



# Douglas Lake NEWSLETTER

Douglas Lake Improvement Association

[www.DouglasLake.org](http://www.DouglasLake.org)

P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

November, 2014

## HIGH WATERS by Kyle Anderson, UMBS

You probably don't need me to tell you that it's been a wet year on Douglas Lake. From spring to fall, we've seen lawns flooded, boats escape their moorings, and a bumper crop of mosquitoes from the wetlands around the lake.

The water this May was about one foot higher than usual, yielding a monthly average level that has only been matched 5 times since the Biological Station began keeping records in 1923. The level this October, though well short of its springtime peak, was about 1.8 feet higher than average—the highest October level on record!

A few factors have led to this exceptional water year. 147 inches of snow this past winter (34 inches more than average) drove lake levels up in the springtime. Above-average precipitation continued to fall through the spring and early summer, flowing into Douglas Lake from across its 20 square mile watershed. And in September and October, we were soaked with a whopping 11 inches of rain.

In addition to increasing the lake's water gains, dreary weather reduced May-September evaporative losses to 8% under average. On a normal July day, the lake might lose 2 million cubic feet of water as vapor—more than 2.5 times that day's liquid outflow through the Maple River.

In spite of the river's secondary contribution to draining the lake, one hears rumors that our high water year is due to the clogging effect of a certain beaver dam. This fall, Bob Vande Kopple and I went out to get to the bottom of it.

We found an active dam spanning the river that raised the water level a bit over one foot. The elevation of the very top of the dam is in the neighborhood of 6 inches to a foot below the Maple's riverbottom where it leaves Douglas Lake, meaning that water flows downhill for some distance before encountering the beavers' pool. The topmost portion of a beaver dam is porous and serves more to hold the dam together than to hold water, so the gradient from

the lake to the waterproof barrier is actually even a bit steeper. Put differently, the body of water backed up by the dam certainly does not extend to the lake.



Is it possible that the beaver dam introduces some abstract hydraulic effect, which slows the Maple's flow and does reduce the amount of liquid water that departs the lake? Perhaps, I don't know, I'm just the intern. But the impact of such a phenomenon could only be miniscule relative to the effects of this year's extraordinary weather. A quick visit to see the strongly-flowing Maple River downstream of the dam should dismiss any doubters' notion of a serious clog.

Indeed, water levels are high throughout our region, and even lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan have experienced an unusual gain in water level over this autumn. Tempting as it is to point fingers at factors within our power to remove, I am afraid that we have nobody to blame this year but the sky.

*Kyle Anderson is a research assistant at UMBS working in landscape ecology and stewardship. Questions and comments for Kyle can be sent to [kyanders@umich.edu](mailto:kyanders@umich.edu).*

# Being Thankful

'Tis the season that finds everyone busy. Frank Beaver attends a UMBS visioning session; Joan Hartwig sends minutes of our last board meeting; Walt Naumer tends to the books; Mark Paddock writes an article; Linda Orlow gathers articles for the newsletter; Chick Hershberger updates the website, in spite of back issues and surgery; Bill Hartwig attends township and road commission meetings; Gwen Kuehn takes in dues and updates membership information; John Kurkjian works on the 2015 directory; and Marilyn Kelemen looks for new ideas for DL merchandise. Even though it is not summer, the wheels of the association keep on turning.



Thank you to more than 60 volunteers who have contributed their time to the association this year. Our volunteers have monitored the lake, helped the township maintain the boat ramp, changed our financial records to match our 1/1 to 12/31 fiscal year, did fundraising by selling ads for our next directory (and website), searched for better ways for members to have improved internet service, monitored loon nesting, maintained our website, kept the members informed, and have provided us with great Douglas Lake merchandise we wear with pride. DLIA could not have all the activity without you. And, believe it or not, we still need volunteers to help monitor the lake. Love to be outside? Give us a call.

Happy Holidays to all of you. Be safe and enjoy precious times with family and friends.

*Holly Gedert*, President



**We Will Miss . . .**

## Gordon Lee Dolton

A man whose work dealt with time in terms of millions of years reached the end of his life at 85 years. Gordon Lee Dolton, of Grand Rapids, a respected petroleum geologist and summer resident of Douglas Lake, died Sept. 16 after a long period of declining health.

The longtime Boulder, Colo. resident moved to Michigan four years ago to be closer to family, though he had summered at Douglas Lake since the mid-1950s. The family's two log cabins are at North Fishtail Bay on property bought in the 1930s by his wife's parents, Dr. Clyde and Helen Hasley, as part of an arrangement that established neighboring Camp Knight of the Pines. Unable to come north this year, Mr. Dolton last spent a few days at the lake in summer 2013.

A native of Santa Monica, Calif., born Oct. 28, 1928, Mr. Dolton was a man of the West who loved the outdoors. He learned to sail off the coast of California as a Sea Scout. Years

later, at Douglas Lake, he still enjoyed hoisting sails on small boats the family once owned.

Mr. Dolton graduated from Pomona College in California and earned his master's degree in geology from what was then called Claremont University College. He met and married Jane Hasley, a Detroit native who also graduated from Pomona College. The Hasley connection is what brought him to know and love Douglas Lake.

Mr. Dolton enjoyed his early years as a field geologist for Shell Oil Company and in the last half of his career, he worked for the United States Geological Survey, based in Denver. Whatever vacation time he got each summer was spent in a family vacation at the lake. In the early years, it was a full house with the Doltons and their two children, plus Dr. and Mrs. Hasley and Jane's brother, Rhys, all enjoying lake life together on North Fishtail Bay.

After Mr. Dolton finally retired from the USGS in his 70s, the couple spent entire summers at the cabins. An avid American history buff, he was polishing a history of the Douglas Lake area at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jane; two children, John (Sharon) Dolton, of Traverse City, and Gail (Gary) Blaskowski, of Grand Rapids; and two granddaughters, Lisa Blaskowski, of Chicago, and Amy Blaskowski, of Grand Rapids.



# Road Ends

by Bill Hartwig

Some interesting information came to us from the Cheboygan County Road Commission (CCRC) when we were researching who should maintain the Douglas Lake Rd public access. The CCRC provided then Vice President Holly Gedert a list of Munro Township road ends. Eleven of them are on Douglas Lake, some having multiple access points. The DL list is below.

The county road ends issue has been a recent topic for the courts, the State Legislature, the State Attorney General, and the CCRC. Why the interest? For the same reason that it caught our attention, each road end is a potential public access to a lake. A road end is any county road that leads to the water edge of a lake or stream. It is intended to give the public access to the body of water. However, there have been misunderstandings about road ends which have led to their misuse. For example, on some lakes individuals have constructed docks, boat lifts, and used the area for picnics

and sun bathing. In other cases, abutting property owners have assumed ownership and the right of control.

The purpose of this article is to inform DLIA members about the eleven road end locations on Douglas Lake. Abutting property owners and the public should be aware of their responsibilities and rights when using these road ends. In addition, if there is any misunderstanding about the legality of the listed road ends or their use, members are encouraged to resolve these issues through the proper legal channels. A good place to start, if there are any questions, would be with the Cheboygan County Road Commission.

The Lake Access Oversight committee wants to gather current information about our road ends for future reference. This information may also be helpful during the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's 3-year shoreline survey project which begins this coming summer. President Gedert has requested me to inventory each of the eleven road ends. The inventory will include both access and site information.

Access: width of county road right-of-way (ROW); surface type; number of residences on the unpaved portion; and distance to paved roadway.

Site: abutting property ownership; size of abutting lots; land cover and use; soil type and gradient; site picture; current usage; restrictive features; distance to nearest residence; and if it is currently being used for access. If anyone would like to assist in this effort, please contact me.

*Bill Hartwig is a member of the DLIA Lake Access Oversight Committee (LAOC) and is our Community Relations representative. Contact Bill at hartwig56@sbcglobal.net*

Note: R.O.W. = right-of-way

Douglas Lake Road Ends in Munro Township				
Road Identification	Easement Width	Type VEH	Type Ped	Remarks
Reinhardt Road		X	X	User R.O.W.
Young Road		X	X	User R.O.W.
N. Fishtail Bay Road		X	X	User R.O.W.
Douglas Lake Road	47'	X	X	Plat – Bryant's Resort #96
North St., Oak St., Lake St., South St.	33'		X	Plat – Douglas Lake Resort #26
Lake St.		X	X	Plat – Bryant's Resort #96
Van Road	66'		X	Plats – Pleasums Beach 33' #89; Silverstrand Beach 33' #73
Crescent	50'		X	Plat – Silverstrand Beach #73
Parkwood	50'		X	Plat – Silverstrand Beach #73
Lorraine	50'		X	Plat – Silverstrand Beach #73
Wilson Rd.	66'	X	X	Plat – Lambert Wilson Sub. #1

## DESTINATION

### The Headlands International Dark Sky Park

by Linda Orlow

Spending time on Douglas Lake is special for many reasons. Recently an additional reason is our proximity to the relatively new Headlands International Dark Sky Park which is only two miles west of Mackinaw City. It is one of only fifteen such certified parks in the world as of 2014. It is consistently being improved and upgraded due to being the recipient of many grants, one of which is a new Discovery Trail. The existing building has been demolished to make way for a new \$7 million upgrade which will include an indoor observatory with a dome donated by the Cranbrook Institute of Science. It will also include meeting rooms and restrooms

as well as outdoor seating. The building will feature a green roof and lighting to shield the bulbs from the sky. It is the possession and under the direction of Emmet County. The park provides many special events.

Go to [EmmetCounty.org/DarkSkyPark/](http://EmmetCounty.org/DarkSkyPark/) for a schedule and other information.

What is a Dark Sky Park? It is a park or other protected public land possessing exceptional starry skies and natural nocturnal habitat where light pollution is mitigated and natural darkness is valuable as an important educational, cultural, scientific and natural resource.

It is a place where we can learn stewardship for the Earth's resources in harmony with the needs of our communities. And when at every level, human beings join the effort to protect the sky, a sense of community emerges, and that is truly the definition of a Dark Sky Park.

## ENVIRONMENT



### NIGHTS & LIGHTS AROUND DOUGLAS LAKE

Animals and plants live by a rhythm which is attuned to our planet's 24 hour cycle. This is an inherited trait, which is passed on through the genes of a species. All life on earth evolved to bright days and dark nights, and we need both for optimum health. As our nights grow brighter and brighter due to artificial light, we waste energy and money, endanger our physical, mental and spiritual health and disrupt the ecosystems on which we rely. And worst of all, we use way more light than we need for our safety and security.

Remember how many fireflies you enjoyed in the past? Their numbers are declining across the U.S. and the world. There is both anecdotal and scientific evidence suggesting that loss of habitat and light pollution are to blame. To stoke their yellow-green fires, the bugs (they are really beetles) cook up light through a series of chemical reactions within their abdomens. Fireflies avoid heavily lit areas for obvious reasons – light pollution interferes with their ability to see each other's flashes.

Wildlife and fish experience the same disorientation of time when there is too much artificial light at night. Behavior governing mating, migration, sleep, and finding food are

determined by the length of nighttime. Light pollution negatively disrupts these age-old patterns.

The current outdoor lighting fixture regulation has multiple purposes. Some of which are to help protect the natural environment from the damaging effects of night lighting, minimize glare and obtrusive light by limiting outdoor lighting that is misdirected, excessive or unnecessary, to curtail and reverse any degradation of the nighttime visual environment and the night sky. Another purpose is to permit reasonable uses of outdoor lighting for nighttime safety, utility, security and enjoyment while preserving the ambiance of the night.

The practical considerations include the idea that more light always results in better safety and security (often called insecurity lights) is a myth. Douglas Lake is not a high-crime area therefore continuous night lighting for the sole purpose of safety is unnecessary and ineffective. Actually, research shows that nationally most burglaries take place during daylight hours. It is estimated that one-third of all outdoor lighting used in the U.S. spills up into the night sky where it is not needed, wasting nearly 2.2 billion dollars each year. Also, that the majority of Americans live in a place they can't see the Milky Way stars at night. We are so fortunate to see it all here along the shores of Douglas Lake.

Solutions include the use of motion sensor controlled lighting, turning off lights or, better yet, get a dog! Shielding outdoor lighting uses less wattage and saves money and is very important in preserving a dark night sky. When necessary, the use of long wavelength light with a red or yellow tint minimizes impact.

### Broadband Wireless Internet Availability Update

by Joan Hartwig

**RACC Enterprises, LLC** – As previously reported, RACC Enterprises LLC, is negotiating with The University of Michigan to utilize the UMBS tower to provide wireless broadband Internet access service in our area. If an agreement is reached, RACC Enterprises will need a commitment of 20 to 25 customers before installing equipment on the tower to begin service. They are requesting the DLIA provide the addresses of serious potential subscribers to evaluate the feasibility of providing the service.

Details of this service are provided on the Douglas Lake Improvement Association website. Please contact Joan Hartwig at joan.e.hartwig@gmail.com, if you are seriously considering this option. No need to make another contact if you already responded. For answers to additional technical and support questions, contact support@racc2000.com.

We currently have 13 potential subscribers for the RACC service, and need 7 to 12 more. Once there are 20 to 25 serious potential subscribers, RACC will continue to work with The University of Michigan to utilize the UMBS tower, which will provide wireless broadband internet access service in our area.

**AirNorth** – Michael Christenson reported, “AirNorth provides high speed broadband internet service for one flat month fee with no contract and unlimited data. However, Douglas Lake

is currently out of their coverage area. AirNorth is willing to install an access point, which is a broadcasting Wireless Internet radio on someone’s property in order to broadcast to the entire Douglas Lake community. They don’t need a tower; they just need someone’s house to establish the access point. If there are any volunteers, please contact, AirNorth, phone 231-333-3104. Their coverage map can be seen at <https://www.airnorth.net/coverage/>.”

**miSpot Highspeed Wireless Internet** – This company has recently been purchased by another company, is no longer signing up new customers, and will focus their services in the Michigan thumb area.

**Verizon Wireless** – A large number of people continue to use a Verizon WiFi hotspot for Internet access. The service is delivered via satellite, and has several data plans with incremental pricing. Typical download speeds for a 3G device are 400 - 700 Kbps and upload speeds are 60 - 80 Kbps. Verizon states, “Whether you experience these speeds depends on many factors, including among others, the type of device, the programs running on the device, your location, and how many other customers are attempting to use the same spectrum resources.” For additional information, visit the Verizon Store at 751 Spring Street, Petoskey, the Verizon website that describes the difference between kilobytes, megabytes, and gigabytes, or the Verizon support website.



### Pellston Elementary Library Project

by Gail Beaver

Replenishing the pre-school and Kindergarten book collection at the Pellston Elementary Library became a summer 2014 project for Douglas Lake’s Womenade group and the weekly book group. Eventually the project spread to involve many more Douglas Laker. The effort began in answer to the need expressed by kindergarten teacher, Emily Matelski. Because of budget constraints and the lack of a school librarian in the Pellston Schools, new book additions to the collections have been limited. Mrs Matelski felt strongly that her non and beginning reading students especially needed to be introduced to new books and to the library.

The volunteers started with help from McLean and Eakin bookstore’s Jessilyn Norcross who offered a discount and provided a list of books which many members and

friends purchased for the library. All the books on the list (approximately 50) were purchased and another 50 gently used books were added to the collection. Many more donated books were put into a Book Exchange for kindergarten students to be kept in the classroom or for students to take home and return for another choice.

The summer project has ended but the spinoffs continue. Douglas Lake volunteers and parent volunteers spent time weeding the collection, rearranging furnishings and refurbishing the library. The school’s principal, Tami Pichla, requested and the superintendent has approved investment in an updated version of the library’s computerized collection which will offer assessment of its quantity and quality plus recommendations for additions. Parent volunteers are working toward a 2015 dedicated fundraiser for the library.

There was also a very special and surprise outcome when Rick Anderson invited Mrs. Matelski and Mrs. Pichla to be guests at the golf outing for Manna dinner. Mrs. Matelski spoke eloquently of the value of the Manna project and what it means to the students and families of Pellston Elementary School. During the Manna fundraising auction that followed, an anonymous Douglas Laker purchased a painting (\$4000) and donated that painting by Martina Hahn to the Pellston Elementary School Library where it now hangs above the doorway.

## A TRAGEDY on DOUGLAS LAKE

***One Hundred  
Thirteen  
Summers Ago***



It was a warm day on Wednesday July 17, 1901. With field work at a lull, the A.C. Bonnett family decided to go berry picking. Their family farm was several miles north of Douglas Lake near the present Munro Township Hall. So they hitched their team to a wagon and drove south on a rough road (now Bonnett Road ) until it intersected with a road leading from Riggsville to a sawmill located just east of Pine Point . Then they turned right toward North Fishtail Bay and started picking blueberries. The landscape in 1901 was far more open with the pre-settlement forest having been logged 20-30 years earlier . After the logging operations ceased, repeated fires swept through the region burning huge piles of dry slash left over after the tree trunks were removed. Berries, especially blueberries, thrive in recently burned and open sites and early settlers were serious berry pickers.

Included in the party that day were two Bonnett brothers: William 20, and Joseph 17. After several hours picking in the warm sun, Joseph, who was picking near his aunt, told her he was going into the lake to cool off. She knew he could not swim, few farm boys could, and tried to dissuade him, but he jumped in from the shore anyway. As near as I can tell, Joseph jumped in the lake at East Point, where it is possible to jump into the lake and be in very deep water just a few feet from land. There are only two or three sites on Douglas Lake where this is possible. Elsewhere there is a gradually deepening beach and one must wade in before the water becomes deep. Soon his aunt noticed Joseph struggling in deep water and she frantically called to his older brother William to go to his aid. Sadly, William could not swim either and soon both boys disappeared beneath the surface. Their bodies were recovered from a boat the next morning. The funeral was held in the family home and internment was in the Munro Township Cemetery just a quarter mile east of their home.

There have been very few drownings in Douglas Lake, and as far as I know, never a double drowning.

I first learned about this Douglas Lake tragedy about 40 years ago from Carl Bonnett the baby brother of William and Joseph. Carl was the long time Supervisor of Munro Township and he related this story of the loss of his older brothers when we were discussing the status and future of the “Munro Township Beach “on University land in North Fish Tail Bay. Needless to say he had a strong and emotional attachment to the Bay.

I later verified the story from the July 27, 1901 Cheboygan Democrat newspaper on microfilm in the Cheboygan Public Library.

The Bonnett family still farm on Bonnett Road north of Douglas lake. The boy’s grave monument is rather easily located in the Munro Township Cemetery. When I visited the Cemetery on a lovely summer morning several years ago a bluebird was softly singing, and Matt Bonnett, great nephew of the drowned boys, was making hay in the far distance. The landscape is still very rural and it pleased me that 113 years has not yet obliterated the past way of life in this region.

- Mark Paddock

*Mark, a year round Douglas Lake resident, is a retired Associate Director of the Biological Station and has contributed several natural history articles to the DLIA newsletters.*



### **Douglas Lake Merchandise**

**The Online store is Open**

**clothing • caps • visors • notecards  
DL flag • wine glasses • jean shirt  
Christmas ornament**

**Douglas Lake calendars with  
images from our members!**

**[www.douglaslake.org](http://www.douglaslake.org)**

*Contact [merchandise\\_manager@douglaslake.org](mailto:merchandise_manager@douglaslake.org)  
with any questions. Marilyn at 231-420-4579.*



## News is Green

For quite some time DLIA has been honoring the Go Green Initiative by sending the newsletter electronically to members. 81% of the membership joined the effort. Some are reading the newsletter online while others opt to print at home. While we encourage everyone to have an email address, it may not be possible. Those who do not have email are receiving the printed newsletter using USPS. Beginning now, newsletters will be published twice a year, May and November.

DLIA began supplementing the newsletter two and a half years ago with the eNews. eNews is an online publication that contains time sensitive and relevant information. It is only available online, and is sent every other week during the summer and once a month as needed off-season. Members receive it in their email boxes. The most recent ones were sent October 21 and November 14. If you gave us your email address but are not seeing the eNews, check other email folders such as Promotions, Newsletters, Spam or Junk. The DLIA publications will be in your Inbox if you add [Info@douglaslake.org](mailto:Info@douglaslake.org) to your contacts (address list).

Anyone with news items or with questions may send a message to [Info@douglaslake.org](mailto:Info@douglaslake.org). You may also contact the Communications chair, Linda Orlow, at [Communications@douglaslake.org](mailto:Communications@douglaslake.org).

### CALL FOR ENTRIES

The 2015 calendar, with Sue Klaas' sunrise photograph on the cover, was a success. The idea was announced in April with only a short time allowed for submissions. The calendar was ready for the July 4th merchandise sale. The idea worked well and the merchandise manager, Marilyn Keleman, wants to send a new one off to the presses next year.

This is a call for entries for the 2016 Douglas Lake Calendar. Anyone can enter artwork, be it paintings, drawings, sculptures, needlepoint, photographs, whatever creative medium you use. Does it represent Douglas Lake? Let's see it!

You will need to email a digital file, and file size does matter. The pixels per inch (ppi) should be 180 ppi or greater, 300 ppi is best. The pixel dimension can be 720x1080 up to 2400x3000.

You can scan or photograph your drawings or paintings. If photographing a piece of artwork, you can use natural light. Select a bright day, place the artwork near the window or even photograph outside in the shade. Reduce reflection if you cannot remove protective glass from the artwork. Use a tripod when possible and set the timer so you do not touch the camera when the shutter releases.

Contact Holly Gedert, [hollygedert@hotmail.com](mailto:hollygedert@hotmail.com) or 231-537-3269, if you need assistance or want her to photograph your work.

Send your digital JPG format file to [info@douglaslake.org](mailto:info@douglaslake.org). Each entry must be your own or identify the owner. Include a description of the work. Entries are accepted through March, 2015.

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**Douglas Lake Improvement Association**

[www.DouglasLake.org](http://www.DouglasLake.org)

Membership Dues: \$25 a year  
Mail to DLIA, PO Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

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Secretary - Joan Hartwig, [secretary@douglaslake.org](mailto:secretary@douglaslake.org)  
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Membership Updates to [Membership@douglaslake.org](mailto:Membership@douglaslake.org)  
News Articles and Obituaries to [Info@douglaslake.org](mailto:Info@douglaslake.org)

New member and update form can be found at [www.DouglasLake.org](http://www.DouglasLake.org)

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