



Lee Lake Association

President's Annual Report

2024

Dear Lee Lake Residents,

I apologize that I am a little late in sending this out. But Happy New Year and welcome to 2025! As we look forward to the start of another lake season in a few months, it is with great pleasure that I reflect back on all the incredible accomplishments for our association. 2024 was a year of distinct efforts with regards to Lake Quality Improvement, Social Activities/Events, Financial Stewardship, and the monthly Association Meeting. I am incredibly fortunate to be working alongside a very talented and dedicated Board, as well as with such an involved membership.

2024 was an exceptional season for us and below are some of the highlights:

1 **Board Elections**

We had two positions up for election this past year – Vice President & Secretary.

- Kathy Doud was reelected to her position as Vice President. She has been an invaluable resource within the Board for the past 3 years and we are very happy to see her continue in that role for another two years.
- Sean Etheridge was elected as our new Secretary, taking over for Pat Pejakovich. We are very excited to be welcoming Sean and wish to express our sincere thanks once again for Pat's service these past two years.

2. **Lake Quality Activities**

- We performed another round of spraying for phragmites. Those that granted us permission, had their phragmites sprayed again this year at no cost to the property owner.
- An AVAS (Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Site) survey was conducted by PLM to document the lake's aquatic vegetation. A copy of this survey will be presented to the membership for review and discussion at one of our first meetings of the season.



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- Began development of a Strategic Lake Treatment Program. This program will be presented to the membership for review and approval this season
- Conducted water testing for eColi at several locations around the lake. Water samples were collected and given to the Battle Creek Health Department for testing and analysis. These samples were also collected at different months to begin to develop a baseline. All results were within acceptable limits, so we have no reason for concern at this time. Thanks to Richard Doud for conducting this testing

3. **Financial Stewardship** – Thanks to all who attended our Annual Meeting in October of 2023 where the membership approved an increase in annual dues from \$20 to \$35 per household. This increase was long overdue as we had not increased our dues in probably 20 years.

We managed tightly to our annual budget ending our fiscal year with a positive balance in our accounts of over \$2,000.

4. **Social Activities / Events** – We had a very successful season on the social side of things. Our Events Coordinator, Theresa Humphrys-Oswalt, along with many volunteers, conducted several popular events, including:

- Coordinated Garage Sale weekend in June
- Bake Sale in June
- Boat Parade in July
- Block Party in September

5. **Lee Lake Apparel** – We had great participation in our Lee Lake Apparel Sale. This event is our major fundraiser for the year and it surpassed all previous sales. Many thanks go out to Kathy Doud and all of the volunteers that worked on this event.



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6. **Association Meetings** – We introduced and implemented several new ideas to improve our monthly association meeting:
- Food Truck – We had a food truck at one of our meetings. It seemed to be popular, so we will try to do more of that this year.
 - Speakers -- We had several engaging speakers and special topic discussion at our monthly meetings.
 - Mike Kile discussed the lake pump and water level control
 - Steve Hinkley, Calhoun County Sheriff, discussing the role of the Marine Patrol Division
 - Ron Smith, Calhoun County Water Resources Commissioner, discussing water quality and runoffs
 - Report on the key takeaways from the 2024 MLSA Conference
 - Presentation on strategic lake treatment programs – pro's & con's
- I think these sessions were well received and we hope to continue them into the future. If any of you have ideas for future speakers or topics, please let the board know.
7. **MLSA** – For a third year in a row, representatives from LLA attended the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA) Conference in April and continued to network with other lake associations. We anticipate continued involvement with MLSA with further opportunities to learn from other associations.
8. **Newsletters** – Re-instituted the LLA newsletters to inform our membership of activities, fun facts to know, and upcoming meetings of interest. These newsletters are posted on the Lee Lake Website as well as distributed via email to all active members.



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9. **Odds and Ends** – We had **Music on the Lake** once again thanks to Peg Burkey and Sean Etheridge. Peg recruited a musician to play some wonderful music on the lake for our 4th of July celebration. And Sean and his band had an impromptu performance on the lakeshore during the summer. The music on both occasions was quite good and memorable to all.

We installed a **Boater Safety Sign** at the DNR public boat launch this past season. This sign highlights the contour of the lake, but specifically it will alert boaters to the shallow area at the southeast section of the lake (alongside Lakeside Drive). Many thanks to Cindy Parker for spearheading this activity.

An impressive list of accomplishments, which was made possible by all of our volunteers and committees. Kudos go out to each and every one of them.

But as always there is more to do. What are our plans for this upcoming year.

1. **Lake Quality Program** – We will continue to invest in a long term lake quality program to address invasive species, like Eurasian Milfoil, Purple Loose Strife, Algae Blooms, and others. We will research funding options for this activity and have multiple discussions about this at our monthly association meetings.
2. **Volunteer Recruitment** – We want to recruit additional committee leaders and volunteers to help grow the association. If you are at all interested, please let any of the Board know.
3. **MLSA** – We want to maintain active participation with this organization. They provide educational opportunities, networking events, and virtual webinars on a broad range of topics.



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4. **Additional Events** – We want to implement additional social and fundraising events for this upcoming season.
5. **Shoreline Management** – We want to develop a Shoreline Management Program that gives lake front owners options to enhance and create sustainable shorelines.
6. **More Speakers & Topics** – We want to continue to have speakers at our meetings as well as discussions on the topics that matter most to our membership.

As you can see, it looks like an exciting 2025.

On behalf of the entire Board, we extend our gratitude to each and every member for making 2024 so successful. Your support, enthusiasm, and dedication are the pillars upon which our Association's success is built. We are looking forward to a great 2025!

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Parker

President