



Douglas Lake

Improvement Association



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December, 2010

Dear Friends

The boats are in storage, the docks are out, the leaves are raked and we were surprised to see that the lake was at a higher level than in past years in the fall. I love the look of the lake when it is back to it's natural state.

At the Annual Meeting in August, I proposed that we have a "Douglas Lake Lakeland Security" effort aimed at early identification of potential problems from invasives. At a Summit of Lake Association Presidents in the Spring we heard stories of valiant efforts of other lakes to combat invasive species that got out of control. We are asking you to keep a watchful eye for unusual plants in the part of the lake that you frequent. You can take a sample to UMBS where they have offered to analyze samples and would inform us if there is a new problem in the lake. There is a link on the new website about Invasive Species that will help you identify them. In addition, your spring newsletter will include this information. All of us noticed the increased weed problem in the lake this summer that is an outcome of the zebra mussels. Samples have been taken to UMBS but so far no "invasives" have been found.

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Weather and Climate of The Douglas Lake Region



by Mark Paddock

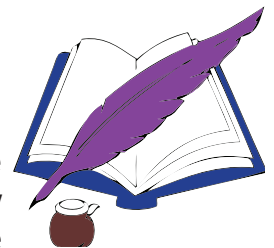
What is going on with our weather recently? Last summer 2009 was one of the coolest on record with only one day above 90 degrees. This year 2010 we had five days above 90 degrees and three were in May well before the start of summer. But it was not the daytime high temperatures that made this past summer one of the very warmest ever, It was the warm nights. Last October 2009 was the wettest month ever recorded until then by the Biological Station with 8.06 inches of rain. Then things dried out and warmed up over winter into spring 2010 giving us the warmest and driest

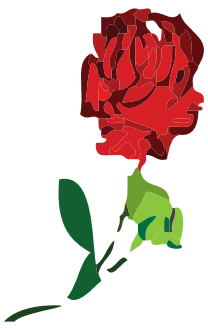
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THE HISTORY CORNER

Have you ever heard of or seen McGulpin Rock? If not then the next time you are in Mackinaw take a few minutes and drive west out of Mackinaw City on Central Avenue for about 2 miles until you come to Headlands Drive, turn right; McGulpin Point Lighthouse will be on the right hand side. From there you can either drive down the road by the entrance to the lake or walk down the path behind the lighthouse where you will see the 54 ton boulder. Recorded history of the rock goes back to the Native Americans where it is believed that the Anishnabek ("the people" - Ottawa, Potawatomi and Chippewa) used it as a marker that they were nearing home

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WE WILL MISS

We offer our condolences to the family of Edwin Lincoln LeButt and Irene A. Luttmann

Edwin Lincoln LeButt, 91, of Pellston, MI, formerly of Jackson, MI went home to be with the Lord Monday, October 18, 2010, at Allegiance Health. He is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen Krumm; two sons, Michael (Vickie) LeButt of Cheboygan, MI, and Edwin G. LeButt II of Kalkaska, MI; two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, A was a graduate of Cooley High School in Detroit and The University of Michigan with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree. He served his county during World War II in the United States Army Air Corp. He was a teacher, assistant principal, and a counselor in the Jackson Public School District where he retired. He was an Eagle Scout, avid reader, football fan, enjoyed sailing and traveling. Ed served as a director of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association during the 90's. He is missed by his friends both in Jackson and at the lake.

Irene A. Luttmann, (submitted by her daughter Pat Luttmann) 90 of Petoskey went to be with her Lord on September 2, 2010. She was born and raised in Shelby where she graduated from Shelby High School before receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Western Michigan University. She married Warren Luttmann and they celebrated 52 years of marriage with a special celebration every 1000 days. She delighted in her family leaving her teaching career to give her full attention to raising her three children. Irene enjoyed her time at the lake on Silverstrand Road. The Luttmann family purchased their Douglas Lake property from Kathryn Inglis and spent a few years saving up for the cottage after that, enjoying picnics and swimming. The main cottage was built in 1960 by Irene's father and brother, both carpenters. The property has been in the family and has been enjoyed by all in summers and sometimes winters since then. One of the family's most amazing memories was from one winter when they hiked in and discovered that the lake had frozen smooth and clear and had no snow on it. The girls skated on that perfect ice and were able to see the shells and the lake contours through ice as clear as glass. Irene is survived by 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren, who hope to enjoy the cottage for many years to come.

President's Message

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Our speaker at the Annual Meeting, Kevin Cronk from the Tip of the Mitt, spoke on the topic of Invasive Species and the importance of early intervention if needed. After that meeting I asked Ron Keleman to select a team to conduct a survey of our shoreline looking for Purple Loosestrife. They found some Loosestrife on the west shore, we will formulate a plan for extraction. There is also a growing crop of Purple Loosestrife along Van Road. It is too late this year to easily identify it but we will be calling for volunteers next summer when it is in full bloom to work on removal.

In the last newsletter you received information offering you the choice of receiving your newsletter online or continuing to receive a paper copy. The Fall, 2010 newsletter will launch our 'Paperless' effort. You can make the switch at any time IF you choose. Newsletters will only be mailed to email addresses of members listed in the directory.

Other BIG news is our new and improved website. We are indebted to Nat Wilkinson for establishing and maintaining it for the past few years. Recently Chick Hershberger stepped forward offering his professional services to carry the website effort forward. Nat and Chick have worked together for a smooth transition and the result is a website that will be viable and a great source of information. Please check out www.douglaslake.org and Bookmark it. It will be an evolving effort as we have plans for many changes in the future. Minutes of the Annual Meeting will be posted on the website as unapproved minutes as they are not officially approved until the Annual Meeting next year.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season.

Sue Nelson
President

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winter ever recorded in over 100 years! (According to the US Weather Service). Then it really rained this June breaking last October's record with 9.29" inches measured at the Biological Station! And it continued to be a wet summer, along with high humidity, totaling 25 inches of rain for the June-September period! That is over twice as much as the average summer rain. Naturally, all that rain with accompanying high humidity made it seem even warmer.

There may be good scientific reasons for this large variability in our weather. We will touch upon those later.

But weather is not climate .A region's climate is composed of many years of accumulated weather phenomena data .It is weather we care about in our daily lives. It is the "Weather Channel" we watch, for the local weather forecast , but is climate that dictates so powerfully this region's agriculture, recreational economy, and most important ,which plants and animals live here in our ecosystems.

Our climate is essentially a "Continental Climate" but strongly modified by the nearby Upper Great lakes, especially Lake Michigan. Without those huge bodies of water our climate would be more like the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin to our immediate west .They have a true Continental Climate. Our summers are cooler, winters milder with more snow and our cool springs are prolonged. . We are cloudier and our precipitation is more evenly spread throughout the year. Those states have their rains concentrated in spring and summer with a drier autumn and winter. Our autumns tend to be rainy and cloudy; September and October are the wettest months of the year. It is the strong modification by Lake Michigan with the prevailing westerly winds that gives us a cool summer, and It is that cool summer and the presence of lovely lakes that makes this region so popular with summer visitors.

Lake Michigan just to our west gives us "lake effect" snow, These occur predominantly in early winter when the lake is still relatively warm. Cold air sweeps across the lake from the west, picking up moisture, then dropping it in the form of fluffy snow on the mainland , Our heaviest lake effect snows come on cold west to southwest winds since winds from those directions go across long stretches ,or "fetch" of the lake. The more frequent cold northwest

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from their travels. The French explorer Etienne Brule made mention of this rock in 1615 when he wrote that it was not only used as a navigational tool but was also used to gauge the cyclical lake water level. McGulpin Rock, standing nine feet tall, was an easy marker for mariners navigating the straits.

The first known map of the great lakes appeared in 1749 and shows this rock as a marker. If your mind is in math mode and if you remember your American History, then you are already aware that Brule discovered this five years before the English landed the Mayflower and that it is 10 times larger than the well known landing site, Plymouth Rock. Our Early American and United States history books covered the Pilgrims and Plymouth Rock but in many cases left out much of the French history surrounding the Great Lakes thus McGulpin Rock escaped historical attention.

While you are on McGulpin Point take a minute and view the Lighthouse which is located on a bluff overlooking the Straits of Mackinac. This relatively little known Lighthouse was active from 1869 until it was deactivated in 1906. Upon its deactivation it became a private residence until Emmet County agreed to purchase the lighthouse in the summer of 2008. In the Spring of 2009 Emmet County replaced the long missing light & lantern room and the residence portion of the lighthouse is being turned into a museum dedicated to the history of McGulpin's Point Light and the surrounding McGulpin family land claim.

McGulpin Rock and Lighthouse, just another reason why our history is so rich in the interesting blending of Native American, French and English culture, something very special to our northern Michigan heritage .



D U E S

2011 Dues are due in January. If you have not yet paid please send your check for \$ 10.00 to:
The Douglas Lake Improvement Association

Treasurer

P.O. Box 472

Pellston, MI 49769

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winds travel across shorter stretches of far northern Lake Michigan and give us less lake effect snow. While parts of Western Michigan to our south may receive deep lake effect snows from northwest winds. The Kalkaska area is a good example. A glance at a map of Lake Michigan relative our western shore will explain how the direction of the winds across Lake Michigan results in such variable fetch.

Basically we in Northern Lower Michigan have a rather benign climate with very, very, few tornados, fewer strong, destructive thunderstorms, and fewer terrible blizzards than states to our west. Our forests modify our climate too, giving us a bit lower daytime temperatures and warmer nights. Topography has a role too. The reason Pellston Airport records such cold nights is because it resides in a large topographic bowl. On calm, clear nights, cold air being heavier than warm air sinks downslope to the airport region. Our home is only 2.5 miles from the airport but 30 feet higher. Very often on clear, calm winter mornings our thermometer reads up to 10-15 degrees warmer than the airport. Of course the absence of trees on the airport contributes to those excessively cold nights.

There are fundamental climatic changes going on here and all over the world. These changes are the result of "Global Change" of which "Global Warming" is the largest part. Already climatic records from the Biological Station indicate that our nights are warmer due to more cloudy nights, The freezing and thawing dates of regional lakes are steadily, on the average, changing to later in the fall-early winter for "freeze up" and earlier in the spring for "ice out". Fewer days of ice cover will allow for more evaporation and may cause lower lake levels. The lack of ice cover on Lake Michigan paradoxically may result in more mid winter lake effect snows which only occur when the big lakes

are unfrozen!

Many climatic experts believe that with the advent of Global Change there will be greater variability in short and long term weather phenomena including heavier, more intense rains and snows. We have witnessed such already in the USA and around the world within the past year. There will be more droughts, stronger wet periods with accompanying floods. But there will be warmer weather generally all over the globe with a stronger warming at the higher latitudes. Witness what happened in the East recently with record breaking heat and high humidity! This will likely occur more and more frequently there and elsewhere as warming takes hold.

There are thousands of scientists expert in climate related phenomena that fundamentally agree on this. Probably about 99% agree that Global Change is happening. Millions of pieces of climatic data from all over the world indicate it is so!

The question of whether human kind is basically responsible is where we find controversy. Again, the scientists who study and are expert in this area of science fundamentally agree that we "with our" green house gas" production, are the principal cause. There are a few "experts" who may disagree, but these are seldom experts in climatology. The media, of course, loves to give these people attention, because that is the way the media operates.

As the movie was entitled, this is "An Inconvenient Truth". It will be extremely tough to reduce the production of greenhouse gasses to the point where we can begin to reverse Global Change and so far the world, Including the USA, have done a terrible job on the effort. Maybe too inconvenient for this generation? What about the next generation, or the next? They better be up to the job or...

Climatic Summary Of Douglas Lake From Biological Station Records*

Monthly Mean Temperatures in Degrees F.

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Ave
18.1	19.0	27.3	41.6	54.3	64.0	68.6	67.0	59.1	46.8	36.0	25.2	44.1

Monthly Precipitation

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Ave
Ave	2.04	1.48	2.04	2.72	2.76	2.54	2.80	3.28	3.35	3.68	2.89	2.49	31.63
Max	3.79	3.66	5.43	4.99	6.83	9.29	6.25	6.96	7.40	8.06	5.20	4.27	
Min	.69	.27	.04	.96	.43	.53	.23	.44	.65	.96	.79	.35	

* Bob Vande Kopple, Resident Biologist Of The Biological Station records and maintains the climatic data



Editor's Comments

Hope you enjoyed this newsletter! Once again we applaud Mark Paddock for his wonderful article. Mark's contributions enrich our newsletters greatly. Hope you enjoyed the return of the History Corner; anyone is free to submit articles or ideas for future editions.

I have an idea for one year from now – Let's publish an article titled "Christmas at the Lake". Please send me stories and memories about a special Christmas spent at Douglas Lake. A few pictures would also be nice. Do not wait – do it while you remember and the Holiday Season still has it's hold on you.

Unless something newsworthy comes up in the meantime, our next issue will be in the Spring. If you wish to contribute please forward your articles or announcements to me by April 10th. If possible email 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. Remember to keep in touch with any address changes, lake news you wish to pass along or obituaries we need to print. A new directory will be published this spring so please watch for your directory information update which will be mailed to you in early February. If you have had changes that you forgot to tell us about now is a good time to do so. You may email the changes to Nat at natwilkinson@gmail.com or to me at the above address. Mail is also acceptable once again at the above address.

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



Proper Lighting

Light Pollution



Improper Lighting

One of the great things about the area around Douglas Lake is the night sky. Generations of lake goers have gazed at the stars and watched the meteor showers during the summer months. Thank you to all who have helped prevent light pollution by using shields on your outdoor lighting. Not only does this prevent stray light from affecting your neighbors, but it also results in better lighting in the intended areas without glare. So next time you are outdoors at night be sure to take in our beautiful sky as it is truly a remarkable thing to behold.

FOR SALE

For Sale: Three bedroom, one bath immaculate cottage on 108 feet of the north shore (9461 MacArthur Rd). All knotty pine with hardwood floors throughout plus a completely new bathroom. Other features include a 10 x 24 deck, seawall, new roof and well within the last five years, and a 9 x 19 boathouse next to the shoreline. This cottage will be listed in Feb/Mar at \$297,000. If sold before it's listed, buyer can deduct the realtor fee. Contact Ed Grant for details: (989)506-8651 or grant1eb@cmich.edu. For additional pictures please use the below web address. <http://picasaweb.google.com/102721890434803505005/DouglasLakeCottageForSale?authkey=Gv1sRgCMvFtt7uz4S3Bw&eat=directlink#>



Picture submitted by Irene Crum

e-mail newsletter

If you are still receiving the DLIA newsletter via mail and would prefer it was sent to you via e-mail please email Nat Wilkinson at natwilkinson@gmail.com

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FERTILIZING & LAWN CARE TIPS FOR SHORELINE PROPERTIES

While it will be a few months before we are ready to again take care of our lake lawns here are a few things to keep in mind when spring eventually makes its return to Northern Michigan. Before applying fertilizer, test your soil to determine which nutrients are needed. Soil testing is available through your local MSUextension office for. If fertilizer is necessary, use the smallest amount of fertilizer possible. In the spring, use small amounts of a slow release form of nitrogen. This method allows the grass to use the nitrogen and remain vigorous while minimizing the amount of nutrients entering the water. Try not to apply fertilizer before a rain.

DO NOT use a fertilizer containing phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need for it. Phosphorus is the most critical nutrient in lakes and streams in northern Michigan. Even a small amount of phosphorus added to a lake can stimulate excessive growth of aquatic plant and algae. If you are establishing a lawn plant a fescue mixture rather than bluegrass. Fescue requires much less nitrogen per square foot than bluegrass

DO NOT cut the lawn too short. Recommended cutting height is two or two and a half inches. This allows healthier, greener growth with less fertilizer. Leave grass cuttings on the lawn to help retain moisture and add nutrients to the soil.

Water the lawn with lake or stream water to keep it green without the use of fertilizer. Nutrients in the water can be utilized by the grass, reducing concentrations in the lake. AVOID EXCESSIVE watering, especially on sandy soils, as it can cause nutrients to leach from the soil and move into surface water.

AVOID PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE AND FERTILIZER MIXTURES. Since many commercial lawn herbicides can harm aquatic plants and animals if they get into the water, it is better to dig up or live with the weeds. If you decide that weeds must be treated, apply the herbicide in the fall. (Let the weeds be) Pesticides not only can contaminate water and wildlife but can cause harm to humans too. Many alternatives to pesticides are available and can be equally effective. It is important to remember that water, wildlife and human quality are the main priorities.

IMPORTANT: If you lawn is maintained by a lawn care professional, discuss your priorities for water quality protection with them. DO NOT let them put anything on you land that will harm your lake.