorn. This stream is Jackson Creek and can be seen from the bridge snaking through the tall grasses surrounding the creek.

The Jackson Creek watershed is an environmentally sensitive area and is vital to Delavan Lake health. The creek meanders from the upland agricultural areas through the wetlands finally making its way to the Delavan Lake Inlet.

In 2003, a 34-acre preserve was established and donated by Mel & Connie Helms to the Land Trust of Walworth County. Six years later the land trust merged into the Kettle Moraine Land Trust who has since been managing the preserve for plant and animal diversity.

In the mid 1800's as development entered the Elkhorn area, the Oak Savanna, wetland and prairie surrounding Jackson Creek were quickly developed into farmland. The soils were so productive it led to trees cleared and wetlands destroyed for the purpose of farming.

Today, we know these practices negatively impacted the water quality and wildlife in the system. With the help of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Kettle Moraine Land Trust, the Jackson Creek watershed is currently a healthy preserve containing native plant species and habitat for aquatic life, insect species, butterflies and other pollinators.

In 2017, a Jackson Creek Watershed Protection Plan was created by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for communities in the area to work together

toward a common mission of preventing resource degradation. Protection from human impact and water pollution is crucial for the resources of the Jackson Creek and Delavan Lake.

Today, the Preserve is maintained by Kettle Moraine Land Trust and species diversity is monitored by the DNR. In addition, the Rock River Coalition provides volunteer stream monitors who conduct monthly citizen science testing in two locations on Jackson Creek.

Like the Delavan Lake watershed, Jackson Creek has a constant battle with sediment runoff from agricultural land.

To counter this the Delavan Lake Improvement Association continues to grow its relationship with farmers in the watershed to develop best management practices, which promote soil health.

The DLIA's mission is to help educate farmers to utilize more cover crop options to keep fields covered all year eliminating soil loss and erosion.

Everything that runs off the farms upstream eventually ends up in Jackson Creek.

The Preserve then has the job of filtering the sediment through the wetlands lowering the amount of nutrients making their way to Delavan Lake. The health of this system in the Jackson Creek preserve is crucial to the water quality of Delavan Lake.

The DLIA is committed to advocating for best management practices throughout our watershed that support the maintenance of this sensitive system.

To learn more about this area and how you can support the Delavan Lake Improvement Association visit delavan-lake.org. A copy of the Jackson Creek Protection Plan can be found on the website.

Mary Pat O'Connor is president of the Delavan Lake Improvement Association.

Delavan
Enterprise
Nov 7, 2019



a win

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According to the Office
the United States Trade
representative's website, one
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pen U.S. access to Canada's
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tates." Restrictions on most
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urrent standards.

The Capitol Report is
ritten by editorial staff
t WisPolitics.com, a
onpartisan, Madison-based
ews service that specializes
n coverage of government and
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MNA members.

Delavan Enterprise
8/15/2019

In my opinion Groups provide education to expand cover crop

By Mary Pat O'Connor
CONTRIBUTOR

Why cover crop? What is it? You may have heard the term and may have some idea of the concept. Agricultural best management practices and procedures are expanding throughout Walworth County by farmers interested in reducing sediment runoff and improve soil health leading to greater profitability.

In 2016 the Town of Delavan and Walworth County sponsored and funded an engineering firm, Berrini & Associates, to conduct and submit an extensive review of the Delavan Lake watershed. The document produced is the Delavan Lake Watershed Implementation Plan. The purpose of the report is to identify agricultural management practices that can reduce soil erosion and nutrient load into the Lake, as well as other procedures that can be implemented to assist in lake water health.

One of the practices suggested and explained in the Watershed Plan is the use of cover crops. This is a practice where farmers plant a temporary cover, which provides protection for soil and improves soil conditions. In addition, it holds sediment in place avoiding runoff into water systems.

The Delavan Lake Improvement Association

can help spread the word. The DLJA currently supports up to eight farmers a year putting approximately 200 acres of land in cover crop, typically planted in the spring or fall.

This year the prolonged rain and flooding resulted in fields unplanted. While farmers are weighing out insurance options they can also consider a scientific approach to ensure long-term productivity. Planting a cover crop in this situation has the potential to capture applied nutrients, build organic matter, control weeds and erosion and to improve soil quality during the remainder of the season.

This year the DLJA is supporting an additional three farmers and 150 acres of cover crop on unplanted fields.

Currently, we enjoy the knowledge and excitement of Adam Lasch, an active farmer in the Delavan Lake watershed who consults farmers with soil health and land management practices. Lasch raises livestock and has seen positive results from implementing soil health principles on his own farm.

Education that asks for a change requires a shift in mindset. Lasch, Walworth County Conservation and the Delavan Lake Improvement Association are investigating

In my opinion

(Continued from page

adoption of cover crops and regenerative agriculture is the large knowledge gap that exists. It takes a completely different approach to implementing these practices from what is currently viewed as acceptable management. Having a peer group to discuss these new ideas and the inevitable challenges that appear, gives farmers more confidence to continue in the future," Lasch said.

Farmers groups have popped up all over the country; they provide collaboration on navigating ways through trial and error conversations, and discussion on overcoming barriers to successful integration of a new system.

Please do not hesitate to contact the DLJA or me directly to learn more. The Delavan Lake Watershed Implementation Plan can be found online at www.delavan-lake.org.

Mary Pat O'Connor is the president of the Delavan Lake Improvement Association, a not-for-profit organization. All of the farm programs are paid for by DLJA's member dues and donations.

on page 7)

tax was originally enacted in 1911, ninety cents out of each dollar collected were returned to local governments. Over time, state government began to use income tax revenue to fund its programs. Today, less than 5% of income tax dollars make it back to

March 12, 2020

In my opinion

DLIA supports new farmers group in county

By Mary Pat O'Connor
CONTRIBUTOR

One of the primary goals of the Delavan Lake Improvement Association is to slow down the runoff into the lake from surrounding farms. Slowing down runoff allows phosphorus-laden sediment to settle out, with less entering the lake.

Over the past several years the DLIA has financially supported farmers in establishing certain agricultural Best Management Practices that help accomplish that goal. Up to this point we have recruited seven to eight farmers who annually take small parcels of land out of production for cover crop or other BMPs that promote soil health.

In 2016, the Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection began a program that provides grants to groups of farmers willing to lead conservation efforts tailored to their watersheds. The program encourages innovative ideas for conservation, promotes locally led decision-making by producers and improves water quality and soil health.

In other parts of southeastern Wisconsin such as Racine and Ozaukee counties, farmers gather for periodic meetings to discuss what works and what doesn't as they learn about and implement grant eligible practices.

These groups act as an educational forum where farmers discuss among each other their difficulties and successes in dealing with challenging weather patterns. The intent is that participants will reach out to other farmers to help them adopt agricultural BMP's that are eligible for

DATCP grants. The grant money gives farmers the ability to try new practices and application methods with low risk.

Earlier this year a meeting was held at the Walworth County office to discuss the formation of a producer led group in the Delavan Lake watershed that would qualify for a DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant. Present at this meeting were representatives from the DLIA, Town of Delavan, Delavan Lake Sanitary District & Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management as well as six interested farmers.

The program requires at least five committed producers who are willing to support a platform for discussion and the sharing of ideas. We are excited to report that the commitment is established, and the application process has begun.

We thank the Walworth County representatives who agreed to prepare and submit the grant application. Groups can receive up to \$40,000 per year and are awarded on an annual basis.

The Delavan Lake Improvement Association will continue supporting farmers, participating in education programs and attending seminars and meetings that help us learn more about improving water quality and soil health. Working together in our watershed to slow down agricultural runoff remains the mission of the DLIA.

To learn more about the DATCP Water Protect Grants, visit our website at delavan-lake.org.

Mary Pat O'Connor is the president of the Delavan Lake Improvement Association.

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Charged with sex assault

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Fender ordered

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...exposing me the sport and I really love... being on the water with my friends," she said. "I started racing and after winning my first race, I discovered that I love competing and winning."

Her competitive drive and passion for



the Delavan Enterprise

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In my opinion

DLIA helps lake front property owners obtain grants

By Mary Pat O'Connor
CONTRIBUTOR

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a program called Healthy Lakes Grants, which awards lakeshore properties owners up to \$1,000 for each best practice installed at the waters' edge.

The most popular practice is native shoreline plants. For every 350 sq. ft. of contiguous area you can receive up to \$1,000 toward the restoration and planting of your shoreline. Grants are applied through the Delavan Lake Sanitary District. The District and the DLIA are working together to assist property owners with the process.

For the 2020 planting season 11 grants were awarded on Delavan Lake and we are now taking applications for 2021. Although the DLIA has promoted this program for several years, it is only now that we are seeing projects in action.

Jackson Park on North Shore Drive is a lake access community with 200 feet of shoreline. The Jackson Park homeowners were awarded three \$1,000 grants to restore their shoreline. The community worked together to obtain the grants, engage a landscaper familiar with lakeshore planting and begin the process of restoration

and planting. This project is ongoing, and the results of their work is contributing to shoreline beautification, creation of habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, as well as the control of erosion.

The neighboring community of Assembly Park is also currently engaged in the same practice restoring an additional 200 ft. of shoreline. That group was also awarded three \$1,000 grants. The entire project will create 400 feet of contiguous shoreline featuring native plants on the north side of Delavan Lake.

This valuable program works in conjunction with the other goals of the DLIA in the lake watershed. This includes working with farmers to install cover crop to slow agricultural sediment from seeping into the lake and partnering with the Town of Delavan and the Delavan Lake Sanitary District on projects such as the Mound Road Ponds dredging.

The DLIA is committed to help maintain the best water quality possible contributing to healthy fisheries, wildlife habitat and recreational activities.

The Healthy Lakes Grants offer opportunities for additional affordable and simple practices. These include the installation of fish sticks,

rain gardens, rock infiltration, and water diversion projects.

To learn more about how you can take advantage of the WDNR grants contact the DLIA at delavan-lake.org or the Delavan Lake Sanitary District. We have volunteers and staff to assist you in getting a project of your own started and implemented. The DLIA is here to advocate for maintaining this amazing resource we have in Delavan.

The lake contributes to the entire economy of Walworth County and its' health is of utmost importance to all property owners and visitors.

If you want to help the DLIA with their efforts and initiatives, feel free to donate or become a member. Visit delavan-lake.org to learn more.

Mary Pat O'Connor is president of the Delavan Lakes Improvement Association