

DOUGLAS LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEWS

"Summer" Newsletter

July, 1997

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It's that time of year again when we relish being a part of the Douglas Lake Community and all that the wonderful northern summer brings. Being an active part of the Douglas Lake Association is what I would like to address in this message. Many of us come and go with the birds, perhaps paying an occasional winter visit, but summer is "our season." As we are on vacation or an extended summer holiday, we play and enjoy and often are reluctant to become involved with any organizations. Volunteer work is usually reserved for "at home time." But please think for just a moment, what better place to offer your time and talents than to a place you return to time and time again. A place we all want to preserve for ourselves and also for future generations. I can not urge you enough to volunteer, even for just a few hours each summer, many hands make light work. During the past several years I have met and worked with many new individuals, whose friendship I now value. Giving back to the area is rewarding. Give it a try! We have some interesting projects on the docket for this year and next. Let us know where and how you would like to help out.

A few of the original lake zone areas have grown well beyond a number that is convenient for one zone representative to handle. As we are an organization of volunteers, we try to keep the work load down for any one individual. By keeping the zones to a manageable size this can be accomplished. With this in mind we are creating sub-zones within these major zone areas so that each zone rep will have a more manageable membership of his or her (or both) neighbors to follow. For example zone 3 had over 47 memberships. Therefore, zone 3 now has 3 sub-zones 31, 32 and 33. Pat or Otto Bussard represents zone 31, John Kurkjian represents zone 32 and Ruth or Mark Paddock represents zone 33.

Also several of our representatives who have spent years doing the organization a large favor by collecting dues, passing on information or concerns to the board and serving on committees, have expressed a desire for me to find someone else to take their turn. If this is an area that interests you please drop me a line, the area you are in might just be one that needs help.

Business wise our summer agenda consists of studying the present by-laws and drafting revisions as deemed necessary. The committee consists of myself, Stuart Case, Mark Paddock, Kathy LeButt, Joanne Hiles and Bill McTaggart. Our goal is to have a report in the hands of the membership prior to the Annual meeting. Our time frame will depend in part on just how extensive we feel the need for change is. You will be notified of any pending changes prior to any voting dates. All information will be mailed to the address that you listed as your summer mailing address (in many cases this is your winter residence).

This past winter, while I was preparing for the above mentioned project, I spent time reading all the past organization minutes, both annual meetings and executive board meetings. In the process I discovered a few very interesting historical facts and stories which I plan on sharing with you in this letter and also in future newsletters. I feel that it is usually easier for an organization to know where it is going if it remembers where it has been. To set this article, which is taken directly from the past minutes, apart from the regular part of my message I'll call it the Historical Corner. The first installment will directly follow this message.

In the extra edition newsletter, I mentioned that we would have to seek a meeting place for the annual

meeting due to the lecture hall at the U of M Biological Station having suffered extensive damage from the ice storm. I visited the campus in late May and arranged to use their dining hall. The view is wonderful and I promise to stand with my back to the window so that you can enjoy the wonderful scenery. Come for refreshments at 7:30, merchandise will be available at the same time. The business part of the meeting will begin at 8:00 P.M. or as soon after as possible.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wilkinson, President

THE HISTORICAL CORNER

The final sentence of the first meeting's minutes seems a good way to begin the Historical Corner. "However, at a much later date, this night may perhaps be referred to as the real beginning of an effective Association." Rhenal Gossel writes of this first meeting held on Friday, Sept. 1, 1967 "At 7:30 p.m. on this date a meeting was held at the Munro Township Hall for residents of Douglas Lake, and any others, who were interested in the very poor fishing

conditions at the Lake. The attendance at this meeting was good and beyond expectations and was, therefore, encouraging as it evidenced an earnest desire to better conditions at the Lake." The minutes continue on discussing a need to improve the fishing and give an account by two "fish biologists with the Conservation Department." (Note: a future installment will cover the fishing aspect, more fully). The discussion on fishing ended and Lynn Kellogg "addressed the assemblage with the proposal that, for the betterment of many other existent circumstances at the lake, as well as the fishing, it would perhaps be a good thing to commence an Association of residents of Douglas Lake. This was accepted favorably and immediately seconded. A unanimous choice was made for a committee of three to get this Association *off the ground*. Those chosen were Blair Nixon to act as chairman, Floyd M. Johnson and Rhenal Gossel as assistants."

The Non-Profit Articles of Incorporation were filed October 16, 1967 and on Friday, July 5, 1968 the first annual membership meeting was held at the Munro Township Hall at 7:00 p.m. Membership fees were collected, officers were elected and by-laws were deemed by Judge Witney as "workable as written." The Association was *off the ground*.

The first newsletter did not appear until 5 years latter but when it did it opened with words that I and I'm sure our newsletter Editor, JoAnne Davis believe are important today. "This Newsletter has been prepared in keeping with the principle that a well informed membership will strengthen and support the goals and objectives of the Association." The letter continues "The Association is now beginning its fifth year of existence." "It was conceived for the primary purpose of affording the property owners on and a-round Douglas Lake one of the finest recreational facilities in Michigan. To this end we believe the Association has made a fine start. At the same time we recognize there remains much to be done and with your support this can and will be accomplished."

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

DLB Steak House

Catering



The Douglas Lake Improvement Association Executive Board wishes to thank Hoot & Anne Rudolph for allowing us to use the DLB for our board meetings.

**7314 Douglas Lake Rd.
Pellston, MI 49769**

(616) 539-8588

DOUGLAS LAKE MERCHANDISE

There will be three dates for merchandise sales:

July 5	10 am - 1 P.M.
July 19	10 am - 1 P.M.
Aug. 30	10 am - 1 P.M.

The sales will take place at 9411 McArthur Rd.

The merchandise will also be available at the Aug. 2nd Annual Meeting at the U of M Biological Station.

If you need merchandise some other time please call me before coming over.

Beth Reynolds
9411 McArthur Rd.
537-2250

REPORTS ON CURRENT ASSOCIATION CONCERNS: HIGH WATER, DEEP SNOW AND SPRING RUNOFF

Douglas Lake water level was extremely high all autumn and winter: seasons when it usually remains near the late summer low levels only to quickly rebound in April when the snow melts. It was not an exceptionally cold nor stormy winter, but there was lots of snow and one very destructive (and disruptive) ice storm January 4-5 that left a heavy 2" layer of ice in the snow pack. So we headed into the spring snow melt period with over 40" of snow on the ground containing almost 12" of water. The stage was set for a tremendous runoff and all time record high water in the lake. But it didn't happen-- fortunately. Three factors added up to make the difference. First, April was unusually cool and dry so the snow melted gradually. Second, there were no warm rains during the snow melt period, and third, the Maple River outlet of Douglas Lake was again free of active beaver dams and the water could, as usual, drain out unencumbered during high levels. Even so the lake came within 4.5" of the all time record high water level: the surrounding countryside seemed to have water running everywhere and all low lying areas were flooded.

For the first time in our memory Douglas Lake Road had water almost running over it. Van Creek, an unobtrusive, often dry water course between Van and Douglas Lake Roads was forced out of its banks by a beaver dam. Water ran south through the forest for half a mile until it reached Douglas Lake Road filling up the barrow pits on both sides of the road and flooding the Olive family residence. The Emmet

County Road Commission hired a beaver trapper to remove the beaver and the dam was opened up allowing the water to flow down its natural water course to the Maple River.

The abnormally high water the past few years has caused serious shoreline erosion on parts of Douglas Lake, especially on the north shore, but elsewhere as well. Lake shore property owners should be interested in the upcoming presentation at the association's annual meeting August 2. Doug Fuller of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will discuss proven ways to stabilize the shoreline without undue disturbance of the fragile shoreline ecosystem, both at the site of the problem and also on neighboring shoreline properties.

ARTIFICIAL LOON NESTING ISLETS

One of the limiting factors for nesting loons on Douglas Lake is the fact that the lake has few natural small islands, the much preferred and safest nesting sites for loons. With the unusually high water in recent years, even normally useable shoreline nesting habitat has been unfit. One solution is the construction and placement of artificial nesting islets: something that has been successful on other north country lakes. Last October Otto Busard and I built two such nests of 10" cedar logs. They are essentially 6' x 6' rafts with a wire mesh bottom to hold nesting materials. Immediately after "ice out" in late April Bill Hutto and I, (using Bill's boat and trailer) towed the islets to two sites in Maple Bay. We placed one next to the "rice beds" where loons nested as recently as 1992 when water was lower. The other was placed at the far west end of the bay near a bed of cattails at the shore. It turned out that the "rice bed" site was too exposed to waves and wind and the nesting materials kept blowing or washing away. but the other artificial nesting islet was immediately selected by a loon pair for their nesting site. When Bill Hutto took some additional nesting materials out to the islets in mid-May he found a loon egg on a nest. The adult had slipped quietly into the water as he approached and swam away underwater. Hopefully this will be a successful nest. I have not personally been out to check the nest because we don't want to unduly disturb the nesting pair. All of us should keep away from the area at least until mid-July by which time the young will have hatched. It is probable that the loon pair will use Maple Bay as their "nursery" for their young chicks, or some other place on the lake that is

shallow, has emergent or submergent vegetation and an abundance of small fish -- usually a bay. This is the period when the young are most vulnerable to human activities; they can be separated from their parents when frightened by water craft. Later in the summer the young will be old enough to venture out on the lake as a whole with their parents and will not be so prone to human disturbance.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY:

We hope you have noticed that the Michigan Department of Transportation has placed signs on U.S. 31 recognizing the Douglas Lake Association as being responsible for clean up on 2 miles of the highway, from Ely Road on the south to a point one mile north of Van Road.

We do the highway cleanup three times a year -- April, July and September. It takes about 2 hours with a crew of 6 or 8. We've had a loyal hard working group thus far, but I'm sure we can use additional volunteers. Call me at 539-8952 if you would like to help.

Mark Paddock

GET WET... A Guide to *Living With Michigan's Wetlands*

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has just published *Living with Michigan's Wetlands: A Landowner's Guide*. The guide helps landowners learn more about wetlands and the value of their protection, basic techniques and options for wetland management, the economic benefits of various protection methods, and where to go for more assistance. The book includes listings of state and federal resource agencies, nearly 100 non-governmental organizations, the full text of Michigan's wetlands law a glossary of terms, and references.

Beyond that dry summary, the book also offers a wealth of beautifully-illustrated information on the soil and water makeup of our wetlands, and how their spongy resilience contributes to the health of the earth and its creatures.

The book is written by Wilfred Cwikel, Water Resource Program Director for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Thomas W. Ford, well-known wildlife artist supplied 99 illustrations for the book.

Cwikel wrote the book out of a belief that "Michigan's wetland property owners care about their property and want to manage it in the best way possible."

Copies of *Living with Michigan's Wetlands: A Landowner's Guide*, contact the Watershed Council are available at: P.O. Box 356, Conway, MI 49722. Phone: 616-347-1181, or FAX 616-347-5928. Or pick one up at the Annual Meeting. They are free!

WANT ADS

For Sale:

Wendell & Elma Judson's daughter Judy's house is for sale. For those people who didn't know, Judy passed away last year.

This quality built 3 bedroom, 2 bath home at 9546 Ingleside road is on an acre of land and has walking access to Douglas Lake. It features a fireplace, appliances, master bedroom suite and a large two-car garage. It is available for immediate occupancy for \$69,900.00. Call 616-537-4846 or 616-537-2244 for more information.

For Rent:

Bryan Judson is renting his cabin at 9344 Ingleside Drive (next to Wendell Judson's) this summer. The cabin has 2 bedrooms, one bathroom with shower and kitchen. Towels, sheets and cooking utensils are provided. It is on lake frontage, has a small boat dock and rents for \$300.00 per week. This cabin will be available from July 11th on. Contact Bryan at 719-392-2363 or e-mail: Jud5614@aol.com. Local residents may call 616-537-2480.

Services:

Pontoon Launching ... up to 24 feet. Call Ken Rogers at 616-537-4409. Ken also has a 20 foot pontoon boat for sale.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:

If you have items for the next newsletter, please send them to me via our P.O. Box address:

Douglas Lake Improvement Assoc.
P.O. Box 472
Pellston, MI 49769

or my home address:

2450 Bester Rd.
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

I will need to have this information by Sept. 10, 1997

JoAnne Davis

CALLED FROM THIS LIFE:

Warren Luttmann, former Superintendent of Petoskey Public Schools and a Silver Strand and Petoskey, Michigan resident, in January of 1997.

Nova Mallory from White Birch Drive, in the spring of 1997.

Monica Armstrong Hunter of Pells Island Drive and El Paso, Texas, on May 2, 1997.

Peter Burda of Silver Strand Road and Detroit, Michigan, in June of 1997.

We would like to offer our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to their families and friends.

REMINDER:

Have you put your name, address and phone number on your boat yet?

Douglas Lake Association
c/o JoAnne Davis
Corresponding Secretary
2450 Bester Rd.
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Mr. & Mrs. William Hartwig
1219 Lilac Avenue
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