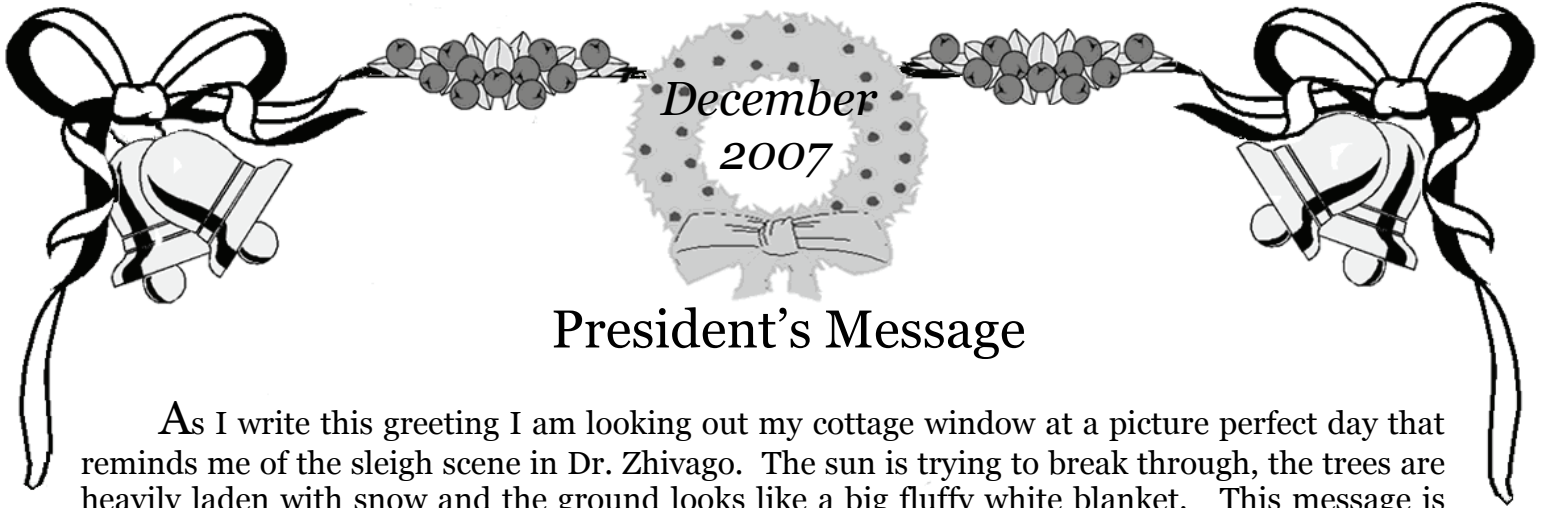


Douglas Lake Association Newsletter



President's Message

As I write this greeting I am looking out my cottage window at a picture perfect day that reminds me of the sleigh scene in Dr. Zhivago. The sun is trying to break through, the trees are heavily laden with snow and the ground looks like a big fluffy white blanket. This message is taking me a little longer to write as I keep looking out and admiring the beauty of the surroundings. So peaceful and quiet. I almost envy those of you who live here the entire year, and hope that for those of you who have never visited the lake in the winter that at some time you can experience this winter wonderland. It is truly beautiful

We have a committee that is studying the by-laws and making suggestions for any small changes. Once this has been accomplished it will be taken to the executive board and then voted on by the general membership. By in large the committee feels that our current by-laws are good ones and that only a few changes will be needed. The committee is comprised of several individuals who are, have been, and will be very active in the organization, in other words, past, present and future.

Take time to read a new addition to the newsletter which will appear from time to time, "Merchandise Stories". Also, the "Did you Know?" column has returned this issue featuring a very accomplished man. We do indeed have an interesting group of individuals that make up our lake community.

May you have a Christmas filled with Good Cheer and a New Year of Prosperity and Peace!

Warm Wishes,

Barbara Wilkinson



Birds of Winter

Mark Paddock

During the warm seasons at Douglas Lake, when the vast majority of people are here, we see and hear many, many birds whether we are "bird watchers" or not. Just like people, the majority of birds leave and remain away over winter. Only about 10-15% of the species stay. In winter, not only are there far fewer birds here, but some are dressed in their more drab winter plumage and they don't sing either.

Ruth and I get out into the landscape almost every day in winter skiing or walking. We often remark at the profound quiet along the trail, just an occasional call of a chickadee, and nuthatch or the sound



DID YOU KNOW?

Many of you may not have heard of the “World Food Prize” but to those in the food or food health field it is the Nobel Prize of its kind and one that is coveted by many and respected by all. This prize recognizes people who help improve the availability and quality of food throughout the world.

We are very privileged to have the latest recipient of this award, Dr. Philip Nelson, as a lake resident and member of the DLIA, in fact his wife Sue is our Vice President. A Washington press release stated that “ Philip Nelson, a noted U.S. food scientist who developed post-harvest technologies that allow the large-scale storage, packaging and transportation of fruit and vegetable products, has been named recipient of the 2007 World Food Prize. Nelson’s “pioneering work” has made it possible to package and ship to other countries large quantities of food without its losing nutritional value or taste.” The International Society for Horticultural Science said Phil, who is a professor of Food Science at Purdue University, received the prize for his work in aseptic processing, developing the “bag in a box” technology to process large quantities of seasonal crops such as tomatoes and oranges, for long-term storage and bulk transportation. His invention of a specially designed valve has permitted the storage of horticultural products such as tomato pulp in huge tanks to wait final processing.

Phil grew up in Indiana where his family raised and processed tomatoes. In fact when he was 15 he was named the “Tomato King” after winning a 4-H award at the Indiana State Fair. After graduating from high school he received a bachelor of science degree in general agriculture in 1956. Nelson returned to Purdue in the early sixties and began a long career in horticulture sciences which also included receiving his PhD Degree in 1967.

We extend our congratulations to our soon to be retired lake neighbor for a career and accomplishment that will have a lasting impact on the world. Well done Phil.

For more information on this prize please log on to:
http://www.worldfoodprize.org/press_room/2007/june/2007laureate.htm

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Presidents			
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Merchandise Information.	5	Address changes	Nat Wilkinson P.O. Box 1067 Jackson, MI 49204-1067 natwilkinson@gmail.com
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We Will Miss

We offer our condolences to the families of George William Gossmann, Patricia McLouth and Alexander Phillips.

George William Gossmann, 90, died Monday, September 17, 2007. Bill and his wife Mary Jane along with their children have spent summers at Douglas Lake for many years. First as guests of the "Kentucky Cottage" on the north shore, and then for years renting for the summer a cottage on MacArthur Road. For those of us who had the privilege to know and enjoy Bill he was a great friend and neighbor, whether he was preparing his fishing boat for the big catch, viewing the boats going through the Soo locks (he knew every freighter that passed) or reciting the Declaration of Independence at noon on the Fourth of July to a very quiet and respectful group of party goers. Of course his cannon shots got our attention and set the proper mood. He was a man who was a true believer in the principles of our founding fathers, a civil war history authority as he proclaimed his patriotism in a very real and sincere manner. A graduate of Manual High School he earned his BA from the University of Louisville, worked for Armour & Co., in Chicago, IL. His career at Armour was interrupted by World War II where he served as a 1st Lt., US Army in ordnance in the European theater. Upon returning from the war in 1946, Mr. Gossmann became the sales manager for Model Farms Dairy, a position he held after the dairy was sold to Beatrice Foods, Inc. He left the food services industry for independent ventures in the oil business and commercial real estate until his retirement in the mid 80s. He was a senior warden at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and a member of the choir for many years. He was a life member of The Juniper Club, The Pendennis Club, Audubon Country Club, The Wrangler's Mens Club, The Arms Collectors Society and Twenty Investors. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, the former Mary Jane Davis; sons, George William Jr. (Judith Barlow) and Douglas; daughters, Marie (Cis) Wilson and Anne Murphy Barrows (Richard); grandchildren Loudon Wilson, Bree Murphy, John Gossmann, Katlin Murphy, Jenny Gossmann and Zachary Gossmann;

great-grandchildren, Braedan Gossmann and Savannah Murphy. We will miss this gentleman who was a member and supported the Douglas Lake Improvement Association for many years.

Patricia McLouth, *Submitted by Sandy Segrist.* Pat died Tuesday, July 10, 2007. She was a year round resident, their home having been in the McLouth family since 1912. Having been born in Detroit Michigan, Patricia Dunn grew up in the Detroit area where she married Robert McLouth on July 19, 1952. In 1972 the family moved to Northern Michigan where Robert was employed at Boyne USA. Pat, who for many years was a secretary in dental health care, enjoyed doing needlepoint, crocheting, reading, boating and spending time with family and friends on Douglas Lake. She is survived by three sons, Donald of Kalkaska; Michael and wife Pam of Pellston; Robert of Pellston and a daughter Kathy Lozmak and her husband Dan of Levering; six grandchildren; and seven great – grandchildren. She is missed by both her family and lake residents.

Alexander Phillips, *Submitted by his friend and neighbor Donna Segrist.* Lex was born in Chicago, IL on March 1, 1922 and died in suburban Detroit MI, on December 8, 2006. He was a graduate of Northwestern University and also served in the US Army during WWII. His wife, Alice, preceded him in death, in November 2005. He and Alice lived in a number of cities: Rushville, Bloomington and Indianapolis IN. as well as Boston MA. And Chicago IL. Most of his career involvement was with State Mutual Life Insurance Co. Their first year to visit Douglas Lake was 1960-and they were "hooked" on their summer vacations! Son Tod told me that their cottage on Bryant Rd. Bay—"belly of the fish", was purchased in 1985, and Lex became an outstanding fisherman, as well as being busy as Representative of Property Owners in use of Easement Access, near their property. He also served as President of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association and I would like to mention, that when my husband Al and I moved into our cottage, Lex and Alice were overnight, like good friends---and we had a few great bridge games together!! Lex used to appear at our door with a fish for our supper. The Phillips--- We surely do miss both of them! Lex is survived by his two sons, Tod and Douglas and two granddaughters, Lara and Kimberly.



Editor's Comments

Once again you will notice a page of ads, these are the businesses that supported our directory and part of the cost of the directory ad was a one time listing in our newsletter. Consider it as a reminder that these companies would appreciate our business and we certainly appreciate their support. Soon it will be time for a new directory so please keep us updated on address changes, phone number changes or email addresses.

We have a very special issue planned for the cold winter month of February. Think warm weather with palm trees swaying and the surf lapping on the wind swept shore. Have your attention? We will revisit the Polynesian Picnic with pictures galore and song lyrics to sing. We will also have another merchandise story as well as a report on the last annual meeting. Keep in touch with any address changes, lake news you wish to pass along or obituaries we need to print. In the meantime Have a Very Happy Holiday!

PIKE MARSH REQUEST

Attention all fish catchers:

A study is being conducted by the Pike Marsh Committee and the UMBS to determine the effect if any the pike marsh has on the pan fish in the lake. To help us in this endeavor please when cleaning your catch keep the innards of the fish. Place them in a zip lock bag, mark the bag with the location and date of the catch and freeze. Then let Paul Nows (537-4479) know about this catch and he will pick up your frozen bag and deliver it to the UMBS. Thank you for your help in this project.

DOUGLAS LAKE AERIAL PICTURES NOW AVAILABLE

The photographer of the book "Above the North" was privately commissioned to take a variety of beautiful, colorful pictures of our lake on Oct. 20, 2007. These are NOT at all like the postcard many of you received from a large company. Available sizes include 8 X 12, 10 X 15, 16 X 24 and larger, with or without a mat and frame. Packages of ten note cards featuring one of the aerial lake prints are also available. To see a few of the proofs and get an order form you can e-mail Linda Orlow orlowlg@hotmail.com

MERCHANDISE STORIES

It all began with the decision to take the boat to the UMBS for the DLIA annual meeting. It was a beautiful evening, no stormy weather in sight, just your typical Douglas Lake night. Paul Nows was to give his report on the Pike Marsh to the membership and Frank Spezia had a swimmers itch issue he wished to bring to the membership's attention. They had a very nice boat ride to the meeting and accomplished their goals for the evening. The last item on the agenda that evening was to have a surprise drawing of prizes to thank those in attendance for giving up some of their time to show support by attending the meeting. One of the larger items to be given that August 1st. was a Douglas Lake Flag. Frank Spezia won the flag and the two men set off in the boat to return to their Star Trail homes. Out in the middle of the lake just before you are at the point between Manitou Bay and Nuttings Bay the boat stops dead in the water. You guessed it, they were out of gas. After trying for several minutes to attract attention for help they realized that they needed something large to wave. It was then that Frank (who had wondered what he would do with a large white flag) remembered his prize and proceeded to open the package, stand up in the boat and wave, wave, wave. While all this was going on the Fangman family was enjoying a, until then, quiet evening with their children and grand children playing on the shore. Mindy Fangman Masterson spotted this man standing in a boat waving a large white flag and promptly the Fangmans and Mastersons were off to the rescue. The evening had a happy ending, Paul and Frank were towed home while proudly carrying the Douglas Lake Banner.

Moral of the story – attend the Annual Meetings, you may get lucky and win and need a prize!

(Continued from page 1)

of a woodpecker drumming on a tree. Usually we reach home before we see the different birds that are attracted by our bird feeder. The most common bird at our feeders and probably at all home bird feeders up here is the Black-capped Chickadee, of which we have 20-30 most days. Another member of the family Paridae that comes regularly is the White-breasted Nuthatch. Its tiny cousin, the Red-Breasted Nuthatch lives in the conifer forests and ventures into our yard far less often. The Tufted Titmouse is a newcomer to Northern Michigan, having gradually moved north as winter severity has decreased and bird feeders have proliferated. Since they prefer mature hardwood forests, we see them seldom. All of the Paridae have amazingly good memories. They hide food and remember where it is later. Research has shown that these birds can remember hundreds, maybe thousands of hiding places of their food. It is because chickadees have such great memories that other birds follow them around during feeding. These are termed "feeding guilds" when several bird species roam through the woods together, led by chickadees.

Other common visitors to our feeder are members of the large finch family, the Fringillidae. Goldfinches come in flocks of up to thirty or forty and then move on for a few days. They are in their winter plumage of dull

(Continued on page 6)

D.L.I.A. CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE !

*Each ornament is \$25 and this includes shipping
We only have a few left!*

Douglas Lake Cooks!
A great Christmas present!

Once again this winter we will ship directly to you.

\$20 Per Book (includes postage & handling)
Hard Cover Three Ring Binder Cookbook
Featuring over 500 Recipes

**To order the ornament or cookbook
please contact**

Barbwilkinson@comcast.net

Or if you do not have e-mail phone (517) 787-0564

Be sure to include the name and address where the package is to be mailed.

Send your check to
Barb Wilkinson
P.O. Box 1067
Jackson, MI 49204-1067

Reminders and Announcements

Cottage For Rent:

One bedroom with 2 additional beds
on front porch
Sleeps Four
No Smoking

Located between Douglas Lake Bar &
Island
\$600 per week

Contact: Jim Trimpe 502-296-5340
james.trimpe@wachoviasec.com

MacArthur Road Cottage for Rent
Robertson's Cottage at 9231 McArthur Rd is available for rent the week of 4th of July and all of August and September. \$1,000 per week, or \$3,500 for a month. Call Victoria Robertson at 239-571-7183.

Wanted:

Row Boat for cottage
Contact: Jim Trimpe 502-296-5340
james.trimpe@wachoviasec.com

(Continued from page 5)

yellow and black wings. Purple Finches occasionally stop by as does the small Pine Siskin often in the company of other small finches of the far north. If we are lucky, the large and spectacular red-hued Pine Grosbeak comes down from Canada in small numbers, and the Evening Grosbeaks with striking black, yellow and white color combination come by in small flocks and gobble up the sunflower seeds with great abandon. For some reason this species has been diminishing in number the last few years and ornithologists are concerned.

The much loved Cardinal, also a finch, did not live up north until recently. We see them rarely at our home, but they are rather common in towns where numerous bird feeders, brush and hedges are present. The small Redpoll comes down from Canada in great numbers some years but not recently. Very occasionally you may hear and see a flock of Red Crossbills or White-winged Crossbills feeding on spruce and pine cone seeds. These birds have bills that are crossed at the tip which allow them to open the cones to get at the seeds. These flocks move around constantly in conifer forests and are encountered infrequently since we live at the southern edge of their range. Snow Buntings live exclusively in open fields and gather in large flocks in winter. We see them around the Pellston Airport as they swirl over the snowy fields in their almost all-white winter garb.

We have only three woodpeckers, family Picidae, here in winter. The small Downy Woodpecker and its larger cousin the Hairy Woodpecker, who look almost identical, come to our suet feeder daily. The only other woodpecker here in winter is the large, crow-sized and especially spectacular Pileated Woodpecker. It is a wary bird and comes to our suet rarely, but some homes have them often. Their presence in a forest is announced by huge, oblong-shaped chiseled out holes in dead trees.

All of the jay family, the Corvidae who spend summers here, also stay all winter. Although our summer Blue Jays move south a couple hundred miles, and some from the Upper Peninsula move down here, they readily come to feeders and are real “piggy” eaters, tossing aside sunflower seeds before filling their cheek pouches. Their cousins the Crows and Ravens do not normally frequent bird feeders. Roadkills and deer carcasses are a big source of food for them. The jay family is probably the most intelligent bird family we have in Michigan, and Ravens (who live no farther south than Gaylord) are the smartest of the bunch.

The Mourning Dove is the only native member of the dove family or Columbidae that are found here in winter. It comes to bird feeders readily. Of course, the Rock Dove or Domestic Pigeon stays here year-round too, but they stick to farms or cities.

We see the Brown Creeper on tree trunks often in winter but they do not come to our feeder since they feed almost entirely on insects, spiders and insect larvae found in tree bark crevices. Creepers, our only member in the family Certhiidae go from tree to tree, always starting at the bottom, working up and around the tree trunk, looking for food before flying to another tree. I guess that is what they do all day!

Some of the tiny Golden-crowned Kinglets of the family Sylviidae spend winters here, but most migrate a bit south. They live in dense spruce forests and are hard to see or hear.

Cedar Waxwings, family Bombycillidae are especially beautiful birds who live here year-round. In winter, they gather in large flocks moving around extensively as they feed on dried fruits left on trees and shrubs. Unless you have a tree or shrub with large quantities of fruit, chances are you won't see them in winter.

The Northern Shrike, family Laniidae, is a robin-sized song bird that acts and feeds like a hawk. They prey on small birds in winter using their hook-tipped bills. We see them come to our feeder area occasionally and perch in nearby trees, waiting for an opportunity to catch an unwary bird. The small feeding birds instinctively recognize a shrike (and a hawk) and hide or freeze in place until the coast is clear.

We have only two species of the ground dwelling, chicken-like birds that remain locally all year. The Ruffed Grouse, family Tetraonidae, called “Pats” by locals, feed on tree and shrub buds in winter. When the snow is deep and soft, they fly into it and snuggle under the snow cover overnight or when it is storming. When they flush near you the whirr sound is invariably startling. Turkeys, family Meleagrididae, did not live up here until they were introduced about 25-30 years ago. The deep snow kept them from finding food in winter. Now, with an active winter feeding program and thousands of home bird feeders, they are able to survive. Although we do not feed them on purpose, these huge birds come to our feeders regularly and scratch around under them for dropped sunflower seeds.

Some birds of prey, the hawks and owls, remain here all winter and a few come down from Canada when food farther north is scarce. Only two species of hawk come to our house to prey on the small birds attracted by our bird feeders. The Sharp-shinned Hawk and the Cooper's Hawk look almost identical but the Sharp-shinned Hawk is only about the size of a Mourning Dove (which it can catch) and the Cooper's Hawk is about the size of a crow. These are true hawks, or Accipiters, in the family Accipitrinae with long tails and relatively short rounded wings. They are efficient hunters of smaller birds catching them on the wing or chasing them down in the brush. Whenever we notice no activity around our feeder in the daytime, and the birds are hiding or are “frozen” in place, we are pretty sure a hawk or a shrike is nearby. The much larger Accipiter, the Northern Goshawk lives here all year. There are a few nests of this impressive bird around Douglas Lake. Goshawks are about 24 inches long and are formidable, fierce hunters of grouse, squirrels, and rabbits as well as smaller prey. If you approach an active nest, expect to be “dive-bombed” and severely intimidated or even clawed about the head. Some of the Red-tailed Hawks, family Buteoninae, or Buteos, stay around here in winter but most move south. Buteos are the large, long-winged hawks we see circling around overhead and are the birds we think of when hawks are mentioned. The large Rough-legged Hawk, a resident of the arctic normally, often moves down to this region and much farther south in winter. That is the large hawk we see on poles, fence posts and trees along the freeways looking for prey.

Most of the owls, family Tytonidae, native to this region stay here in winter, although many go farther south following the availability of prey. Since all are night feeders we see them seldom, but hear them in late winter during the breeding season. The Barred Owl with its distinctive eight hoots “Who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all” is relatively common up here. The Great Horned Owl, a fierce, strong predator, gives out three to five deep resonant hoots. They are up here in winter, too, but there are far more further south. Most winters numbers of the large white Snowy Owl come down from the Arctic tundra in search of food. These birds sit out in conspicuous sites, often on the ground, and are easily observed.

*Note: I did not describe all these birds. If you wonder what they look like, you may refer to a good bird field guide.

I did not cover the ducks, geese and swans which are present in small numbers on open water in winter, but not well-frozen Douglas and Burt Lakes.