

FALL NEWSLETTER 2010

Duck Lake Peninsular Shores Association (DLPSA) P. O. Box 344, Grawn, Michigan 49637

Visit the DLPSA website at <http://webpages.charter.net/dlpsa/>

All residents are encouraged to have an active voice in our association. Please address questions, comments, concerns or ideas to any of the DLPSA board members.

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DLPSA Board Membership for 2010-11

Here is updated information on current board members, along with a brief biosketch of the new member, John Hubbard, who has replaced Scott Hocking. Scott was a Board member for three terms, and we thank him for his many years of service.

President: Duane Lueck (also Maintenance)
231-276-6676 No email address.

Vice President: Dan Briggs (also Newsletter)
231-276-0126 danbriggs9564@gmail.com

Secretary: Dan Bodary
231-276-6592 bbodary@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Charlotte Knoll
231-276-3116 char3781@gmail.com

Director: Oral Carper (Liaison)
618-977-0671 owcarper@peoplepc.com

Director: Paul Grunberger (Historian; newsletter)
301-602-2734 ducklakepaul@gmail.com

Director: John Hubbard (Hospitality together with John Stuart)
231-276-3126 jhubbard45@charter.net
John and Judy Hubbard are year-round residents who moved to 4280 East Shore Drive in the summer of 2010. John is a retired Geological Engineer who worked for Schlumberger Oilfield Services for 34 years.

Items from the 2010 Fall Meeting

Here is a brief meeting summary of the Fall Meeting of the DLPSA membership, held at the Schworm Park pavilion on Sunday, September 12.

DLPSA Finances

Treasurer Charlotte Knoll reported on DLPSA's finances. The report is summarized here, and additional details are provided in the meeting minutes located on the DLPSA website.

Balance as of June 1, 2010:	\$ 6,858
Income:	11,380
Expenditures:	9,228
Balance as of Sept. 12, 2010:	\$ 9,010

NOTE: the Income and Expenditures figures above are only for a part of our fiscal year. Major expenditure items included improvements to the park (\$5,999; details presented below), lawn maintenance (\$2,014), and purchasing new keys (\$474; for the boat launch, tennis court, and shuffle board court).

Members approved the following budget for FY 2010/11:

Total Income: \$12,145	
Association dues:	\$ 11,890
Contributions as of 9/12:	\$ 255

Total Expenditures: \$15,238
(Some of the expenditures listed below have already occurred because our fiscal year is June 1 through May 31.)

Office supplies	\$ 275
Legal	20
Fee to bond officers	141
Electric for park	240
Miscellaneous	69
Keys	500
Canal weed control	500
General improvements	1,668
Park improvements	6,000
Boat dock in/out	250
Lawn maintenance	4,575
LTI fund*	1,000

* The membership approved adding to the budget a Long-term Improvements Fund (LTI fund) to be used to support work to improve the common areas of the peninsula. This is a new budget item.

In addition to, and completely separate from the Long-term Improvements Fund noted above, the membership agreed to establish another fund made up entirely of voluntary contributions for future improvements to the Schworm Park only. It

will be called the “**Park Improvement Fund.**” Two members, Richard Erwin and Duane Lueck, are helping to get this fund started by offering challenge grants to the DLPSA membership. The first \$300 donated by members will be matched by Mr. Erwin; the second \$300 donated will be matched by Mr. Lueck. Please consider making a donation to this fund and let’s take advantage of these challenge grants. Your donation should be made out to “DLPSA” and designated for the Park Improvement Fund. Donations should be given to the Treasurer, or mailed to the DLPSA at the address in the heading of this Newsletter.

Change in Manner of Assessing DLPSA Dues

Paul Grunberger distributed a tabulation he had compiled that listed the peninsula’s total properties (272), houses (235), vacant lots (37), and property owners (253). His tabulation also listed the numbers of owners who owned various combinations of one or more houses and one or more vacant lots. These data were discussed by the membership with the purpose of deciding whether to continue assessing dues on *per-owner* basis as is currently done, or to switch the manner of assessment to a *per-property* basis. Switching to a per-property basis would affect only those owners who own more than one property (currently 18 of the 253 owners), and it would potentially increase the total receivable dues. Following discussion, the membership voted to switch the manner of assessing dues to a per-property basis. This change will begin with the dues assessment for the next fiscal year. It will not be retroactive. (Three of the members in attendance own multiple properties, and all of them supported this change, even though it will increase their dues assessment.)

Park Improvements: Completed and Planned

Several improvements were made to Schworm Park so far this year, and more work is planned for the coming months. The largest project was the installation of a new well to provide potable water. This water is available from two faucets: one inside the pavilion and the other outside on the pavilion’s rear wall. Some of the other completed projects are:

- power washing of the tennis court
- removal of weeds and brush from inside and outside the tennis court fencing
- planting of hostas, flowers, and ferns next to the pavilion and tennis court
- removal of the softball backstop
- cleaning the inside walls and ceiling of the pavilion

- cleaning areas by the horseshoe pits and volleyball court and putting in new sand
- replacing tether ball and rope
- grading and mulching areas by the pavilion and playing field

Most of this work was done by DLPSA volunteers (see **Bulletin Board** section below for their names). We thank all of them for their commitment to improving the park and making it more enjoyable for everyone to use. The tennis court especially has seen a major increase in use this summer.

Further park improvements will include putting down grass seed and working on the shuffleboard court to resurface it and replace old boards and damaged equipment.

Trash Collection

For a long time, residents have been complaining about the multiple trash collection companies serving the peninsula, each of which uses two trucks on its collection day. The many trucks are punishing our roads, and almost every day on the peninsula seems to be a trash day. In addition, residents have been confused over which company gives the best value for people’s varying needs: wheeled totes or pre-paid bags; year-round or seasonal or weekend residence; recyclable bin or no recycling.

During the annual meeting, Allied Waste and American Waste gave presentations to the membership about their services and costs, and about why they should be chosen to be the “preferred provider” recommended by DLPSA. (Why just these two companies? Two reasons: first, as stated in the Spring Newsletter, these two companies presented better pricing and value than the others we contacted earlier this year; and second, these were the only companies we were able to reach in order to invite.) Following the presentations, the membership discussed which company would best serve the interests of our peninsula residents. The members strongly endorsed **American Waste (AW)** as the preferred provider of trash pickup for the peninsula. The terms offered by American Waste are as follows:

1. AW will charge no more than \$12/month to current and new customers, and this rate is guaranteed for three years.
2. New customers switching to AW will receive the first month’s service for free.
3. Current customers will have their rate reduced to \$12/month from whatever rate they are now paying.

4. AW has a long-range plan to allow all refuse to be placed in a single container. AW will then remove the recyclables at their sorting station. This will reduce the need for a separate recyclables truck driving through the peninsula.
5. AW makes its pickup on Thursdays. That means that on weeks with a holiday, Friday becomes the backup day for trash pickup, so there will be no AW truck in our neighborhood during the weekend.
6. AW offers budget bags as an economical alternative to the garbage tote for residences that generate less trash. Budget bags are sold for \$25 for a package of 10 bags at various local retailers.
7. AW is the only trash hauler that is owned and based here in northern Michigan.
8. If you wish, American Waste will make the call to your current waste management provider and cancel your service with that provider.

DLPSA members hope to reduce the number of garbage trucks in our neighborhood by obtaining your support to use what we believe is a strong, well-developed, competitively priced, as well as the most environmentally friendly trash collection company available to us. We are convinced that AW will provide us with superior service. The decision whether to use AW is, of course, up to each individual homeowner. However, we encourage you to seriously consider using AW as your trash pickup provider. You can contact AW for more information or to request their service by phoning 231-943-8088. Mr. Pat Cline is the company Manager.

Pig Roast

The Fourth Annual Peninsula Pig Roast held in July was once again a big success, and attendance was up sharply from a year earlier. We greatly appreciate the financial support for this event, which was provided once again by Jeff Beaton, Dan Bodary, Tom Fabitz (*Landscape Management*), and Scott Hocking (*Just Trucks*). We also thank Tom Podolan again for organizing the games. It was great to see the willingness of many others to help with the set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up activities. Another pig roast is scheduled for next summer, and we hope to have even more people become actively involved. This is a great way to meet your neighbors! Let us know if you are interested in participating or if you have new ideas to add to this event.

Update on Your Response to Receiving Newsletters via E-mail

In our past two newsletters, we noted that printing and mailing copies of the newsletters twice a year to each peninsula resident requires a considerable amount of paper and continually increasing postage costs. We encouraged those residents who are able to receive their newsletters via email.

To date, we are pleased to report that 76 of our residents have signed up to receive the newsletter electronically. If others are willing to help us decrease copying and mailing expenses, please send your name, peninsula street address, and e-mail address to Dan Briggs at danbriggs9564@gmail.com. Thank you!

Recent New Peninsula Residents

Do you know anyone who has recently moved here to the peninsula? If so, please notify the Board so we can welcome them and list their names in the next newsletter.

We are aware of the following new residents:

Heather and Chris Glowicki
3835 Peninsular Shores Drive
Full-time residents since Nov 2009
From Traverse City

John and Judy Hubbard
4280 East Shore Drive
Full time residents since June 2010
From Oklahoma City, OK

Charles and Cynthia McLaughlin
3710 Peninsular Shores
Will be full-time residents once they sell their house From Traverse City

Velda and Rich Mallard
7734 North Shore Court
Seasonal residents since April 2010
From Bloomington, IN

Jim Mansfield
3801 Central Park Drive
Full-time resident since August 2009
From Clarkston, MI

Nick and Stephanie Tallidis
3775 Peninsular Shores Drive
Seasonal residents since April 2010
From Chicago area

In Memory

We are aware of the following current or former peninsula residents who have passed away

recently. As you learn of others, please let us know.

Lester Faus
Jacqueline Fultz
Sophie Mallard
Gretchen Spears
Pat Trezise

2011 Events

These events occur "rain or shine." Contact a board member if you need more information.

- **DLPSA Spring General Meeting: Sunday, May 15, 4 pm, in the Schworm Park pavilion.**
- **Peninsula Garage Sale: Saturday, June 11, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.** DLPSA provides newspaper ads and signs. Participation is on an individual choice basis on your own property.
- **Pig Roast: Saturday, July 16, 4 pm, at Schworm Park.** This is a FREE event. Please bring a dish to pass and your own beverages.
- **DLPSA Fall General Meeting: Sunday, September 11, 4 pm, in the Schworm Park pavilion.** Three board members will be elected at this meeting. We strongly encourage new members on the board. Please let a board member know if you are willing to be nominated as a candidate.

Bulletin Board

If you have announcements (major events or milestone dates of birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) or if you have comments that you want to see included in the next edition of this newsletter, please send them to danbriggs9564@gmail.com.

Thank You to Many of DLPSA's Members:

- to the Bruggerman family for donating \$200 and to Tom Podolan for donating \$20 for park improvements
- to all those who tilled the park grounds, donated hostas, flowers, and ferns, and planted and watered them: Ron & Jan Bachman, Charlotte Knoll, Dan & Bev Bodary, Dan & Ellen Briggs, John Stuart, Brenda Denninger and Tom Podolan
- to Jim Mansfield for letting us use his water supply for several weeks
- to John Stuart and Duane Lueck for all their park improvement work

Emerald Ash Borer Treatment

The emerald ash borer has been in the Michigan news for some time. Duke Elsner of the MSU extension office in Traverse City stated recently that the insect has been confirmed to be present in Green Lake Township, and some of you might have confirmed its presence here on the peninsula. At least one local tree trimming company says that chemical treatment is useless; however, several university studies have shown chemical treatment to be over 90% effective when used for prevention. If you decide to treat your ash trees before they become infected, several insecticide options are available. One broad-spectrum insecticide that has been used successfully in our area is *imidacloprid*. Products containing this chemical are available at McGough's Inc., at Gill-Roy's Hardware, and possibly at other local stores.

Grape Vine Damage to Trees

This has been a great year for grape vine growth. In walking around the peninsula, we have noticed many Canadian hemlocks and other trees -- some right in the middle of people's yards -- that are being strangled by the vines. In some cases the weight of the vines is breaking off the branches. If you care about keeping your trees, you might want to check them for grape vines.

Outdoor Lighting

If you are using outdoor lights at night, please be considerate of the many peninsula residents who prefer darkness.

Activities on the Lake

by John Novak

In the past year many good things have happened on and around Duck Lake. You may have noticed the Duck Lake watershed signs on US 31, East Duck Lake Road and Youker Road. These signs were installed by students at the Interlochen Arts Academy and paid for by generous contributions from the residents of Duck Lake, Mary K. Montieth, Aaron Stander, DLPSA, and Oral & Pat Carper. Thanks to everyone for your support.

In addition, the usual yearly water quality studies were conducted. John Novak headed up this work and recruited volunteers. The studies included early spring and mid-summer water samples taken to determine the biological quality of our lake water, water clarity data, and a water plant survey.

Early spring water samples were taken at three locations and mid-summer samples at twelve locations for biological data. E. coli levels at all

locations were found to be within acceptable levels. Water clarity data are gathered all spring, summer and fall. These data are used to determine the overall lake water quality index calculated by a certified limnologist. His report will be published later in the year on the DLPSA web page. In past reports, the water quality of Duck Lake has been very high. Let's keep it that way.

In early August a water plant survey in the lake was conducted. Again, samples were taken at twelve locations. Although the warm, sunny summer yielded a bumper crop of water plants, no invasive species were found. This again is very good news because eliminating some invasive species can be expensive and difficult.

Finally, summer newsletters from the Green Lake, Betsie River Association (GLBRA) were distributed to everyone around the lake. The GLBRA provides lots of support to those of us on Duck Lake and makes sure that all contributions given to them from Duck Lake residents are kept in a separate account for use only on Duck Lake.

If anyone would like to become involved in these lake activities, or simply receive an occasional e-mail about what is going on, please call John Novak at 231-276-0361 or e-mail him at jenovak5000@aol.com.

Guest Column: Remote Control of your Heating System

by Ron Shoup

Now there's an "app for that!" For those of us who are part-time residents, you may be interested in some options for controlling your home's temperature from afar. A coworker recently told me about the Ecobee Smart Thermostat (www.ecobee.com), and I installed the system in less than an hour last month. There is a thermostat module for the wall and an equipment interface module, which contains a printed circuit board. The thermostat connects to the interface module using your existing thermostat wiring, and the interface module, mounted near your furnace, is connected to your furnace control board. Wiring instructions were very good.

To run your furnace/AC remotely, your home will also need WIFI access to the Internet. The Ecobee Thermostat has a wireless transmitter built in, and when you power it up, it will search out your site and find your WIFI. You register as a new user using the touchpad on the thermostat. Once that is done, you will get instructions on setting up your (free) web access, which allows you to log on anywhere there is web access to see your system's current temperature and program

settings. You can control your home's furnace/AC from this website, from the thermostat, or even from your iPhone or iPad.

You can build hourly/daily schedules for normal occupancy and vacation periods, and there are options for overriding the program settings when you want the conditions to hold for a few hours or indefinitely. You can log in using your phone or computer just to check on the current settings and the actual temperature, and there is provision for also controlling a humidifier. They have also added a couple of inputs for any sort of device that would trigger a contact closure, such as a water sensor. If the temperature exceeds limits or a water sensor is activated, you will get instant messages and emails.

Here's a screen shot from my phone of the system in action today. The view is nearly the same as what you would see on your wall:



If you turn off your well's circuit breaker, shut off the main water valve, set your heater at 50 F with a warning message threshold set at 45 F, you should be able to stay ahead of any home disasters.

There is also a provision to enter the name and email address of your favorite HVAC contractor, so that they get the e-mails of any trouble at the same time you do.

PS: I had previously used a Motorola Homesight system to monitor house temperature and a couple of water sensors. It worked fine for monitoring, but you could not be in control of the home's systems.

Late Dues Reminder

Reminder notices will go out before the end of this year to those property owners who are not yet current on their dues.

