

**40th Annual Meeting
Douglas Lake Improvement Association
August 13, 2008**

President Barbara Wilkinson introduced the UMBS Director; Knute Nadelhofer who talked about the great summer the Station has had with superior students and faculty. He has just finished his first 5 years at the Station and has been appointed for an additional 5 years. Barb then welcomed members and announced there was a quorum of 74 members. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. She thanked the UMBS staff for supplying space and drinks for our meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes: Betsy Naumer, our secretary, presented the minutes. As there were no corrections or additions, the minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer: The financial report was given by the treasurer, Dan Francis. He reported the Association has total assets of \$48,691.12. He also reported that last year's balance in our checking account needed to be corrected and that the current report shows the correct balance that was in the checking account as of July 31, 2007. The current balance for the checking account as of August 13, 2008 is \$16,361.25. He then thanked Beth Reynolds and Marilyn Stover for the money they raised through merchandise sales and John Kurkjian for the advertising sales for the directory. He also thanked Nat Wilkinson for keeping the data base.

President's Report: Barb announced that the new directory will be out in the early fall. There will be 2 copies per member thanks to John Kurkjian's ad sales. The zone reps will be asked to deliver the directories to members in their zones, if possible. If not, they will be mailed.

Our means of communicating quickly with our membership was tested this summer when we attempted to get word out on the algae bloom. It was felt that it went rather well, but there were a few loopholes so we have set up the following procedures. Email will be used first and if a member doesn't have email, they will be contacted by phone. If the zone rep doesn't have email, he or she will appoint someone in their zone to send the emails and the phone calls will be made by the zone rep. Every member needs to make sure that your zone rep has your email address or that they prefer to be contacted by phone. In addition, we will be submitting Executive Board meeting minutes to the zone reps within one month of any Board meeting and summarizing these in newsletters. All of this is so the membership will be kept informed in a timely manner. .

Members wanted more information on the algae bloom, so Barb asked Knute to come forward to answer questions. He explained the causes of microcystis, which was at a higher level than usual probably due to the zebra mussel population. The Station sent in samples to the Health Dept. and Douglas Lake had low toxic levels. Contacting people to stay out of

the lake for 2-3 days was precautionary. He suggested that the DLIA have direct communication with the Health Dept. and Barbara said we'd discuss this at a future Board meeting.

The revised By-Laws passed by a vote of 68 to 0. These By-Laws will be printed in the new directory.

Barbara congratulated the UMBS on their Centennial on behalf of the DLIA membership and then announced that the Executive Board voted to contribute to the David M and Marion P Gates Graduate Student Fund the sum of \$3000.00 in honor of this remarkable accomplishment and event. We are fortunate to have the UMBS as our neighbor and in this way say thank you for your devoted work in a very important area including our lake and its environment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Merchandise: Beth Reynolds & Marilyn Stover will have a final report at a later date after their last 2 sales at the end of the summer.

Township Report: Walter Nows, who attends almost all of the Munro Township meetings, reports back to the Board if there is anything that needs our attention. He reported that the Board is up for election in November, but the Township Supervisor is the only contested race. There is a movement to revise the Revenue Sharing grants in the State of Michigan. Presently, the Detroit area receives 52% of the revenue. If it were changed to a per capita basis, instead of the present method, Munro Township would receive an additional \$30,000 in funding.

Pike Marsh: Paul Nows reported that the pike marsh was operational this year. He thought the DLIA had decided to suspend its operation. Mark Paddock reported that the DNR wanted the pike marsh to operate to enhance fishing on the lake. As the Douglas Lake representative to the Little Traverse Conservancy (the owner of the pike marsh), Mark got some volunteers to help with it before Paul was back at the lake. Paul is willing to continue working on the marsh, but needs more volunteers to help him. There followed a lengthy discussion of the merits of the pike marsh and how much it really increases the population. There is also an annual variation in the need for the marsh due to the water levels. Some fishermen feel the pike diminish the pan fish in the lake; others feel the pan fishing has been very good. Mark feels it's hard to determine what affect the marsh has on the fish population because the zebra mussels are having more affect than anything else, a new phenomena for us.

It was moved and seconded that we suspend the pike marsh for 2 years. A discussion followed. An amendment to the motion was made and seconded which stated : the pike marsh will not be suspended for 2 years if a committee of 10 or more people can be formed to operate the pike marsh. After further discussion, a second amendment was made and seconded which stated that: the pike marsh would operate if a committee of 5 or more people is formed to operate the pike marsh and this would be evaluated annually. The vote

on the 2nd amendment passed 24 for and 5 against. Discussion on the main motion became confusing and those who had made the original motion and the amendments withdrew them from the table.

Barbara summarized the discussion regarding the pike marsh. It was moved and seconded to form a committee of 5 or more people to evaluate the pike marsh on an annual basis. After some discussion, an amendment was made to have a representative from the Little Traverse Conservancy be a part of any decisions the committee makes regarding the pike marsh. It was seconded and passed. The main motion passed as amended. Paul Nows agreed to continue as chair of the pike marsh and anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact him.

Environmental News: Mark Paddock discussed our weather patterns which are without major problems, concluding we have a wonderful environment. He also said they hadn't planned to put out loon nests this year but Dave Thompson and Garth Spencley went ahead and put 2 nests out resulting in 2 broods, totaling 4 babies (one in North Fishtail and one in Maple Bay). Dave will do this again next year. The UMBS is closing another 2 mile area to hunting because more research is being done in these areas and major equipment has been installed which is very expensive and for the safety of researchers and walkers. He was asked about the bear population (which he thinks is healthy in MI) and the bald Eagles (they are still on the lake).

Speakers

Dr Harvey Blankspoor

Dr Blankspoor, a professor at Hope College and the UMBS has devoted much of his career to studying and trying to combat the problem of Swimmers Itch. He gave a thoughtful presentation and answered many questions. In response to what can be done on Douglas Lake to minimize or remove swimmers itch, he made 5 suggestions:

1. Remove Merganser broods from lake ;
2. Fill their nests (which are in trees) with rocks or stones so they don't lay eggs;
3. Remove snails
4. Use baby oil and sunscreens;
5. Educate the lake population

Toweling off after swimming really doesn't help.

UMBS Students:

Four students (Brian Talpos, Cassie Simmons, Tom Applebacker, and Leah Deameano) have studied the feasibility of a Walleye Plant in Douglas Lake this summer and made a slide presentation describing their findings. They concluded walleye can survive in the lake but can't sustain their population over time. This is due to many factors so you would have to continue to restock the lake. They then took questions from the membership.

New Business

Walleye Plant: Barbara reported that a plan to privately stock the lake with walleye has been proposed. Our participation, if any, will come about only after much study as to the pros and cons both now and in the future. All study, research and informational results will be passed on to you through the newsletter. Any final decisions will only be made by the membership at large through a vote by mail. If anyone has any questions as information becomes available, please contact our new president, Sue Nelson, via email or mail.

Other:

Frank Spezia made a motion to do something about swimmers itch in 2009. Barbara suggested he revise the motion to include a committee to study this. He revised his motion and it was seconded by Paul Nows. The motion passed. It was suggested the committee consider taking a survey to determine how bad the problem is on the lake, and the feasibility and cost of using Dr Blankspoor to help us.

Ron Kelemen discussed the huge water level changes in the lake. He wondered whether a dam might be a good idea. He made a motion that a committee be formed to study this. It was seconded by Steve Snyder. The motion passed.

Election of Officers

Nominating Committee: Linda Alexander presented the slate of officers for 2 year terms.

- President - Sue Nelson
- Vice-President – Nat Wilkinson
- Secretary – Betsy Naumer

As there were no further nominations from the floor, the slate was elected by acclamation.

Closing Remarks & Introduction of New Officers

Barbara Wilkinson reviewed the accomplishments of the Association during the last 4 years before turning over the gavel to the new President, Sue Nelson. Sue, in turn, thanked Barb for her years of service and presented her with a gift from the Association, noting that she will continue on the Board as the Newsletter Editor and the past President. Door prizes were drawn which were given by the Merchandise Committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barb Wilkinson and seconded by Nat Wilkinson. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Naumer
Secretary