



Blue Ridge Boat Docks builds quality, service and community on the water

FOR ZACK MARTIN, owner of Blue Ridge Boat Docks, the business started with a simple need close to home. While his family was building a cabin on Lake of Egypt, he noticed there were not many companies in the area offering dock repairs or service. At the time, Martin was working at the lake and saw firsthand that while new docks were available, many property owners needed help maintaining, repairing or customizing the waterfront spaces they already had.

That need eventually became Blue Ridge Boat Docks, a Marion-based business that fabricates galvanized steel docks, sells dock components, installs boat lifts, offers aluminum docks through Wahoo Docks and provides a full line of dock accessories. The company also sells DIY dock kits for customers who want to install or repair docks themselves.

"We kind of fell into it," Martin said. "There was a need for it."

Today, Blue Ridge Boat Docks serves customers across Southern Illinois and beyond. Martin said the company will travel within about a four-and-a-half to five-hour radius from Marion and serves customers throughout Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana. While Lake of Egypt remains a major part of the company's work, Blue Ridge also builds docks for private ponds, residential lakes, marinas and other waterfront properties.

The company's most common project is a residential boat slip dock, often paired with a lift. However, Martin said every project depends on how the customer plans to use the space. Some customers want a practical place to park a boat, while others want a covered area to fish, relax or entertain.

A major focus for Blue Ridge Boat Docks is durability. The company uses galvanized steel frames and avoids

wood framing because of the long-term maintenance issues that can come with wood in the water. Martin said the goal is to build docks that require as little upkeep as possible.

"Our goal is to make a 100% maintenance-free dock as best we can," he said.

One way the company does that is by building every dock frame to a commercial-grade standard, even for residential customers. That added strength helps create a finished product that feels solid, performs well in changing lake conditions and gives customers confidence that their dock is built to last.

Customers can choose from several decking options, including wood, composite and concrete pavers. Martin said concrete pavers have become popular because they are easy to maintain and replace. If one paver is damaged, it can be swapped out in minutes without tearing up an entire deck.

Since launching in 2021, Blue Ridge Boat Docks has grown from a garage-based operation into a team of about a dozen people. For Martin, one of the most rewarding parts of the business is knowing the company now helps support local families.

"Something we thought of five years ago now provides for 10 or 11 families," he said.

As the company continues to grow, Martin said Blue Ridge Boat Docks wants to remain present in the community and support local opportunities.

To learn more or get started on a dock, lift, repair or waterfront project, visit <https://blueridgedock.com/> or contact Blue Ridge Boat Docks directly by calling 618-294-6905. 📞

