

Lake Doster Lake Association

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

President's Corner

Are you passionate about the Lake Doster community and ready to make a difference? The LDLA is always seeking dedicated individuals to join our Board of Directors for the upcoming term in the Spring of 2025. As a member of the LDLA, your involvement is essential in maintaining the vibrant and thriving community we all cherish.

Volunteering your time and expertise to the LDLA is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the well-being of our lake. We encourage all members to consider running for a board position. Your unique perspectives and skills will be invaluable as we work together to preserve the beauty and quality of life Lake Doster offers. Additionally, we are always seeking volunteers for various committees. If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to any current LDLA Board Member.

Your LDLA Board of Directors

President: Rich Vanslambrouck
(rich.vanslambrouck@charter.net/248.885.3931)

Vice-President: Rich Anderson
(missionrich@live.com /269.548.7700)

Treasurer: Joanna Gatehouse
(lakedostertreasurer@gmail.com/575.420.1600)

Secretary: April Carmody
(acarm12960@gmail.com/269.873.8793)

Director: Jeremy McKenney
(jmckenney@mcm-team.com/765.639.9803)

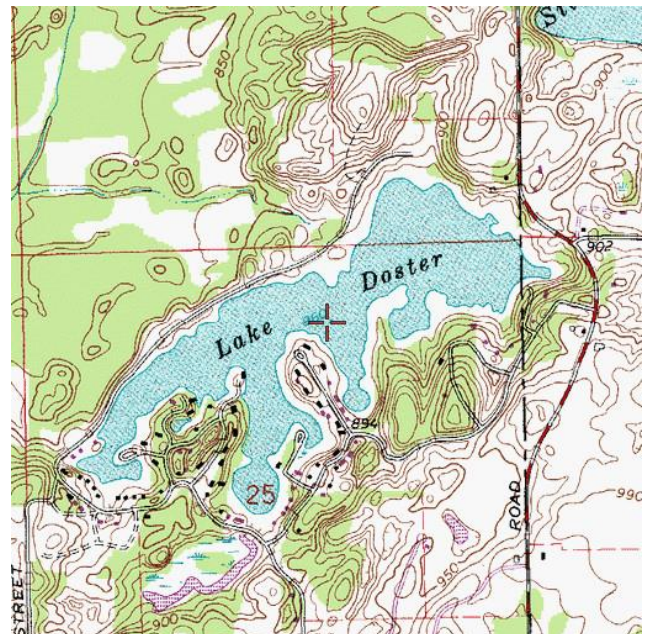
Director: Jason Zuziak
(jasonzuziak@gmail.com/269.615.5280)

Director: Rod Rieth
(riethcpa@btc-bci.com/269.383.1980)

Inside This Issue

Meet new neighbors, get a financial update, consider joining a committee, make way for new resident perch, understand more about our enhanced boat ramp, and learn our rules about signs as political placards pop up around the neighborhood like dandelions in the Spring.

As always, the LDLA Board not only wants to keep you informed but wants to know what's on your mind. Please contact any Board member directly or e-mail us collectively with questions or comments at ldla@lakedoster.net.



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FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Enhanced Boat Launch

The Boat Launch repairs have been completed and the results are marvelous! During an inspection in the Fall of 2023, it was noticed that the ramp had been significantly eroded by boats powering on and off trailers and failure was imminent. Over the past year there has been an investment of both time and money to repair and improve our ramp. The result includes six additional feet of ramp and a much better angle for both launching and loading your boat. These changes have optimized the available depth of our lake, and the ramp is now as good as it can ever be.

To prevent future damage to our ramp and make loading and unloading easier, trailers can now be backed further into the lake. This should allow all boats to be floated on and off trailers. The method of using the boat's engine to load and unload is strongly discouraged to prevent future erosion and costly repairs. This repair cost \$34,000 and hundreds of man-hours mainly from Dave DeYoung, Tom Bennick, and Paul Sullivan. Thanks guys!! Another new feature of our launch is the installation of steel structure surrounding the 3 deepest sections of the ramp to help with erosion, plus a safety bar to assist in preventing trailer tires from backing over the end of the ramp. This safety feature protects trailer axles and prevents vehicles from coming out of park and sliding into the lake. A temporary pole has been installed to mark the end of the ramp to keep users from backing hard into the safety bar. Please remember when using the ramp that it is now a little different. So, proceed with caution and be sure to trim your motor up to avoid hitting the added safety bar.

The LDLA is not responsible for any damage caused using our Association launch. And when leaving, please lock the gate.

Thanks!

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F A L L 2024 NEWSLETTER

Here Come the Perch!

We have recently been in contact with the fishery owner who will be supplying the yellow perch for The Lois Kitzmiller-Ulery Memorial Perch Restocking Program. The target delivery date is November 10, 2024, and will include approximately 900 perch. The delivery is still a little flexible as water temperature is critical so that transfer shock is eliminated or significantly minimized.

It is our intent to introduce perch in three separate locations on the west/northwest side of the lake in areas where there is an abundance of weed cover for initial protection of these 4" to 5" fish. The second transfer of 900 additional fish on the south/southeast side of the lake will occur in the Spring of 2025, again when water temperature permits.

So that residents can plan to observe the perch being stocked in our lake, we will keep you updated as to the actual transfer date as soon as we are advised. We welcome and encourage Member participation. A special thanks to all residents who donated to make this restocking program possible.



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FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Treasurer's Report

Insurance costs continue to be our biggest financial struggle as an association. We carry D&O insurance to protect the LDLA Board and BCC from potential litigation. We also carry liability insurance for the lake and dam. The D&O insurance was negatively impacted by a lawsuit from a member which went all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court. While the LDLA won the suit, we also lost due to significantly increased D&O insurance costs. In 2020 our liability insurance was \$6,297 and today is \$49,626, even with a greatly increased deductible. This insurance, which has proven hard to even get, has increased due to dam failures in mid-Michigan. Both insurances we carry are now offered by very few carriers, limiting our ability to shop around.

Insurance Costs	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Directors and Officers Policy (D&O)	15,540	15,540	15,540	14,490	13,200
	0.00%	0.00%	7.25%	9.77%	
General Liability	49,626	43,863	41,300	40,770	6,297
	13.14%	6.21%	1.30%	547.45%	

You may have noticed the work being done to the boat launch in previous weeks. We are happy to report that we came in \$5,100 under budget for the repair which cost \$34,000. While this repair is an actual to budget success, many other items have come in at or slightly above budget. Members should note that large repairs to infrastructure around the lake will need to be considered and could increase annual dues in coming years. Some good news for members to note is that our 2024 budgeted loss of \$25,986 has been decreased due to the savings mentioned above on the boat launch, from not adding additional beach sand this summer, and from a few other items.

Lake Doster Live

This past summer, the Lake Doster community came alive with two incredible nights of live music at the beach. On June 28, the talented Gregg Andres and Tracy Hageman kicked off the event with a lively performance, captivating the audience with music from multiple generations.



Then, on August 9, the Hershey Band took the stage, bringing their signature energy and timeless tunes to the all-ages crowd. Neighbors of all ages gathered to enjoy the warm summer evenings, with JG Electric generously providing the generator to keep the music flowing. It was a perfect blend of entertainment and community spirit, as families and friends celebrated together at this fun neighborhood event. If you want to get involved with next year's shows, please contact Laura Hosler at laura@greenstreetmkg.com. We are always looking for good band ideas.

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FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Lake Doster Beach? A sand-sational day!

Do you love spending sunny days with your feet in the sand? If you are interested in joining an ad hoc committee to tackle beach beautification, sand quality, improved parking safety with new posts and cables, possible new playground equipment, general upgrades, and more, please contact Jeremy Mckenney at 765 639 9803 or email him at jmckenney@mcm-team.com. Please note that some improvements might be beyond our budgeting ability and could only be made possible by donations.

The Lake Doster beach is a shared space for all members, and we all have a role in keeping it clean, safe, and enjoyable. This includes responsible disposal of trash and taking it with you if the trash receptacle is full, being observant if youngsters or guests move the raft, buoys, or ropes, and helping ensure they stay where they are supposed to be and/or are put back where they belong. And yes, it might even possibly mean helping keep the port-a-potty tidy in between it being serviced weekly.

Let's continue to work together to make our beach a fantastic gathering place for our entire community!



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FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



LDLA Neighborhood Yard Signs

We all have things happening in our lives, township, county, state and country – but we all differ in how we let others know about those things. If your house sits on a lot within the Lake Doster Lake Association boundaries, there are some limits to the signage you may have in your yard telling others about what’s happening around you and how you feel about it. If you want to post a sign in your yard, that sign may be no larger than six square feet (and you thought you’d never use what you learned in algebra) and may only be in place for five days – after the fifth day, it needs to come down. There are three exceptions: signs advertising your home is for sale, contractors’ signs while work is being done on your home, and political campaign signs during voting season. Once your home is off the market, your contractor has completed their job, or polls have closed, signs regarding those matters must be removed within 24 hours. If you want to promote your business, please use the internet or consider advertising in this newsletter. Commercial advertising signs are not allowed in your yard.

Smaller signs (no larger than the size of a sheet of standard notebook paper) may be used to inform others about handicap provisions, home security, the presence of your dangerous or overly friendly pet, or other things others may need to know for safety purposes – but that’s it. There are other limits for yard signs at the county level, but they are not as restrictive as those set forth in the LDLA Plat restrictions (noted above). Additional county restrictions regard placement of your yard sign – it must be at least twelve inches from the edge of your property, cannot obstruct the vision of a driver of a vehicle and may only be posted on property you own unless you have the permission of the property owner. Not overly tough or restrictive – thank you for abiding by these LDLA and County requirements.

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Welcome Newcomers!

A year ago, in our Fall newsletter, we introduced you to new LDLA neighbors who had moved here in the past year. We decided to do it again this Fall and would you believe that going back to last November 1, only five LDLA homes have traded owners? We reached out to all five new residents but only one submitted a picture and bio. Hence, we're unfortunately only able to introduce you to one new family but we're confident you'll enjoy getting to know them.



(In Katy Smyser's own words) We are Katy Smyser and V.J. McAleer – and our kids are daughter Ally; son Quinn and his wife Paige; daughter Mariel and her fiancé Brian, and our youngest daughter Shea. Also pictured are our family dogs Lou and Roger. We are thrilled to be new members of the Lake Doster community! When we were young married, V.J. and I had a small lake cottage on Baseline Lake south of Allegan but sold it soon after we started our family. We always missed having a lake house and feel so fortunate that we have now found this little slice of heaven in such a wonderful community.

V.J. and I are both television professionals. V.J. was head of all local production at WTTW-Chicago, Chicago's public television station, until his retirement eight years ago. I (Katy) am still working – heading up the investigative and consumer units for the NBC and Telemundo stations in Chicago. I now spend my work weeks in Evanston, Illinois, and take the train back and forth to Lake Doster to join V.J. for the weekends.

Our oldest daughter Ally lives with us. Our other kids live in downtown Chicago, Madison WI, and Minneapolis MN but they all look forward to many, many future family gatherings at the lake. We've so enjoyed meeting several of our neighbors and look forward to meeting more!