

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 21 MAY 2018

DUCK LAKE PENINSULAR SHORES ASSOCIATION (DLPSA)

P. O. Box 344, Grawn, Michigan 49637

We encourage every Peninsula property owner to be an active member of our Association.

Check out our new website at DLPSA.net, but also read "[New DLPSA Website](#)" below.

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Greetings to All

After 9 years and 18 newsletters, it never got easier to get out, but it was always rewarding. I appreciated all your comments, with an odd preference for the many positive ones.

- Paul Grunberger, editor

Current DLPSA Directors

Here is our current roster, reflecting the considerable changes at last September's Annual Meeting:

President: John Hubbard* (also Hospitality)
4280 East Shore Drive
231-276-3126 home, jhubbard45@charter.net

Vice President: Jeff Beaton
7858 North Shore Court
231/492-5449 home, jbeaton@wmsdist.com

Secretary: Cynthia Howard
(Chair, By-Laws committee)
3961 Central Park Drive
231-342-9764, cynthon@gmail.com

Treasurer: Charlotte Knoll*
3781 East Shore Drive
231-276-3116 home, char3781@gmail.com

Director: 'Ken'neth Chamberlain*
(Chair, Liaison & Website committees)
3970 Peninsular Shores Drive
517-881-5594, kenc@fnwusers.com

Director: Paul Grunberger*
(Newsletter & Historian)
3781 East Shore Drive
231-276-3116 home (preferred)
301-602-2734 cell, ducklakepaul@gmail.com

Director: 'Ken'neth Schonhoff
(Chair, Maintenance Committee)
3956 Peninsular Shores Drive
313-200-2132 cell, schonhoffken@gmail.com

The Directors marked with an asterisk (*) have terms ending in September 2018. More on that below.

Scheduled 2018 Events

The following events will occur in rain or shine. Contact a director if you need more information.

- **Install Tennis Net:** Already up! (Annually, as soon as we see persistent signs of spring, compliments of Kathy Pugh)
- **Peninsula Garage Sale:** Saturday, June 2, from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. DLPSA provides Record-Eagle ads (on June 1-2), an announcement sign at the culvert crossing, and direction signs from the main roads. You may choose to participate on your own property.
- **New Peninsula Keys Issued:**
 - a. **Sunday, June 3**, 10 am to 2 pm
 - b. **Saturday, June 9**, 10 am to 2 pmat the corner of Peninsula Shores Drive and East Shore Drive. Details below under [Peninsula Key Change](#)
- **Annual Picnic:** Saturday, July 21, from 3 to 9 PM in the DLPSA Park. This has been a community event open to all Peninsula residents and their guests, recently featuring free meat (pork and burgers), games and entertainment, with side dishes offered by attendees. It is held, by tradition, on the third Saturday in July.
- **Annual Meeting:** Sunday, September 9, from 3 to 5 PM (2-hr limit) in the DLPSA Park Pavilion.
- **Remove Boat Ramp Dock:** Nov. 1 ± 2 days
- **Remove Tennis Net:** Nov. 1 - 7

Available Board Positions

Note that four (4) Directors have terms expiring after this year's Annual Meeting, with at least one Director (your editor) stepping down. That means that at least one new Director is guaranteed.

Right now, we have an urgent need for a new Director who is qualified in writing. For example, if you think it might be fun to keep us all informed about all Peninsula happenings, you might enjoy volunteering to "be" the Newsletter Committee. You might like to know that your Board will give you considerable backing for whatever you have to say.

We are also approaching the time when we will need a trustworthy Director who is skilled in accounting and the design/use of Excel spreadsheets. Our Treasurer has placed her name on the ballot for this year for one final term, but only to facilitate the transition to a new Treasurer.

That said, if you would like your name placed on the ballot, simply notify the Secretary by e-mail or USPS mail prior to July 1 (as required by our current By-Laws) that you want your name on the ballot. You do not have to state your qualifications at that time, but you may, and the Board will be pleased to know what upcoming vacancy you have in mind.

Highlights of 2018 Spring Meeting

Attendance

Our May 6 meeting featured the animated participation by a total of 29 active members (including all 7 Directors*) who constitute 20 active member votes:

Jeff Beaton*, Kathy Bickel, Bev & Dan Bodary, Ellen & Dan Briggs, Ken Chamberlain*, Patti & Matt Comer, Alice & Jerry Deck, Tom Gray, Paul Grunberger* & Charlotte Knoll*, Cynthia Howard*, Scott Hocking, John Hubbard*, Wayne Lanckton, Frank & Carol McGregor, Ken Schonhoff*, Helen & John Tredway, Tom & Sue Villiere, Clair Washburn, Patrick & Leslie Witkop, and Janet Zerbel

We also had an informative talk by a guest speaker (see Duck Lake Level and Drainage below), and “public participation” by a new rental resident, Jenny Langham, who has provided us with the Guest Article for this edition.

End of FY 2018 Financial Report

The 2018 Spring General Meeting report reflects:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash Balance at Start (6-1-17) | \$ 3,811.93 |
| Total Income* | \$13,393.00 |
| Total Expenditures** | \$ 12,949.61 |
| Cash on Hand (a/o 4/23/18) | \$ 4,561.32 |
| DLPSA Fund Balances: | |
| Long Term Improvements | \$11,000.00 |
| Park Improvement *** | \$ 1,255.00 |

* Income: Dues payments to date reflect up-to-date payment on 187 lots (69%) and payments for 28 previous year dues. This was \$3,107 less than was budgeted.

** Expenditures: The budget for FY 2018 is \$16,816. Another \$250 of anticipated expenses before the FY ends will be included, resulting in a balanced budget. A detailed breakdown of expenses for the FY will be on the website.

The proposed budget for FY 2019 was accepted detailing anticipated income and expenses to occur in the range of \$16,500.

- Submitted by Charlotte Knoll, Treasurer

Duck Lake Level and Drainage

The rumor around the Peninsula for many years has been that the Duck Lake level is maintained at an elevation “established by law”. Actually, it is not quite as simple as that. The “normal” level of the lake was established not by law, but by a 1959 GT County Circuit court order. However, even if there were no other consideration than the convenience of Duck Lake riparians, the maintenance of that level would require close control of water flow at the Duck Lake dam, not to mention cooperation from the weather.

Today, we encounter considerations that may not have been important to either the Duck Lake riparians or GT County in 1959. Among these are preservation of wetlands, wildlife and down-stream shorelines, just to name a few.

Steve Largent, Drain Commissioner for GT County, was the invited speaker at the Spring General Meeting. He outlined the several competing considerations that he is asked to include in his decisions to pull and install boards at the dam. He answered numerous questions, but perhaps with answers different than expected. In response to this editor’s follow-up inquiry, Mr. Largent stated:

“Though it has yet to be officially incorporated into the court order, the MDEQ [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality] is requiring that we maintain at least 95% of the average flow in the stream when we put the boards in. They provided a chart to work from. Basically what it means is we can’t put all the boards in at once in the spring and drop the flow so drastically to the stream below that we impact the aquatic organisms. The court-ordered lake level is mandated by GT County Circuit Court. They’re also requiring temperature monitoring for 3 years. We put in the temperature logger in the spring and take it out when we pull the boards in the fall. They’re also requiring that we don’t put the boards in before April 15 and can’t pull them before October 15. Once again this isn’t official yet. Let me know if you have any other questions . . .”

So, it will be some time before we know whether it is even going to be possible (legally or politically) to maintain the Duck Lake level as closely as it was before.

If you would like to study additional details about this issue, here is a link to a recent draft of the petition for a revised circuit court order:

<https://www.grandtraverse.org/DocumentCenter/View/7113/Circuit-Court-Petition-2017>

That draft also includes a fascinating history of how the original 1959 court order came about. Also, here is a link to the recent level control study that guided this effort:

<https://www.grandtraverse.org/DocumentCenter/View/5425/A-Preliminary-Report-2015-Duck-Lake-Level-Control-Study-Revised-August-19-2015>

[Note: You may have to copy and paste https links into your browser.]

Dredging for the “Canal”

An owner who lives along the “canal” parallel to North Shore Court (officially, the Lagoon) informed us during the meeting that the Lagoon is now heavily filled with muck, and will soon prevent docking and passage of watercraft. He has obtained a dredging estimate of \$124k for the entire canal, which is reportedly a reasonable price, and the owner would be happy to pay his share if others would do the same.

There are 16 to 19 parcels along the canal (depending on how one counts) with property values that would be dramatically reduced if the Lagoon becomes unusable. But also, a healthy Lagoon enhances the value of all Peninsula properties with higher real estate values and access to fishing there along the shoreline.

For this kind of situation, it is usually most practical to secure a special property tax assessment apportioned among those who benefit. The Board has agreed that this is DLPSA business, to the extent that our Liaison will explore the assessment procedure with the Green Lake Township.

Dues Change for FY 2019

As stated in the 2017 Fall Newsletter, the dues for FY 2019 are:

- \$85 per year for a residence
- \$40 per year for a vacant parcel.

This is reflected in the bills that are being mailed now. Due to the very short time between this mailing and the Peninsula Key Change events (see below), you may wish to simply note the balance due and present it when you pick up the new key.

Peninsula Key Change

Please be ready to pick up your new Peninsula Keys on **either June 3 or June 9, 10 am - 2 pm**

The new keys will be distributed to active members at our drive-up station (corner of Peninsula Shores Drive and East Shore Drive). The locks will be re-keyed

on the same date as the first distribution date. As always, keys will be available from the Treasurer after the distribution dates. However, utilizing the distribution dates will be more convenient to both Treasurer and key seeker.

A numbered Peninsula Key is free to each active member, one for each parcel that he/she owns. **You may discard your current Peninsula Key**

Once you have your new key, we do want you to hold on to it. Ordinarily, it will be good for a few years, but if you need a replacement for any reason, your cost will be:

- \$40 (about ½ the annual residence dues) for the first replacement, and
- \$85 for each subsequent replacement

Our policy is designed to accommodate an honest loss while discouraging an owner who wants to expand the distribution of keys to non-members or inactive members.

New DLPSA Website

Our new website, DLPSA.net is up and running. However, it is still under construction with only a skeleton of the contents previously provided.

The new website will be key to operation under the new 2018 By-Laws after the Annual Meeting, and in fact will be needed even before that to enable your review of the proposed text of those By-Laws.

The good news is that the new website offers a huge increase in capacity, which will allow us to include additional information such as current DLPSA policies, including items such as dues, key charges, general regulations, and reserve procedures for the DLPSA Park.

For those who need to refer to the valuable base of historical documents that were on the old website, it is still up (for the moment) at:

<http://webpages.charter.net/dlpsa/>

Local Road Work Notice

The next phase of work is on Fall Road. Rieth-Riley Construction is scheduled to begin paving between mid-June and just after the fourth of July.

DLPSA Common Areas Update

Your Directors continue to stand by the findings of the Common Areas Survey Report, including the Proposed Guidelines, in the Fall 2016 newsletter.

However, a few of the adjacent property owners have voiced concerns about the corrective actions we have proposed. We recognize that each property owner has a situation that is unique in some way, so

we are working to accommodate those concerns in an equitable way to allow for completion of our plans.

Maintenance and Improvements

Completed Project

The first project of our newly constituted board was the previously approved trimming of brush at the accesses and parks. This work, headed up by Ken Schonhoff, included extensive cleanup at Accesses #3, #4, the Boat Ramp and the Central Park Drive walkway to the DLPSA Park. This received favorable comment at the Spring General Meeting.

Upcoming Projects

These are approved and budgeted projects to be completed within the year on a priority basis:

1. Power-wash tennis court with special equipment that does not damage the surface and painted lines.
2. Modify fencing at Access #2 to improve access for parking and recreation by members, with the current configuration at Access #3 as the model. Similar work is also being considered for Accesses #1 and #4.
3. Repaint panels under pavilion roof overhang, or add aluminum soffits & fascia to eliminate repainting.

Possible Future Projects

These are not yet budgeted for FY 2019, but members have already approved several to be completed on a priority basis:

- Replace pavilion roof covering when needed.
- Install concrete pads alongside and between the shuffleboard courts - to prevent dirt contamination on the bottom of the pucks.
- Install a working tennis net winch and cable to properly tension the net at center court.
- Install a new volleyball net with new support posts.
- Install a baseboard at the north end of the tennis court to stop balls before they go under the fence into the plantings

DLPSA Park Reservations for 2018

[Active members only. Contact a Director. \$25 refundable deposit.]

- May 27 Kathy Bickel, for Fabitz Fundraiser
- June 10 Bill Hubert
- June 28 Duck Lake Women's Potluck Luncheon, 12 – 2 pm

- June 30 Pomeroy Family
- July 21 Sponsors of the Annual Picnic
- July 26 Duck Lake Women's Potluck Luncheon, 12 – 2 pm
- Aug 11 Patrick Witkop
- Aug 23 Duck Lake Women's Potluck Luncheon, 12 – 2 pm

Newsletter Bulletin Board

[This section is available for your announcements. Please send your items to the newsletter editor.]

Revised By-Laws

We will be voting on a new version of the DLPSA By-Laws at this year's Annual Meeting.

The current By-Laws have been in place since 2004, during which time they have been antiquated by changes in customs and technology.

The changes for the 2018 version are to provide easier reference, to remove redundancies, to restore the alignment of the By-Laws with our current policies, provide tighter accounting practices, and to create a better record of transactions.

Here is a quick guide to what is changed:

Scope: New section defining what the By-Laws are for, and providing that policies established under the Bylaws are to be documented and published on the DLPSA website.

Membership: Clarifies the qualifications and privileges of an active member

Annual Dues: Requires a recommendation by the Board, followed by a vote of active members, to change annual dues.

Elections and Terms for Directors: Tightens the procedure for dealing with vacancies, and provides for a recorded vote on nominees.

Director Duties: Adds duties for President and Treasurer to tighten accounting and prevent embezzlement. Relaxes the restriction that only the Secretary may conduct correspondence on behalf of the Association.

Voting: New requirement that all motions require at least 4 affirmative votes to pass.

Meetings: The Board is not required to address concerns of inactive members. The Annual Meeting date is changed to September.

Records: New section to require the posting of all significant records in organized form on the DLPSA website.

Notices: Expands the option for written notices to include e-mail in addition to USPS.

Committees: Adds standing committees for Records and for Maintenance

The new By-Laws will be posted soon (if not already) on the DLPSA website for your detailed review. Additionally, you will find:

- The 2004 By-Laws, with each section annotated to show how it is covered in the 2018 version.
- The 2018 By-Laws, with each section annotated to show what is new.

The Board invites your review and is open to your recommendations. Please re-check for a final draft of the new By-Laws, if needed, that will be posted no later than September 2. Adoption will require the affirmative vote of 2/3 of active members at the Annual Meeting.

New Peninsula Owners & Residents

[The Township or a local title company usually notifies us of any ownership change. However, if you know of a renter who has recently moved in, please notify a Director. Our Hospitality Committee wants to welcome new residents, whether owners or renters.]

The following new owners have been noted since the Fall Newsletter:

Glen Wright, 4401 East Shore Drive. Owner since 10/3/17, from Interlochen

Linda & William Kluzak, 4102 Peninsular Shores Drive. Owners since 12/7/17, from Traverse City

Lawrence & Misty Holley, 4120 Central Park Drive. Owners and residents as of 4/3/18

David & Miriam Hinske, 3770 peninsular Shores Drive. Owners and residents as of 4/10/18

Our total is 12 new owners over the last year, down from last fall's modern record of 16.

In Memory

[We occasionally miss death notices, so please notify the Newsletter editor if you become aware of a resident who has recently passed away.]

We have become aware that **James "Jim" Thomas Rieck**, of 4318 East Shore Drive, passed away on 11 November 2017 at age 67. We offer condolences to his family and friends.

On-Line DLPSA Directory

We are still working, amidst changes in our website provider, to provide an on-line directory of Peninsula owners on our website. This directory will include the parcel address, lot number and owner's name. It will

consist of two lists, ordered respectively by owner's name and owner's address. It will be updated twice per year, late June and late November.

As explained in our Fall 2015 Newsletter, you may have a reason why you want to opt out of the directory. If so, please notify our Treasurer.

e-Newsletters Give You Advantages

If you have received this newsletter by USPS, it is because we don't have your e-mail address in our files. You are missing out on faster delivery and high-resolution color.

And, consider this: Each paper newsletter we don't have to mail saves \$1.50 in printing, label, envelope and postage. So, when you subscribe to the e-Newsletter, \$3.00 of your annual dues are saved to fund needed projects.

As a bonus, we also e-mail notices on special occurrences, such as we had this spring with road maintenance on E. Duck Lake Road and Fall Road.

If you want your name added, please contact the Treasurer or Newsletter editor with your e-mail address. By the way, if you are concerned about junk e-mail, please note that the Board does not share your e-mail address with anyone.

DLPSA Active Members Update

Here are our additions to the list of active DLPSA members (paid up through May 2018). These were omitted from our Fall 2017 Newsletter list for a variety of reasons

| | | |
|------------------------------|------|--------------------|
| Steffes, Myron & Patricia | 3692 | Central Park Drive |
| Hatton, Barbara & Lee | 4020 | Central Park Drive |
| Perrin, Randall & Julia | 4074 | Central Park Drive |
| Carnes, Thomas & Karen | 4259 | Central Park Drive |
| Hardin, Jay & Janine | 4393 | East Shore Drive |
| Witkop, Patrick & Leslie | 3767 | Peninsular Shores |
| Kreta, Jennifer & Scott | 3797 | Peninsular Shores |
| Nichols, Brent & Alice | 3822 | Peninsular Shores |
| Wischman, Thomas & Susan | 3993 | Peninsular Shores |
| Puggini, Randolph & Diane | 4185 | Peninsular Shores |
| Pearce, Carl & Elizabeth | 4186 | Peninsular Shores |
| Salenski, Pauline & Kathy S. | 4220 | Peninsular Shores |

Our Local Environment

Those of us who experience shocking tree deaths (ash, oak, maple?) or our own little shoreline problems (high, low, eroding?) know that much of it is beyond our control, but at the same time, there are ways we can contribute that are rewarding. For example, one of our members pointed to some things that you can do for your own yard and the environment simultaneously:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~clp/documents/5%20Simple%20Things%20FactSheet.pdf>

This includes excellent information about shoreline management with rocks, as compared to seawalls.

Additionally, we have the following welcome contribution for the many of us who enjoy catching fish and/or enjoy the company of pets:

Guest Article: Nature-Friendly Lawn Care

- by Jennifer Langham

As summer approaches, I think we all get excited about spending time outside in our yards and enjoying this wonderful place we call home. The critters, birds, butterflies and bees are fun to watch as nature comes alive again. Our thoughts also turn to our lawn care and making it ready to enjoy. Here is where we have some important decisions to make that can affect the health and wellbeing of our beautiful lake, our ground water, our children, our pets and all of the creatures with whom we share this environment.

There are some sobering statistics about the use of lawn chemicals, pesticides and herbicides that you may not be aware of:

According to *Beyond Pesticides*, a non-profit organization which works with allies in protecting public health and the environment, of the 30 most commonly used lawn pesticides, 17 are possible and/or known carcinogens, 18 have the potential to disrupt the endocrine (hormonal) system, 19 are linked to reproductive effects and sexual dysfunction, 11 have been linked to birth defects, 14 are neurotoxic, 24 can cause kidney or liver damage, and 25 are sensitizers and/or irritants. Of those same 30 lawn chemicals, 19 are detected in groundwater, 20 have the ability to leach into drinking water sources, 30 are toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms vital to our ecosystem, 29 are toxic to bees, 14 are toxic to mammals, and 22 are toxic to birds.

A related issue is the poisoning of aquatic life. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Americans alone churn through 75 million pounds of pesticides each year to keep the bugs off their peapods and petunias. When those chemicals get into waterways, fish ingest them and become diseased. Humans who eat diseased fish can themselves become ill, completing the circle wrought by pollution.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the use of lawn chemicals accounts for the majority of reported wildlife poisonings.

Yikes! That is quite a price to pay for lawn care. Children, pets and wildlife are most at risk because they often roll around and play on lawns and don't

heed warning signs. The lawn chemicals are then often tracked into the home. Please also remember the cumulative effects of many households repeatedly using lawn chemicals.

On the bright side, here are some things you can do instead:

- Avoid chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Adjust the pH so that your soil is at peak pH for grass to grow (around 6.5). Add lime if it is below 6.0, and gardener's sulfur if it is above 7.0.
- Use organic compost, which feeds the soil to grow healthy grass and plants.
- Use organic, slow-release fertilizer and other organic and natural options.
- Over-seed to encourage more grass to grow. Spread seed especially in the spring and fall.
- Mow high (around 3 inches) to crowd out the weeds and create deeper roots (which leads to less need for watering)
- Leave the grass clippings on the lawn; they add nitrogen for a green lawn.
- Consider seeding your lawn with clover, which takes nitrogen from the air and fixes it in the soil (thereby fertilizing the lawn).
- Water deeply (but less often) to encourage deep, healthy roots.
- Pay the kids 10¢ per weed that they pull. It's fun and keeps them busy!
- Most importantly, rethink what your definition of a beautiful lawn is. Maybe a few wildflowers aren't so bad. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The Earth laughs in flowers."

There are many other resources available for natural lawn care in books and on the web. YouTube has many videos with people sharing their tips for natural lawn care. Many garden stores have natural alternatives. You can also check out these websites for more detailed information:

Beyond Pesticides:

<https://www.beyondpesticides.org/programs/lawns-and-landscapes/overview>

Grassroots Environmental Education:

<http://www.grassrootsinfo.org/pdf/consumerguide.pdf>

Editor's comment: Jennifer and her husband John are new rental residents at 3772 Central Park Drive. They are considering whether this is a community where they would like to be owners.

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