



Douglas Lake

Improvement Association

NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November, 2013

This was an active year for the DLIA. Pete Klass headed up a group of volunteers who worked with the Tip of the Mitt on the Eurasian Milfoil survey (fortunately none was found in the lake). Holly Gedert chaired a committee on the future of the boat ramp and has worked hard to ensure that it will be maintained in the future. Along with all of the regular happenings at the lake.

In this issue you will find a letter regarding the finances of the DLIA, and a ballot for a new DLIA's dues rate. Over the past several years the DLIA has been delving into its reserves as expenditures have increased. Between 2007 and 2013 DLIA reserves have declined by 28%. If it were not for John Kurkjian's tremendous job at selling ads in the directory this number would have been closer to 50%.

At the summer board meeting I appointed Linda Alexander to chair a new finance committee and find solutions that would ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the association. This committee is comprised of a group of outstanding individuals who have put much work into finding a course of action. They are Linda Alexander, Sue Nelson, Barbara Willkinson,



THE HISTORY CORNER

A very special Thank you to Jan Huntley who has contributed the following selection of Douglas Lake History; we only ask than you enjoy reading but do not reproduce without permission of the author.

THE ROCK STAR

No, not THAT kind of Rock Star. Not the guitar-pounding, amp-loving, hair-tossing, body-gyrating, lyric-screaming stage performer. This Rock Star would be more likely to be humming the theme from "Jaws," complete with deep thumping tones and ominous rhythm.

It exists under water and has done so for thousands upon thousands of years, now hiding itself among the weeds in maybe 10 feet of water. Its surface is a mossy shroud. And like a submerged leviathan, it lurks beneath the surface, awaiting its prey.

As children in the early 1950's my friend Susie Frook Dunlop and I heard tales of "The Rock," located

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Holly Gedert, Walt Naumer, Diane Elman, and John Kurkjin.

After pouring over historical information and looking at projected costs the committee developed a budget and recommended dues. The report was then sent to the board which overwhelmingly approved the increase in the dues. I am not going into the details here as they are better presented in a factual matter in the enclosed letter. Also, keep in mind that the Association's dues have remained the same since 1995.

I sat in on the committee's meeting in October and saw in person how much work they have put into the report and recommendations and am confident in and comfortable with their recommendations.

Please read the enclosed letter, vote and mail your ballot by December 14th. As soon as the ballots are counted we will let you know the outcome of the vote.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Nat Wilkinson

President

Douglas Lake Improvement Association

History Corner continued from page 1

WAYOUT off the "Hotel" dock – a favorite destination of our parents and their friends during their own adolescence some thirty years earlier. In those days, the worry wasn't that you would hit it with your boat motor; it was that you'd spend way too much time swimming around in circles until someone finally stumbled across it, pretty much literally.

The trick, of course, was FINDING it. The instructions were always way too general: swim straight out from Joe Cooper's dock and turn left at the BIG PINE (Joe Cooper's home now belongs to the Watz family, next to the boat ramp, and the "Big Pine" was that gigantic white pine tree on the southern end of the island.) So once or twice every summer, Susie and I would wade out into the lake and begin swimming, pausing every few minutes to duck under the water to take a look around for that huge, white, spooky mass that would signal that we had arrived at our destination.

The journey, of course, was never quite that simple, since the instructions only put us in the ball park, leaving a substantial amount of watery territory to be searched before success could be had. When we had finally gotten to the neighborhood, my heart would begin to pound because I knew, just KNEW, that it would suddenly pop up in front of me like some dangerous denizen of the deep, totally without warning, an ill-tempered Moby Dick.

Finding The Rock was only the first part of the adventure, however. Once there, we got to stand on it, our feet gingerly resting on that slippery, squishy moss that somehow always seemed to be coating it. At that point there were only three things that could be done: 1) swim around it underwater and LOOK at it (way too creepy!); 2) swim back home (hey, we just got here!); or 3) dive off of it. Have you ever tried to dive off of a platform while standing in waist-deep water? It was a tricky activity at best, particularly in the beginning before some of the slippery moss had been rubbed away. But that activity could keep a couple of young girls entertained for only so long. So soon enough, off we'd swim, back to the shore to seek out some new adventure. And, of course, each time we'd look around, carefully lining up The Rock with various landmarks to make sure that the next journey out would be much quicker and far easier, but to no avail. The next time, we'd start out at Joe Cooper's dock, just like we always had, turning left at the Big Pine, just like we always did, and would then swim around and around and around in circles until one or the other of us would finally spot it, hiding out in the weeds.

These days, of course, the adventure is gone. No need to search for it. All you have to do is make your way to the buoy-marker and you're there, home free. No muss, no fuss, no swimming around forever. Is it any wonder that no one seems to go out to play on it any longer? In fact, I'd pretty much forgotten how much fun we'd had until I saw Jim Keiser's photograph in the "I Love Douglas Lake" section on Facebook. There it was --- THE ROCK --- just like it used to look as it loomed up before us all those years ago. Thanks, Jim, for bringing back those wonderful memories. And thank you also for that spectacular picture of our old friend, the ROCK STAR.

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Hope you enjoyed this newsletter! My thanks to Jan Huntley for contributing to the "History Corner" and to Linda Orlow for her contribution "Douglas Lake History Quiz" which appeared in the early summer newsletter. For future issues please remember that I welcome history items of the Douglas Lake area as well as interesting articles that pertain to our lake and near surrounding areas.

As this newsletter also contains a vote by mail ballot it is being mailed to all members. Once the votes are counted and the results are tabulated there will be another newsletter announcing the results. For the members who have so requested this will be sent email and mailed to the remaining members. If you normally receive your newsletter by mail and wish to begin to receive it via email please just let me know at the email listed below. If you wish to contribute please forward your articles or announcements to me by December 10th. If possible email the information to me at bayw2002@yahoo.com, otherwise please type and mail your information to me at P.O. Box 613 Hutchinson, KS 67504 Remember to keep in touch with any address changes, lake news you wish to pass along or obituaries we need to print.

Happy Thanksgiving!

2013 Dues



If you have NOT yet paid your dues please Send your check (\$10.00 per year) to:

The Douglas Lake Improvement Association
Treasurer
P.O. Box 472
Pellston, MI 49769



Boat Ramp

The DL Boat Ramp maintenance that was scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, is delayed until Summer or Fall 2014. The rain kept coming and the ground was saturated. On October 22, Ed Ginop of Ginop Construction said, "Two weeks ago would have been perfect." September was a dry month, and October was soggy. The average October rainfall for Petoskey is 3.7". Near the end of October, Petoskey's rainfall was over 9" which has set a new record. The Cheboygan County Road Commission said they could handle issues with ice push (if it should occur) in the Spring.

Direct any questions or comments to Holly Gedert, hollygedert@hotmail.com

CONTACT LIST

President

Nat Wilkinson
P.O. Box 3196
Hutchinson, KS 67504
natwilkinson@gmail.com

Dues are \$10.00 and should be sent to:
Douglas Lake Improvement Assoc.
Attn: Walter Naumer, Treasurer
P.O. Box 472
Pellston, MI 49769

Newsletter Articles & Obituaries:
Barbara Wilkinson, Editor
P.O. Box 613
Hutchinson, KS 67504
bayw2002@yahoo.com

eNews

The Douglas Lake eNews is a supplement of the Newsletter and is a way of delivering time sensitive information to the association. It comes from the email address douglaslake2012.yahoo.com. Add this email address to your contacts to ensure delivery of eNews.

Excerpts from a thank-you letter.

Nat Wilkinson

Earlier this year I received a thank you note to the Douglas Lake Improvement Association from Juliana Ley, recipient of DLIA's scholarship for local students. What follows are excerpts from her letter.

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

As the 2013 recipient of the DLIA's annual award to a UMBS student from northern Michigan, I want to express my deep thanks for your and the DLIA's generosity. I would not have been able to go to the biostation without your help...My family, especially on my mother's side, has strong roots in northern Michigan. I was born in Petoskey, then moved to Sault Sainte Marie when I was 11. My grandma was also born in Petoskey and has lived in Cheboygan for about 70 years ...My urban planning class canoed the Cheboygan River as part of a project on the Inland Waterway, which brought back memories of summers on my grandpa's boat. We also surveyed beachgoers and delineated the boundaries of Wilderness State Park, which was beautiful. Finally, we analyzed Otsego County's master plan and zoning ordinance to assess how well they address water quality protection. I was the lead on that project, which fits well with my career interest in managing water resources.

...We did lots of field work - stream invertebrate populations in the Maple River, tree species competition on UMBS plots, and many others. We also designed and carried out a research project in small groups. Mine was about wildlife activity near roads, specifically how traffic noise affects it. ...Again, I cannot thank the DLIA enough for your support during my time at UMBS!... I deeply appreciate what you do each year for students like me... and wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Juliana Ley

Douglas Lake Merchandise is now On-Line

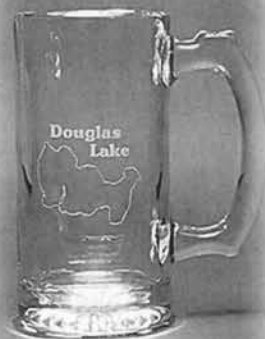
The gift giving time is approaching

Thanksgiving ♥ Christmas ♥ for the host or hostess

Glassware
red or white wine glass,
beer mug,
double old-fashioned

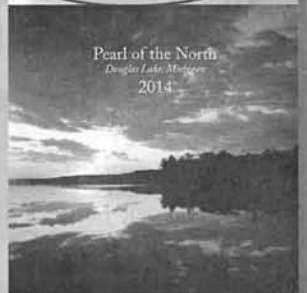
Mugs

Christmas ornaments



Twill shirts,
sweat shirts,
sweat pants,
t-shirts,
sport shorts,
caps

2014 Calendars





Douglas Lake

Improvement Association

November 20, 2013

Dear Members,

Douglas Lake is a very special place that we all cherish. The Douglas Lake Improvement Association's purpose is to enhance the place we call "The Lake" through communication, monitoring, and be a body through which actions can be taken when necessary.

As with everything, the costs associated with these activities have risen over time. For the past several years the DLIA has been running a deficit. This has resulted in a decrease of cash reserves by 28% over the past 5 years. However, this number would have been nearly 50% were it not for the sale of advertisements in the directory by John Kirkjian, something that cannot be counted on for continual funding of the association.

In order to ensure the long-term financial stability of the association a finance committee was formed to address this situation. The committee is chaired by Linda Alexander (Zone Representative) and includes Sue Nelson (Past President), Barbara Wilkinson (Past President), Holly Gedert (Vice President), Walt Naumer (Treasurer), Diane Elman (Zone Representative), John Kurkjian (Directory Advertising Sales).

The committee looked at a number of things to find where costs could be cut and means to increase revenue. The result was a budget in which the DLIA would be able to meet its mission while incurring minimum costs as seen below.

Communications (newsletters, website ect.)	\$2,000.00
Operational costs (insurance, office supplies ect.)	\$2,000.00
Recreation (pike marsh, boat ramp, periodic picnics, other activities)	\$3,000.00
Environmental (water monitoring, Eurasian Milfoil survey, donations to Tip of the Mitt and Little Traverse Conservancy ect.)	\$2,000.00
UMBS Scholarship for an area student	\$2,500.00
Total	\$11,500.00

The new budget cut the UMBS Scholarship from \$5,600.00 to \$2,500.00. Newsletter costs are expected to decline as more people opt to receive it via email. However, costs associated to the boat ramp have yet to be finalized and could increase. Also, if Eurasian Milfoil is found in the lake during a future survey (which is likely as it is now in all of the major surrounding lakes) additional costs will be accrued. It is important to note that costs associated with the Directory are not included in this budget as advertising funds fully support its publishing costs. Also, the committee removed merchandise from the balance sheet as it is self-sustaining.

Next the committee looked at the dues rate which has not been raised since 1995. If the new budget were to be completely covered by dues alone they would need to be raised to \$30.00. However, it was the feeling of the committee that this would be too large an increase so it was recommended to the

board that the dues be increased to \$25.00 with the remaining being covered through donations and other sources. In determining this number the committee looked at what association dues were at other lakes in the region and found that with this increase DLIA dues would still be well below those on other lakes in the region. For instance Burt Lake Preservation Society dues start at \$35.00 and go to \$100.00 depending upon the membership level.

The committee submitted its findings to the board and requested that it approve a dues increase to \$25.00. The board approved the dues increase by an overwhelming majority.

Feeling that it is important for the general membership to vote on issues such as dues increases I am now submitting the following proposal.

"The Douglas Lake Improvement Association Annual Membership Dues rate shall be \$25.00. This dues rate shall go into effect on January 1, 2014."

Please vote using the ballot below and mail it prior to December 14, 2013 to:

Evelyn Schulte
1444 Brandywine Circle South
Fort Meyers, FL 33919

Once the votes have been counted you will be notified of the results.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for voting!

Best Regards,

Nat Wilkinson
President
Douglas Lake Improvement Association

Shall the annual dues for the Douglas Lake Improvement Association be raised to \$25.00 effective January 1, 2014?

YES

☐

NO

☐

Name (Print) _____

Signature _____

Please mail this ballot by December, 14 2013 to:

Evelyn Schulte,
1444 Brandywine Circle South
Fort Meyers, FL 33919