



Douglas Lake

Improvement Association Inc.

August 2009

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 2009

Even though it has felt more like spring, summer 2009 is finally here. I think we have all been refreshed by the blue skies and sparkling waters of Douglas Lake that tell us we are Up North. The two loon nests that were placed on the lake each produced two chicks, much to the delight of all who love to hear their haunting call.

I want to welcome our new Executive board Members; Betty Cassidy will represent Zone 33, Joyce Oldham will represent Zone 51 and new Directors are Frank Beaver, Joan Hartwig and John Perkins. I also want to thank Barbara and Nat Wilkinson for preparing and publishing our new directories and Carma Case, Diane Ellman, and Kathy Buchweitz for distributing them to your Zone Representatives when I was away for a family emergency for a few weeks.

Reports of Swimmers Itch have continued this summer. While Swimmers Itch occurs in many neighboring lakes as well, all of us would like to

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THE HISTORY CORNER

In June of 2001 the following Swimmers' Itch Study was published in a DLIA newsletter. It was taken from a letter by Dr. Lois M. Verbrugge, PhD Institute of Gerontology of the University of Michigan.

"Last summer forty member households on Douglas Lake helped with a swimmers' itch study. They kept a daily log of their Douglas Lake use and swimmers' itch troubles. In these households, 301 residents and guests used the lake during the month. Just over a third of the lake users were children, the others were adults. In all these people had 1300 days of lake entries. This is an average 32.5 exposure days per household. Households do use Douglas Lake often in the summertime! The total estimated minutes in the water was 73,992 or an average of almost an hour per person on an exposure day.

During July, the study households reported 9 episodes of swimmers' itch. This means 6.8% of lake exposures

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DL WOMENADE

DLWomenade will meet August 19 at the home of:

Jan Huntley 8044 Pells Island Drive
Please call Jan at 231-539-8547 to let her know you are coming.

All women in the Douglas Lake community are invited, bring guests!

Bring a dish to share, your table service and a check for \$30.

The Annual Book Sale will be a Mixed Media Event this year. Bring books, CD's, DVD's, Books on Tape to share. Proceeds will go to the DLWomenade treasury.

Dr. Jennifer Tryban, the Cheboygan pediatrician who has been our major resource for references will be at the meeting. Come and meet her!

DLWomenade will meet in October at the home of Sandy and Steve Snyder 11394 White Birch Drive. (Date to be announced)

We Will Miss

We offer our condolences to the families of Margaret Warren-McTaggart, Annette Ervine Blalock and Mildred R. Peters.

Margaret B Warren-McTaggart, *submitted by her daughter Christy*, Margaret died peacefully at her Oden home on May 2, 2009 after a brief illness. She was born Margaret "Boggie" Benning on June 21, 1928 in Rushville, Indiana to Raymond Joseph and Nora Ethel (Hockersmith) Benning.

She attended Rockford College, Rockford, Illinois, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana and graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. She was a member of Delta, Delta, Delta Sorority and Psi Iota Xi Social Sorority. She was an active member of the Alanson United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her children, Christy (Chuck) Kneese of Harbor Springs and Hal (Linda) Nelson of Carmel, Indiana. Her stepsons, Robert (Carmen) McTaggart of Dallas, Texas and James McTaggart of San Diego, California. Her grandchildren, James Wiedner, Elizabeth Wiedner, and John Nelson, Michael (Shellie) Kneese and Patrick (Amanda) Kneese and Grayson McTaggart. And great grandson, Patrick Charles Kneese. A sister, Mari Benning Carroll and a brother, James Benning.

Her parents and one brother, Joseph Benning, preceded her in death. Also preceding her were two husbands, Charles Kirk Warren and William Robert McTaggart.

Margaret and Bill McTaggart were long time summer residents of Douglas Lake. They enjoyed their cottage on Silver Strand for many years.

Annette Ervin Blalock, 51, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at her home in Benicia, California. Annette was born in Hartford City, Indiana the daughter of Marie Barenbrugge and the late Bill Ervin. Annette married John Blalock, who survives, on June 25, 1983. Other survivors are Marie Ervin of Hartford City, Indiana, sisters Elaine of Indianapolis and Diane (Herman) Kellahan of Livonia, Michigan, niece Allison Kellahan, and several aunts and cousins. She was preceded in death by father, Bill Ervin.

Annette attended Miami University and graduated from Ball State University. She was a long time civilian employee of the U.S. Coast Guard in Alameda, California.

Annette's grandparents, Nila and Howard Ervin first visited Douglas Lake in 1929 and built their cottage on MacArthur Road in 1939. Annette dearly loved Douglas Lake, working three summers at the Dam Site Inn, and returning every summer even after moving to California. She enjoyed her Great Danes and fishing and crabbing off the California Coast. Annette will be missed.

Mildred R. Peters, *prepared by son Keneth Peters*, Mildred Eleanore Rautio Peters died January 29, 2009. She was 94. Mildred was born on July 8, 1914, in Lead, SD. Her parents were Emil Rautio and Senja Berg Rautio, who had emigrated from Finland to the United States as teen-agers and had met in Lead. Mildred lived in Lead and attended school there until she moved with her family to Detroit, MI. She was a graduate of Detroit's Central High School and she attended Suomi College in Hancock, MI. She held jobs with J.L. Hudson's Department Store, Maccabees Insurance Company, and Jam Handy Productions.

On May 8, 1937, she married Earl J. Peters of South Bend, IN, who had been a classmate at Central High School. She and Earl lived in Detroit, Grosse Pointe City, and Grosse Pointe Woods. They had three sons: Kenneth Earl, David Owen, and Richard John. Mildred and Earl joined the Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, where Mildred was a loyal choir member and soloist.

In 1955 the Peters family moved to Adrian, MI, where Earl was employed as sales manager for Ace Drill Company. The family joined the Adrian Presbyterian Church and Mildred sang in the choir. She also co-founded the Adrian Women's Matinee Musical.

When Earl retired in 1979, she and he built a home in Seneca, SC. There they were both very active in the Seneca Presbyterian Church, Earl until his death in 1994. Mildred sang in the choir until she was 93 years old. She was the founder of the Seneca Matinee Club, a women's civic organization. In 2007 Mildred was a sojourner at the home of her son, Richard in Lorain, OH. She subsequently moved to the Towne Center in Avon, Lake, OH, where she lived until her death.

Mildred loved music, photography, gardening, and sailing. She and Earl were members of Crescent Sail Yacht Club in Grosse Pointe Farms and Devil's Lake Yacht Club in Manitou Beach, and they enjoyed weekends and summers at their cottage on Douglas Lake near Levering, MI. Mildred is predeceased by her husband: Earl J. Peters, sister: Helen Taylor, and brother: Ray Rautio. She is survived by sons Kenneth and his wife Ellen of Chapin, SC, David of Whitmore Lake, MI, and Richard and his wife Susan of Lorain, OH. Other survivors include five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, several cousins, nieces and nephews, and grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

DUES

In the upper right corner of your address a year listed. If this year is 2009 or later, you owe nothing now. However, if it shows 2008 or earlier then please

Send your check (\$10.00 per year) to:

Please send your dues check

(\$10.00 per year) to:

The Douglas Lake Improvement Association

Treasurer

P.O. Box 472

Pellston, MI 49769



Editor's Comments

Hope everyone enjoyed this newsletter – one old column returned “The History Corner” with a subject that is most timely.

The next newsletter is scheduled for fall so please remember to send in any news, death notices or articles that you would like to contribute by October 1st. If possible e-mail the information to me at barbwilkinson@comcast.net, otherwise please type and mail your information to me at P.O. Box 1067 Jackson, MI 49204

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resulted in a new episode of swimmers' itch. This rate has not been known for any lake before now.

What factors increased the chances of having an episode? First, location made a difference. Chances were lowest for lake entries between Roberts Point and South Fishtail Bay, and about equal for areas along the south, west and northwest of the Lake. Second, episodes happened only to people who used shallow water during July. The more minutes they spent in shallow water, the more total spots they got. Third, people who used prevention before or after lake entry actually had higher chances of swimmers' itch than those using no prevention. It is thought that people vary in their skin sensitivity to the problem, and our result suggests that people with past trouble are still vulnerable when they take preventive effort.

We also learned that some factors were not related to chances of swimmers' itch. The specific week of July did not make any difference, nor did time of day in our sample, nor did a person's age or sex. The results of this study will help in planning public health efforts to reduce the problem”.

Here are a few tips on preventing and controlling swimmers' itch:

- Wash the body with salt water, methyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, acetic acid (vinegar), dilute household ammonia, or Fels Naptha.
 - One can use Benadryl spray all over the body to reduce the pain and itch
 - Cold compresses can be used
 - Bathe with colloidal oatmeal or baking soda
 - Apply baking soda paste to the affected areas
 - Take over-the-counter antihistamines
 - Use anti-itch creams or gels on the affected areas
- You and your family do not need to give up swimming, just be smart. Swimmers' itch typically clears up on its own within a few days, though in some cases the rash can last up to a week. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter antihistamines or anti-itch creams or gels

have this problem reduced. The Board had high hopes for relief when we heard Dr. Blakespoor speak at the Annual Meeting last summer about his work in reducing incidence at Glen Lake and others. As you know, our committee followed through with a concentrated effort to arrange treatment for Douglas Lake but due to Dr. Blakespoor's change of plans, we could not move forward.

As you may know, an adult parasite lives in ducks (especially the common merganser). The parasite produces eggs that are passed in the feces of these infected birds releasing small swimming larvae. Larvae swim in the water searching for specific species of aquatic snails. They infect the snail, multiply and release a larvae that swims around searching for a suitable host. Although humans are not the most suitable hosts, larvae burrow into the skin and may cause an allergic reaction. Because these larvae cannot live within a human, they soon die. It is interesting to note that larvae are dispersed by wind directions and water currents. This results in infections occurring in different locations in a given year. We have learned that reducing common merganser hours on the lake would reduce the incidence but that is the challenge. Included in the History Corner is an article with recommendations for interim treatment. The Board will continue to investigate our options and will keep you informed.

A reminder: The DLIA Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12 at the U of M Biological Station at 7:30 p.m. Douglas Lake merchandise and refreshments will be available at 7:00 p.m. Please try to attend, if you cannot be there a voting proxy is included in this newsletter.

Sue Nelson

Douglas Lake Regatta **Saturday August 1st**

Douglas Lake Sunfish Fleet #700 hopes you can come race with us. We are planning for a large turn out of area and statewide Sunfish sailors!

It is a perfect setting for a fun day in your Sunfish. We are happy to report that Evelyn Schulte has again invited us to launch the Regatta from her property. The Skippers meeting will be at 1 PM with the first race at 2 p.m. and as many back to back races as possible. We require a PFD to be worn while racing. No race will start after 5pm. Dinner will follow the races with the presentation of awards. Please bring your own lunch.

**THE DIRECTORIES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED!
IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOURS PLEASE
CONTACT YOUR ZONE REPRESENTATIVE.**

Friday, August 7
9:30am - 4:30pm

Saturday, August 8
9:30am - 2:00pm

Pottery, photography,
etched glass, watercolor,
inlaid wood and more.



NORTHWOODS
art fair at douglas lake

10810 Northwoods Shores Dr. Pellston, MI 49769
Riggsville Rd. (C-64) to North on Bryant. Turn East on North-
woods Shores Drive. John and Marilyn Stover 231-539-8280

www.douglaslakemichiganrentals.com
submitted by Jim Trimpe

This is a website designed strictly for Douglas Lake landlords. Chick Hershberger has designed this to help those of us who wish to show our cottages on line. For a small set-up charge, we will load your pictures of your cottage and show you how to link to a Google calendar. You can use this to confirm rentals of your existing renters and also show prospective renters what weeks are available. We are not doing this to make huge profits, just break even. The map of the lake is broken down by sections. Currently, my cottage is the only one on the site in section #1. If interested, please contact Jim Trimpe @ 502-296-5340 for more details.

Are you interested in seeing the professional aerial photographs of Douglas Lake? Then call or email Linda Orlow at orlowlg@hotmail.com or 231-838-4484.

Kathy Buchweitz
DLIA Merchandise Manager

SALE DATES

Friday August 7th

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

10810 Northwoods Shores Dr. (Marilyn Stover)

Saturday August 8th

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

10810 Northwoods Shores Dr.

Wednesday August 12th

7:00 p.m.

DLIA Annual Meeting at the UMBS

Saturday September 5th

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

11700 Seabrook Lane

Douglas Lake residents support the Tip of the Mitt

(submitted by Tom Kennedy, board member Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council)

Douglas Lake really helped the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC) have a "Whale of a Sale" in Harbor Springs on July 17 & 18. Donations from our lake included: three sail boats (20 foot Trimaran with trailer, 16 foot Sun Bird with trailer, and a Sun Fish), a boat trailer, a 14 foot alum fishing boat, a 30 HP motor, live preservers, a two person kayak, a ski board, brand new fishing reels and rods, and a wind surfer. Also, a thank you to Stu and Carma Case and Rich and Holly Gedert for volunteering to be donation drop off locations for our lake. With the depressed economy, these donations are very much appreciated and will help the TOMWC continue a high level of support for environmental improvements in our area.

Update on Blue-Green Algae in Douglas Lake

(submitted by Tom Kennedy)

A blue-green algae that can produce a toxin harmful to animals and humans was found in Douglas Lake for the first time last year (in June, 2008 by a UMBS Algae class). The UMBS then sampled Douglas Lake water and found no detectable levels of the toxin from these blue-green algae. However, there has been an increase of blue-green algae in many lakes around the USA and Michigan due to the presence of zebra mussels – and probably will be in Douglas Lake. Zebra mussels eat algae, but do not eat blue-green algae. The concentration of blue-green algae increases due to less competition. There will be a pro-active program started this summer - thanks to the UMBS! They have volunteered to set up their analytical lab to run samples and this is not a simple lab procedure. If you get a chance, thank Karie Slavik and Mike Grant for their support. In late June, a DLIA member (Tom Kennedy) will collect water samples at six beaches around the lake – in Maple Bay, along Silver Strand, in Nuttings Bay, just east of the DLB, along Manitou Shores/Quite Lane, and in South Fish Tail Bay. The consensus opinion is that there will not be a problem in Douglas Lake, but the toxin is bad enough that we do not want to take a chance. In the very remote chance that UMBS detects a significant level of toxin, all DLIA members will be notified by their zone reps via email and/or phone call. If you would like to know more about blue-green algae, visit the following web site: www.nalms.org Click on "Lake Managers" and then click on "blue-green algae pages". There are many, many more references to other web sites at this site if you are still hungry for further information.