



# Lakeside Docksider Community Newsletter



## Board Meetings Recap

By TJ Dillard

Forty-seven homeowners attended the Annual Membership Meeting in October 2016. They learned that through a culture of volunteerism and competitive bidding, our community was able to balance the budget, reduce the assessment delinquency rate to 2.8%, and save over \$50,000 in management, lawn maintenance, painting, tree pruning, and other repair expenses in 2016.

At the membership meeting, Gerard Amato of Broken Staff, Greg Pfeiffer of Docksider, and Corey Mathews of Broken Staff were elected to serve on the HOA board. The proposal for reserved parking was rejected by a vote of 31 to 17. The open parking policy remains in effect for now. For further details on the Annual Meeting, please read meeting minutes posted on our website (Lakeside-docksider.org). If you need a password to access the password-protected areas of our website, please email your request to lakeside-docksiderhoa@gmail.com.

Fifteen homeowners attended the board meeting in January 2017. They had a first look at a long-awaited document critical to the overall financial health of our community, called Replacement Reserve Study Report. It is a document highly recommended by our previous board, management company, and financial auditor because it provides invaluable statistics and data to help our community to make long-term decisions for collection of assessment and funding of immediate and future replacement projects throughout Lakeside and Docksider. To find out how this document will affect you, please come to the board meeting on Wednesday Feb 22, 2017.

## NO MOWING!!

### A Beautiful Landscape

#### To Help Our Lake

By Karen Robinson



The glider I inherited from my grandparents now offers a great view – and is in a beautiful, lake- and Bay-friendly setting.

When I moved (back) to Lakeside-Docksider in December 2015, I loved the view from my new home on Broken Staff. But I wanted to have some work done on my yard to limit the maintenance needed and provide nice areas to sit. I decided to do this work in a way that would be friendly to the lake and the Chesapeake Bay.

There are many resources for residents planning a Bay-friendly landscape, including financial resources. I think I took advantage of all of them!

First, I contacted the Howard County Master Gardeners (<https://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/howard-county-master-gardeners>) and requested a free onsite consultation. Three people spent a generous amount of time discussing possible solutions for water erosion and drainage issues and making suggestions for native plants. Best of all, they provided a written report outlining all of their recommendations and suggestions. This report was very useful when I communicated with my landscapers. Some landscapers have expertise in 'conservation landscaping' (<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/conlascp.htm>). I was very happy with the company that did my work, and I am happy to share details (Continued on Page 3)

## Welcome Committee Update

By Thordis Boron

Your Welcoming Committee has been keeping up the good work of bringing our community closer together. Our first Fall Fling on October 15, 2016 was a big success with warm and sunny weather, great live music, creative pumpkin decorating, a fun Hula Hoop lesson, and tons of yummy food that our many volunteers provided and enjoyed.

More photos are available on our website: [lakeside-dockside.org](http://lakeside-dockside.org)



On December 17 our Christmas Carolers ventured out into the cold and had a wonderful time singing and playing for our neighbors. Thank you so much to the generous people who warmed our hearts with home baked cookies and freshly brewed Chai Tea! We hope that many more of you will join us next Christmas when we surely will go caroling again. We cannot thank Cynthia Dillard enough for organizing this event and putting together our songbooks! (Continued on Page 3)



(continued from Page 2:) Welcome Committee Update

## Save the Date: April 22

We are already looking forward to our Spring Fling, which is planned for Earth Day: April 22, 2017!

While we are always on standby to welcome new neighbors to our community, we cannot have our eyes everywhere. So you can help us by letting us know when you see someone new moving in. Simply shoot us an email at [lakesidedocksidewlc@gmail.com](mailto:lakesidedocksidewlc@gmail.com).

Looking forward to getting to know you, too!

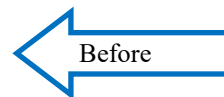


(Continued from page 1) A Beautiful Landscape To Help Our Lake

I chose to do a complete yard renovation, changing the front, side and back of the house. A patio and dry stream bed were installed. All sod was removed, and native plants, including pollinators, were planted. The photos below show before and after views of one section of my front yard.



Once my conservation landscaping was completed, I contacted the Clean Water Howard program (<https://www.cleanwaterhoward.com/>). The “Clean Scapes Residential Reimbursement” program provides reimbursement for stormwater management practices. The program will reimburse 50%, up to \$750 maximum, of the costs of implementing best practice solutions for stormwater runoff (think rain barrels, permeable hardscapes, rain gardens, etc.).



Finally, I completed the Bay-Wise Maryland Yardstick (<http://extension.umd.edu/baywise>). After a certification visit from a Master Gardener, I received Bay-Wise certification for my landscape. The sign in my yard recognizes that my landscape is designed in a way that improves water quality and that I follow environmentally friendly practices.





## Meet Your Neighbors: Charlotte and Fritz Stritehoff

By Marianne Eriksson

Dockside home owners Charlotte and Fritz Stritehoff believe wholeheartedly in being good stewards of their environment. Fritz has lived in Dockside since it was built in the early 1980s. Charlotte joined him when they got married over 20 years ago. Charlotte had lived in five states before moving here, but she considers Dockside her all-time favorite.

As the gardener in the family, Charlotte used to rent garden plots to raise produce. Due to health reasons, she now mainly tends to the flower garden in front of her home. Fritz is the muscle behind the gardening because he does the digging and lifting, but Charlotte is the brain behind their Bay-friendly flower garden.

What prompted Charlotte to make changes in her garden was seeing the Bay-Wise Certification sign in her neighbor's yard. It was a sign issued by the University of Maryland Extension Program to promote "better water quality through smarter gardening." Under this free education program, master gardeners knowledgeable about native plants and best gardening practices will come to your house to assist you with plant choices and garden designs.

The Stritehoff's garden, designed to attract birds and butterflies, earned its Bay-wise certification in 2001. Charlotte and Fritz have never been disappointed by their garden, which contains native plants that do not need fertilizer and as a rule do not need to be watered as often as non-native plants. Their smarter gardening has, with very little work and money, helped improve the water quality in Lake Elkhorn and reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay because, like most of us, they live within a half mile of a storm drain.



**If you have 4 hours to spare, please sign up for one of the following tasks and be rewarded!**

Landscape committee: 1) Spring clean up, 2) power washing, 3) landscape, or 4) lawn repair.

Architectural committee: 1) Answer emails and advise homeowners on how to get HOA's and Owen Brown's approval for painting, fence and deck repairs, and other exterior alterations.

Watershed committee: 1) Bury and redirect downspouts or 2) install conservation landscape.

Neighborhood watch committee: 1) Host neighborhood safety meetings or 2) serve as a liaison between our community and local police.

Welcome committee: 1) Visit new residents or 2) make welcome packets and gifts for new residents.

Newsletter committee: 1) Do layout or 2) write informative news-worthy community-centered articles.

Grant writing committee: 1) Research and apply for county grants for stormwater runoff management (This task requires more than 4 hours of volunteer's time).

## Stormwater Pollutes Lake Elkhorn

*Discovery, proof and regulations are loosely linked*

By Bill Cain

### Stormwater Runoff

Both snowmelt and rainwater are called *stormwater*. The portion of stormwater that falls on impervious surfaces plus what cannot be absorbed into soil are called *stormwater runoff*.

In order to avoid wet basements, homebuilders and architects used to design homes and lawns to maximize the rate of stormwater runoff. Unfortunately, this practice, though effective in minimizing leaky basements, allows stormwater to bypass the soil's water-purifying process and contribute to *eutrophication* of lakes and streams.

### Toxins in Our Lake

Eutrophication occurs when pollutants in stormwater runoff cause explosive growth of *blue green algae/Cyanobacteria*, turning Lake Elkhorn into an ugly, stinky mess. Most (some scientists say all) *Cyanobacteria* produce terrible toxins, the most dangerous of which fall into three groups:

1. **Microcystins** - Most common, it cause liver damage in humans and domestic animals.
2. **Anatoxin-A** – a rapid-acting muscular and neuronal poison
3. **BMAA - Beta-Methyl, Amino Alanine** causes degeneration of neurons, producing symptoms indistinguishable from those of Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and Lou Gehrig's diseases.

Over the past several years, evidence links BMAA to seafood and air downwind of *Cyanobacteria* Blooms. The science is strong, but discovery, proof and regulations are loosely linked. So...is it safe to eat seafood? I eat a celebratory crab cake or dish of Chesapeake ravioli, but ...

### What We Can Do

We can "Slow the Flow" of our stormwater runoff by planting more plants, including native trees, shrubs, and grasses. The vegetation allows the water to enter soil where efficient, nature-friendly processes ensue. When stormwater soaks in, both organic and soluble nutrients will be retained and removed. This process feeds desirable soil critters such as fungi, earth worms, and insect larva while cleaning and purifying our stormwater runoff and suppressing the growth of cyanobacteria in our lake.

We should also consider rain gardens; rain barrels; permeable pavers; and removal of lawn, plants of invasive species, and pavements. For more information on stormwater runoff remedies, please go to [cleanwaterhoward.com](http://cleanwaterhoward.com) and Watershed Steward Academy's website.

#### Free On-site Consultations

For landscape designs helpful to our lake, contact Bay-wise Team of HC Master Gardeners:  
<https://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/bay-wise-landscape-management>

#### Free On-site Consultations

For erosion control and stormwater management, contact HC Watershed Stewards Academy: <http://howardwsa.org/>

