

Lake Doster Lake Association

<https://www.lakedosterlakeassoc.org/> E-mail: ldla@lakedoster.net

Happy Summer!

Here we are in summer. Beautiful sunny days, great temps, and the lake. What could be better?

In this issue we cover a wide range of topics from talk about the weeds in the lake, beach rules, RCA (a regular topic), safety (another oldie but goodie), dam management, and volunteerism. We also have an opportunity for companies that would like to advertise in the newsletter, see the last page. Please take the time to read the newsletter and let us know if you have any comments or concerns. The LDLA Board meets monthly; the meeting time/date is posted on the LDLA calendar shortly after the current month meeting. Members are welcome to attend the meeting and there is an open session during which the member can address the board.

Lake Management 101

The primary focus of management on Lake Doster has been the control of exotic and invasive weed species. In particular, Eurasian watermilfoil, Curlyleaf pondweed and Starry stonewort. These species are not naturally occurring in North America and tend to cause a recreational nuisance if left unchecked.



Upcoming Events

August 9

LDLA Board Monthly Meeting

August 23

Recycle Pick-up

LDLA Board of Directors

President: Mark Reed

Vice President: Rich Anderson

Treasurer: Christine Black

Secretary: Mary Elegert

Director: Jeremy Perkins

Director: Jim Giffels

Director: Phil Vannest



Eurasian watermilfoil management for 2023 has largely been spot treatments. Herbicide is applied to specific areas where this species is found. It tends to be most concentrated in the bays but can be found sporadically in the open lake. Spot treatments have occurred both 5/16/23 and 6/13/23. Regrowth can occur at various times of the year so we anticipate that additional treatment may be required later in the season.

Curlyleaf pondweed was present in the spring and certain areas of Lake Doster. Compared to 10



years ago, there appears to be significantly less. This species germinates in the late fall from seed like structures called turions. It will become a nuisance in the late spring/early summer if left untreated. Fortunately, it only has one growth cycle per year and will likely not be seen until the spring of 2024.



Starry stonewort is a more recent introduction to Lake Doster (within the last ~6-7 years). It is very similar to Chara which has historically been the dominant bottom cover of the lake. Unlike chara which only grows 4-7 inches thick, Starry stonewort can grow 2-4 feet thick. Although it looks like a plant, it is actually a macro algae. Most herbicides are ineffective for Starry stonewort and algaecides are the primary management option. Treatments will not eliminate it but rather control its stature and reduce nuisance conditions. This species usually starts in early June. Unfortunately, recent changes in EGLE permitting

allowances has created some hurdles in managing this species. The products needed to treat this species are not allowed in May and June and therefore it can get a jump start before we are able to treat it. It was treated on July 13 and will be treated as needed every 2-3 weeks until it is under control.

Prevention is important for keeping other exotic species out of Lake Doster. The only exotic/invasive species that is not in the lake is Cabomba. Many of the lakes in the Delton area have gotten this species so please be cautious of bringing boats to other lakes as well as letting boats on. Water quality has been monitored over the past several years. The water quality results are on the Lake Doster Lake Association website. All parameters look good. Ecoli has been sampled in 2023 and we have not detected any high readings. Additional samples have been collected on 7/13/23. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the management of our lake, please e-mail ldla@lakedoster.net.

What's an RCA?

Like it or not, you live in a community with rules and one of the main conduits for enforcement is the BCC (Building Control Committee). This seven-member team works hard to keep our neighborhood safe and aesthetically pleasing. Every month they respond to a dozen or more RCAs (**Restriction Compliance Applications**) regarding changes members want to make on their property, including their lakefront - which is technically LDLA property. Each year over 95% of RCAs are approved; yet some members refrain from the RCA process, either out of ignorance or disregard. Just in the past month the BCC discovered that one member cut down a very large tree and three members installed muck blasters or bubblers at their lakefront without submitting an RCA. There have also been numerous dock formation changes since last boating season that were done without an RCA. If you're cutting down a tree in excess of 12" in diameter, you must fill out an RCA. Changing the configuration of your dock, an RCA is required. And anytime you're installing anything electrical at the lakefront (even low voltage) an RCA is required and the work must be done by, or inspected by, a licensed electrician. RCAs are available at www.lakedosterlakeassoc.org. That's also where you can read all the Bylaws, rules, and restrictions you agreed to when you bought your home at beautiful Lake Doster.

YOUR Community Needs YOU

Got a year – or even a few short months? You are invited to join an LDLA committee. Members who serve on committees are critical in helping our community remain a terrific place for you and your family to live and play. Joining a committee is also a great way to connect with your neighbors. If you would like to volunteer a little of your time, there are multiple committees that could use your assistance.

- Lake Enhancement Committee
- Lake Management/Water Quality Committee
- Land Use Committee
- Goose Control Committee
- Main Beach Committee
- New Member Committee

If you'd prefer a very short-term commitment, consider being on a new ad-hoc committee the board would like to form regarding Beach And Lake Safety – BALS. Facebook users have likely seen posts about non-members being at the beach and fishing in the lake. Our BALS committee will meet several times over the next few months to help the board better understand the scope of issues at the beach and on the lake and how best to manage and ultimately solve them. For information on joining this or any of the above committees, please e-mail ldla@lakedoster.net.

Our Beach Rules!



Yes, our beach does rule and next time you're there, take a look at our new sign. We tried to make it clearer that guests must be accompanied by a member. Having permission from a member or even a member's phone number doesn't give a non-member access to our beautiful lake or beach. **YOUR GUEST(S) NEED TO BE WITH YOU.** Thanks!

“Safety Never Takes a Holiday” (Paul Blart – Mall Cop)

As summer is in full swing, boat traffic and lake usage have spiked to new levels. Would you believe so have the LDLA Board's email, text and phone calls making us aware of lake rules violations which are creating safety concerns for all lake users? So, how do we keep our lake safe and fun for everyone? Remembering and abiding by the following will help:

- 1) From 8:30 PM to 8:30 AM Lake Doster is a no-wake lake. This does not mean small wake; it means NO WAKE. There are kayakers and stand up paddleboarders who get tossed around, and sometimes capsized, by wakes, even smaller wakes. This is a dangerous problem and the

window for people, especially our children to use the lake wake free is minimal. Obviously, there is no recreational towing during these hours.

- 2) Swimmers: you have the right of way. However, it is highly recommended that you swim in the coves or certainly outside of the main channel where boat traffic is heavily concentrated. Outside of the beach ropes, and your beach/dock area, you must have a boat always accompany you when swimming. Floatable swim mats are great for hanging out, but do not anchor your boat for swimming outside of a bay as it restricts the use of the lake for power boaters, tubers, and skiers. Boats have been observed surrounded by swimmers but not anchored and drifting about, including in the main channel. Boats driving around their swimmers and leaving their swimmers altogether has also been reported. This is very dangerous for the swimmers and other boaters.
- 3) Non-power boats (canoes, kayaks, and paddle boats) have the right of way over power boats. However, see #2. It is advisable to stay out of the main channels where skiers and power boaters traffic.
- 4) Counter-clockwise usage of the lake for all power boaters is required. Numerous violations and safety concerns have been reported and observed again this year. We have had multiple near misses (inches in some cases) and if we all do not do our part it is only a matter of time before someone is injured or worse.

Please abide by these rules to avoid injury and harm while enjoying our beautiful lake. Violators can be fined and (potentially) lose lake privileges for continued violations.

A Dam Nuisance

Lake Doster was created by the damming of the south fork of the Silver Creek in the early 1960's. Our earthen dam retains the water creating our beautiful, spring fed 142 acre lake.

The dam gets fully inspected by a licensed engineering firm every three years. This inspection is critical in the LDLA obtaining liability insurance coverage. Continued dam health is necessary for all of us. No dam means no lake!

Our most recent inspection this spring was excellent. We are lucky to have Lake Manager Dennis Erickson proactively managing vegetation and trimming/removing problem trees. The inspectors made that clear in their report and when they met with board members during the inspection.

The inspection did point to some issues that the Board is attempting to address. One is muskrats. These semiaquatic rodents are an important part of the lake's ecosystem, however, they can easily become a nuisance.



These critters are primarily nocturnal and spend much of their time under water and in dens which are only accessible through the water. Unfortunately, they love the sandy soil that is full of mussels and clams along the dam. This is their favorite food and it is in abundance. Our contractor noted large piles of mussels and clam shells and well-worn paths along that shore which were clear signs of heavy muskrat populations.

The dens they dig under the sand tend to speed along erosion and we do not want erosion along the dam. Enter Pest Pros, our exterminator of choice to help solve our problem. They have set up colony traps, or floating traps, along the shoreline to catch these critters. These traps are hardly noticeable and should not affect any lake usage such as boating, swimming or fishing. In the first week five muskrats were eliminated from the dam.

The LDLA will continue to monitor the situation and take further steps, if necessary, to avoid any erosion issues along the dam. We will also report to LDLA members on our progress in controlling the muskrat population along the dam. In the meantime, **PLEASE DO NOT TAMPER WITH THE TRAPS.**

Community Marketing

TURNING YOUR NEIGHBORS INTO YOUR BEST CUSTOMERS

Get your business in front of members of the Lake Doster Lake Association by advertising in the LDLA eNewsletter!

\$125 Half page ad

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