

**41st ANNUAL MEETING
DOUGLAS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 12, 2009**

President Sue Nelson called the 41st meeting of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association to order at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum being present of 60 members represented either in person or by proxy. She then introduced Knute Nadelhofer, the UMBS Director, who welcomed us to the Marion P. and David M. Gates Lecture Hall which was renamed a year ago in their honor. The money raised (over \$400,000) will be used for scholarships for students at the UMBS. He also said that they've had the busiest and most energetic summer they've ever had this year with excellent students and faculty studying and doing research. UMBS is the field station with the broadest and deepest programs in research and education in the inland United States. There were more than 60 institutions of higher learning represented among students and faculty at the station this summer. Because of the economic conditions, they gave twice as many scholarships than they normally do this year.

Knute said some of the outcomes of the Centennial celebration have been new books, personal memoirs and websites. Many of us have been working on a book called The Changing Environment of Northern Michigan, which describes a century of science in nature at the UMBS. It will be available for purchase in November 2009.

Before beginning the official meeting, President Sue Nelson thanked Betsy Naumer and her committee of cookie bakers: Julie Kennedy, Linda Alexander, and Margaret Gilbertson, for providing refreshments tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes: Betsy Naumer, our secretary, presented the minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting. 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 \$50,505.14. There were no questions so the report will be filed for audit.

President's Report: Sue thanked Nat and Barbara Wilkinson for assembling and publishing our new directories. She also thanked John Kurkjian who sold 47 ads for the directories, enough so that each member can have 2 copies.

She then discussed the importance of communication in lake matters and of our membership having input into these matters. The Board is made up of elected officers, Zone Representatives and Directors. Our membership can contact their Zone Rep or any of the officers or Directors who will bring their concerns to the Board. She explained that written communication is preferable so that details are clear and not lost in translation. Contact information for the Board members is in the directory.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting will be posted on the website as unapproved minutes within one month after this meeting, as they are not officially approved until the Annual Meeting the following year.

The Walleye Plant and Swimmers Itch were two issues that came out of our meeting last year that required the Board's attention. The proposal for a walleye plant was presented to the membership for a vote. Over 50% of the members voted with 83% voting NO on the proposal of DLIA funding for the project.

The second issue of Swimmers Itch was communicated to the membership in the newsletter and the sequence of events that followed. Sue thanked the committee that included John Verhoeven (chair), Frank Spezi, Susan Klaas, and Mark Paddock, who worked diligently to develop a plan for treating the problem in Douglas Lake. The Board hoped they had found a solution to the problem through a program developed by Dr. Blakespoor, whom you heard about last year at this meeting. However, due to health reasons, he drastically changed the terms of the agreement in May to an arrangement that was unacceptable. We are continuing to work on finding a solution. If we can, it will go to the Board and then be presented to the membership for a vote. We know that if we find a program, it will need to be a long term commitment and that it will be expensive.

Sue then introduced the newest members of the Board: Betty Cassidy (Zone 33), Joyce Oldham (Zone 61). The new Directors are Frank Beaver, John Perkins and Joan Hartwig. Thank you to Ruth Paddock and Anna Nows who served as Zone Representatives and to Linda Orlow and Carma Case who served as Directors, all for several years.

Merchandise Report: There will be one more sale on Labor Day. Sue Nelson thanked Kathy Buchweitz, the chair, for her work this year. The buying, pricing, organizing and hosting sales takes a great deal of time and she has searched out new items this year. The results of these sales benefit all of us. If anyone has any ideas for new merchandise, their ideas would be welcome.

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 provides an important link for us to the county. There is nothing new to report but he will keep us informed.

Lake Water Monitoring Report: Dick Segrist tests the lake water for clarity every week during the summer to see how far down the water is clear. In June, the water was clear down to 16 feet; now it is down to 15 feet, an unusual depth of clarity this time of year. This may possibly be due to the presence of zebra mussels in the lake. In addition to checking for water clarity, every two weeks he collects water samples and gives his samples to Tip of the Mitt. They then send these samples to a lab where they are tested for clarity and lack of matter and are rated against other lakes. This testing is done on all fresh water lakes in the United States but we are rated with other Michigan lakes. There are 3 group ratings and we are in the upper level of the second group. There are only 3 or 4 lakes in Michigan in the first group.

Pike Marsh Report: Before asking Dave Thompson for a report, Sue thanked Paul Nows on behalf of the Association for his many years of monitoring the Pike Marsh. Dave reported that he will mow the marsh in the next few weeks and has people checking that it remains in good shape throughout the year. Dave now is not only responsible for the Pike Marsh but will also put out the loon nests this year.

Environmental News: Mark Paddock reported that this year we have two loon nests on the lake and each nest had two babies. He then explained the "water budget" of Douglas lake (where the water comes from and where it goes) which helps to explain the variety in lake levels each year. Our lake water comes from rain, the creeks that flow into it and ground water (perhaps the single biggest source). The water from our lake goes underground emerging at the gorge as Carp Creek. The Maple River also flows from the lake. The lake level started lower than normal at the

beginning of the summer but there hasn't been much drop in the level due to the cooler weather and less evaporation. Our lake level can vary up to 4 feet but, at this point, is about normal.

Tip of the Mitt: Sue thanked Marilyn Smith for representing us on this Board for several years.

Tip of the Mitt was founded on Douglas Lake at the UMBS and our own Mark Paddock was one of the organizers. Tom Kennedy has taken over this responsibility and recently represented us at the fifth annual Lake Association Summit sponsored by the "Tip". Seventeen lake associations attended along with four other conservation/environmental groups where they discussed communications, invasive species, and partnerships between lake associations and township boards. Tom's report focused on invasive species.

- Phragmites, an invasive reed-like plant that grows in wet lands and on shore lines, is difficult to control once it is established. It has been found in Cheboygan County ditches, but not in their lakes (yet). The Tip has detailed information on how to control this.
- Ocean going vessels have opened up our Great Lakes to over 180 foreign species (so far). The best known are probably sea lamprey and zebra mussels. Many of the invasive species already have or will spread to our inland lakes. We know about zebra mussels in Douglas Lake, Eurasian milfoil in Paradise Lake, etc. There will be more to come.
- Zebra Mussels are now essentially the only mussel in the Great Lakes. They cause extensive plugging in municipal and industrial inlet water lines. Over \$1.5 billion has been spent to date, with more spent each and every year.
- Sea Lamprey have caused a huge decline in the commercial lake trout harvest from Lake Michigan (in 1946, it was over 5.5 million lbs; in 1953, it was 402 lbs.). The states surrounding the Great Lakes have spent over \$300 million to control sea lamprey and continue to spend more, but it will never be eliminated. The sea lamprey is also responsible for the decline of the whitefish harvest.

Tom emphasized that the Tip of the Mitt is there to help us to, at least, minimize the impact of these invaders, if not eliminate some of them. In addition, he thanked those from Douglas Lake who donated to a Whale of a Sale which cleared over \$10,000 for the Tip of the Mitt.

He reported on the blue green algae bloom. He has sampled six main beaches and there still has been no detectable toxic sample found. He will do one more sample the end of August.

Correspondence: Secretary, Betsy Naumer, read a thank you letter to the DLIA from Melissa Behrman, a graduate of Inland Lakes High School. She was awarded the DLIA scholarship for study at the UMBS this summer. Melissa attends North Central Michigan College in Petoskey and is interested in Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Guest Speaker: The guest speaker, Katie Parker, is an archaeobotanist, an archaeologist who specializes in identification and evaluation of plant remains from prehistoric (and sometimes historic) sites. There are sites on the UMBS property that have proved to be authentic and interesting. Katie's work has been centered in the Midwestern US with current and continuing research focused on plant use by late prehistoric populations from the Northern Plains to the American Bottom of the Central Mississippi Valley to the Great Lakes region.

The UMBS has a National Science Foundation Grant to investigate prehistoric sites on the campus. There had been no such study here prior to 2005. Since then, three storage sites have been located, 2 on Grapevine Point. They found depressions where things were stored. Mapping pits to scale has been critical. They've also recovered artifacts through screens, bagged and labeled them. These will be analyzed and become part of the University's permanent collection. Bob VanderKopple has provided great assistance in all areas of the project. This is a continuous work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS

President, Sue Nelson, opened the floor to any new business that might be brought before the membership as well as asked if anyone wished to discuss a topic or ask any questions. No new business was introduced, but there were questions and comments about activities on the lake:

1. Dave Thompson inquired about the 2 large buoys located in South Fishtail Bay and was told they belonged to the UMBS to mark interesting bottom formation for research;
2. John Young commented about property appraisals according to state formulas;
3. Richard Kellogg said there seems to be a deficiency of pan fish this year;
4. Dennis Jensen commented about the poor fishing on the lake this year.

Election of Treasurer: Linda Alexander, a nominating committee member, presented the slate for the office of treasurer. Dan Francis was nominated for a second term of two years. There being no additional nominations from the floor, he was elected by acclamation.

Closing Remarks: Sue thanked the members for showing their support and interest by attending the meeting and then closed the meeting with the drawing of door prizes donated by the Merchandise Committee.

Adjournment: Neil Leighton made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Marilyn Smith. The meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Naumer, Secretary