



BELPOA Invites You to Join Us for the 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off!

This fundraising family event is an opportunity for the Bald Eagle Lake Community to raise extra funds for lake improvements. The Cook-Off takes place on **FEBRUARY 10th from Noon to 3pm**. There will be prizes auctioned off from local businesses and a chance to win the **50/50 raffle**. There is no entry fee to taste the chili *but donations are always accepted.*

Come join the crew on ice (or land) for a change of pace! Bring your family, bring your friends and taste some darn good chili!

Help us choose Bald Eagle Lake's Top Chef in 2024!

The event takes place on ice or land in front of the Boat Bar.

See You There!

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, February 10

CHILI COOK-OFF

Noon - 3 PM



Saturday, May 18

BELPOA Annual Meeting

When: 10:00 AM

Where: OLD TOWN HALL

Thursday, July 4

4th of July Boat Parade

Begins @ Noon



Thursday, July 4

EIPA Kids Day @

Dunwoodie Beach Following Parade

Saturday, August 24

Venetian Cruise @ Dusk



Bald Eagle Lake's **NO-WAKE TIMES**

BEFORE 10:00 am
All WC's

AFTER SUNSET
PWC's

ONE HOUR AFTER SUNSET
All WC's

Bald Eagle Lake's
NO-WAKE policies are in effect
EVERYDAY to give fishermen
and residents quiet time.
It also helps the lake by
giving it a rest.

***Sunset is determined by the
National Weather Service.*



**Bald Eagle Lake
(MICHIGAN) Community**



www.BELPOA.com



NewsFromBELPOA@gmail.com

Lake Communication

It is BELPOA's priority to ensure that our residents are getting the most current and up to date communication about lake happenings. In the past, this communication has come to our members in the form of paper newsletters three times per year. More recently, we have started sending out email communication as well as posting to the group Facebook page. Moving forward, BELPOA plans to initiate more virtual communication and less costly paper newsletters. Beginning in 2024, lake residents will only receive one annual paper newsletter at the beginning of each calendar year as well as a postcard reminder to pay dues in the month of April. All other communication will be in digital form.

We apologize if this causes an inconvenience for any of our members. We also encourage you to join the group Facebook page: *Bald Eagle Lake (Michigan) Community*. Last, if you have not been receiving emails from the board, please reach out and let us know!

As always, looking forward to another great year! Can't wait to see or hear from you in 2024!

- Your BELPOA Board



4th of July Boat Parade 2024

This year's annual 4th of July Boat Parade will be held on
Thursday, July 4th @ NOON

Can You Sing?

BELPOA is looking for someone to sing the National Anthem on the 4th of July in combination with the parade. If you or you know someone that would be interested in the gig, please let us know!

Parade Registration

Registration is FREE and you may begin entering your boat on June 15, 2024. More details about registration to come.



A New Year, A New Season!

As we ring in the beginning of another New Year, along comes with it an upcoming season of fun in the sun, fishing while the sun rises, boat rides under the stars, kayak rides before bed, get together with family & friends and all of the other memorable moments in between. With all of this being said, BELPOA wants to remind you to:

Boat Safely,
Be Friendly,
TRUST YOUR NEIGHBOR,
Respect the Water,
- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY -
ENJOY 2024!



BELPOA 2023 Income/Expenses

Checkbook Beginning Balance	\$	7,944
2023 Income		
Dues/ Launch Fees	\$	4,730
Donations	\$	2,803
Other	\$	516
Total Income	\$	8,049
2023 Expenses		
Events (Movie Night, Boat Parade, Chili Cook-Off)	\$	2,429
Newsletter Printing/Postage	\$	1,586
Boat Launch	\$	750
Donations (Fireworks, Picnic)	\$	750
Insurance	\$	475
Other	\$	316
Total Expense	\$	6,306
Checkbook Balance 12/31/23	\$	9,688



BOATER SAFETY

Who Needs a Boater License in Michigan?

Any motorized boat operator born after

June 30, 1998

is required by law to pass a boater safety course and carry a boater education card.

To register for a class, visit:

www.boatEd.com

www.BELPOA.com

To Stock or Not Stock the Lake with Fish..... *this is the question!*

Last year, there was a poll sent out to the lake community in regards to what the Chili Cook-Off donations should be applied towards. The residents spoke, and the majority voted towards stocking the lake with fish. There is no doubt that this would be a Bald Eagle Lake Fisherman's dream and the board has not ruled the idea out. However, there were some concerns raised when the topic was brought to the table and therefore the matter is still being explored.

It has been many years since the lake has been stocked. The question is, why did BELPOA discontinue this practice? Board members from years past have been questioned and it appears the decision was based on a combination of factors. First, there was a fear that bringing in the fish could present new diseases to our established ecosystem, causing unnecessary harm to the existing wildlife. Also, there was an issue with the expense of the project. Stocking the lake with native species of fry was costly. Not only was there an expense, it seemed that the fish that were brought in died off rather quickly. In short, was it worth the money when the fish did not survive anyway?

Since this time, there have been regulations by the DNR regarding fry, so the probability of spreading disease is low. However, the expense of the fish is still high, which leads to the real conundrum. We have raised the funds to stock the lake, but if we allocate those monies to this project, is it a proper use of funds for species of fish that will not survive?

At this time, more research needs to be performed. BELPOA knows there is a demand and would like to fulfill the community's request of catching a larger variety of fish. We ask our Fishermen to work with us! Come to the annual meeting and let's dig into the topic further! Help us explore why our private biome cannot support the survival of the fish that once flourished here.

The idea of stocking the lake is not a dead topic. Rather, it is a concept that can be put into action under the right circumstances!

Bald Eagle Lake's Most Popular Fish Species

Large Mouth Bass



Small Mouth Bass



Northern Pike



Bluegill



Improving Bald Eagle Lake Health in 2024



IF IT GREENS YOUR LAWN, IT GREENS THE LAKE!

Fertilizers are fabulous for a lush green healthy lawn, but guess what happens when those fertilizers come into contact with algae and lake weeds? That's right, increased population and growth! To reduce the quantity of the aquatic plants that create a nuisance this season, limited to no use of lawn fertilizers would be a big help!

NATURAL LAKE BARRIERS RATHER THAN SEAWALLS

Natural lake barriers have been proven to protect against erosion as well as improve lake quality. The native plants and rocks help filter runoff from the land. This helps to reduce the amount of pollutants that spill over into the water. They also provide a habitat for a greater amount of organisms than other aquatic zones. These habitats are an essential part of the life cycle for many of Michigan's fish and wildlife. The

features of a natural shoreline improve the ecosystem of the lake as well as the quality of water!

So, if you are thinking of making an upgrade to your shoreline, it is encouraged to explore the possibility of including a natural barrier when possible to prevent erosion.

If you need help with your updated shoreline project, The Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) is a great resource. They are always willing to work with the public as they promote environmentally friendly approaches to enhance inland lake health.

Another Great Resource:
www.shorelinepartnership.org

INCREASE THE WATER CIRCULATION WHERE WATERS ARE MOST STAGNANT

Areas of the lake that breed excessive amounts of pesky plant life and organic matter are those

that are most stagnant. For our lake, these areas are mostly found surrounding the island and/or areas of no wake and throughout the canals.

Fortunately, there are more ways than one that all waterfront property owners can partake in to protect the lake, increase water flow and decrease the growth of unwanted plant life, *naturally!*

- Pick up your debris! Fallen trees and branches (*particularly in the canals*), reduce water flow both on a natural level as well as by inhibiting water flow via travel through the waterway. It is extremely important to remove fallen branches and trees from the water.
- Invest in an aerator or blower to increase circulation in areas that are stagnant if possible.
- Rake your leaves in the fall to prevent them from dropping in the lake. Less leaves, less muck!
- Treat high problem areas with natural herbicides BEFORE the growing gets good! Treatment is less effective and will require more applications if performed too late.
- Continued maintenance! Unfortunately, maintaining the lake is a job that will never end. Luckily, the effort is worth your while!

If you have interest in how you can improve lake circulation or are interested in improving lake health in general, please contact the board:

NewsFromBELPOA@gmail.com



**Matt Martin catches 33" Pike
September of 2023 - Bald Eagle Lake, MI**

*BELPOA Thanks You for
Your Donations!!!*



*Clair, James & Deborah
Barber, Terry & Pam
Herman, Tim & JoAnne
Boat Bar
Kiley, Brian & Helga
Short, Douglas
Kreston, Betsy*



Boat Launch Access 2024

Boating Season is Approaching Fast!

How to Access the Launch?

Contact a board member via phone call or text at least 24 hours in advance. This is the best way to ensure availability and avoid frustration. Board member contact information is located on the website under the "contact us" page

— Note to Members —

Please Pay Annual Dues By:

June 1st

A \$20 late fee will be applied to ramp access membership fee if dues are paid past June 15th

You Can Pay Dues By:

Check or Cash Payments

Please include the membership form included in this newsletter or download a copy from the website. Payments can be collected by a board member or mailed to:

PO BOX 275, Ortonville, MI 48462

Online Payments

Please visit our secure website: www.BELPOA.com to pay online with debit or credit card



Why Join BELPOA?

BELPOA is a non-profit, 100% volunteer organization of lake property owners and other supporters who are dedicated to protecting Bald Eagle Lake. We believe in educating the Lake community in the best ways to manage this unbelievable natural resource that is enjoyed by all of its residents!

By becoming a member of the Association, your annual dues will be used for a variety of expenses including:

- Regular and Professional Lab Testing of Bald Eagle Lake Water Quality.
- Regular Association Newsletters, Mailings and Messages to Keep You Up-To-Date on Current Events on Bald Eagle Lake.
- Organizing and Planning Social Events on Bald Eagle Lake.
- Community & Environmental Projects to Protect and Promote Bald Eagle Lake.
- Boat Launch Lease - Maintenance and Access Control.



BELPOA Membership Dues

2024

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Is it ok to text? YES NO

Email Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Permanent Mailing Address (If Applicable): _____

****PLEASE ****

Fill out this form in it's entirety so we can update our records accordingly.

Thank You!

Mail Payment To:

(Please Make Checks Payable to BELPOA and Include This Form)

**BELPOA
P.O. Box 275
Ortonville, MI 48462**

To Pay Online Visit:

www.BELPOA.com

Family Membership Dues

\$25 Senior Membership _____

\$35 Regular Membership _____

\$45 Senior Membership + Ramp _____

\$55 Regular Membership + Ramp _____

Donations to BELPOA _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____



BELPOA

Board of Directors

BELPOA subscribers are welcome to contact any member of the board to gain access to the launch. **PLEASE make arrangements at least 24 hours in advance for everyone's convenience.**

HEATHER ADAMKIEWICZ

President
248-885-2419
Weekdays: 9am-4pm
Weekends: 10am-2pm

JAMES COWELL

Vice President
224-944-1494
Weekends: Anytime

BARB DUVAL

Treasurer
586-864-0099
Weekends: Anytime

KRISTIN WENGREN

Secretary
586-481-1434
Weekdays: 9am-5pm

LUKE BAUSS

248-210-3753
Weekdays: 5pm-10pm
Weekends: 9am-5pm

MIKE BEMIS

248-520-6246
Weekdays: 5pm-10pm
Weekends: 9am-5pm

TONY DEL DUCCO

248-942-3932
Weekdays 5pm-10pm
Weekends 9am-5pm

JOHN HAGAR

LAURA KUHTA
248-342-7909
Weekdays: 5am-9pm

For the best response, please contact board members during the times listed. Thank You!!!!



For current BELPOA news and updates on events, join the FaceBook Page! Bald Eagle Lake (MICHIGAN) Community

BELPOA
P.O. BOX 275
ORTONVILLE, MI 48462

3RD ANNUAL
BALD EAGLE LAKE
CHILI
COOK * OFF
2024



I WANT YOU
TO ENTER
THE CHILI COOK-OFF

February 10, 2024
Noon to 3pm
www.BELPOA.com