



Douglas Lake Improvement Association

N
E
W
S

Inside This Newsletter

President's Message	1
History Corner	2
Fish Survey	2
Book Donations	3
Annual Meeting	3
Merchandise Sale	3
Editors Comments	4
Poem	4
Reprint: Lake Origin	5
Reprint: Fish of the Lake	6
Reprint: History Lake Forest Fires	7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 2014

I hope all of you have had a great summer. In July the DLIA conducted an online poll to find out how the membership felt about the DNR seeking property on the lake where they could construct a new boat ramp with parking. The vote was overwhelming with 71% against and 10% in favor of the DNR purchasing land and building a new ramp (19% were undecided). The DNR has been notified that the Association is not in favor of this ramp. The DLIA will remain in contact with the DNR and other parties that are involved in this issue and will let you know if we need to take any kind of action and what that action would entail.

Another point of interest for many on the lake is internet access. Joan Hartwig is working with the UMBS and RACC 2000 to bring high speed internet service to the lake but still needs a few more serious potential subscribers in order for them to mount the equipment. If you are interested please email her at: joan.e.hartwig@gmail.com

On a more personal note, Douglas Lake is truly a unique and extraordinary place that I have cherished my entire life. This is why I have been so proud to have been active in the association since my early teens over 20 years ago. But sometimes life takes you in different directions. I was planning to spend much of the summer at the lake and direct a great deal of energy towards the DLIA. This was not to be...instead I was called back to Kansas and literally, for the first time in my life, was at the lake zero days in July.

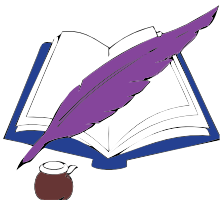
Unfortunately, my other commitments do not allow me the time to fulfill my duties as president to the level this association deserves. Therefore, I have decided not to run for a second term.

Fortunately, we have a very capable person in Holly Gedert who will be the automatic nominee for president. I am thankful for all of the work she has put into the association as Vice President and as chair of the boat ramp committee. Living at the lake also affords her the ability to put all of her energy into the association. These factors make her well suited for the role of president.

I feel good knowing that I am leaving the association on a better long term financial trajectory than when I took office. I also feel confident that the association is on top of the boat ramp situation.

With a little luck, a few years down the road I will be able to once again spend a great deal of time at the lake, and be a productive member of this very special community. In the mean time, whether you are at the lake, your full time residence, or on one of life's adventures I wish you a great rest of 2014 and beyond.

Nat Wilkinson
President
Douglas Lake Improvement Association



THE HISTORY CORNER

Barbara Wilkinson
August 2014
Turtle Lake

Long before settlers first came to Turtle Lake (Douglas Lake as it is now named) the Native Americans roamed the forests, and fished the waters. It was the site of hunting party camps for thousands of years prior to the settlers building the first hand-hewn log cabins on the lake shore. We know this because a 3500 year old copper spear point and a 2800 year old tool similar to an ax were found at the site of what is now the UMBS. Cannonballs from the 1600's have also been discovered near the north shore as well as arrowheads and other artifacts. It is believed the cannonballs were probably being carried to the fort at Mackinaw.

Fast forward to the mid 1800's; you wish to visit some friends and see their new log cabin on the lake. The only way to the lake is to take the stagecoach along the "Old Stagecoach Road." This road follows the old path from Cheboygan to Harbor Springs that the Native Americans used for many years. Once you leave the stage coach, at a point that is now the UMBS, and locate the boat that your friends left, you proceed to row or paddle across the lake. After going through all this you will probably spend at least a few days visiting and eating in their log cabin, and then you return home via the same route.

A year or so later you return to the lake and find yourself in the midst of a lumbering boom. Lumbering had been going on around the northern Michigan area before but now the trees were being felled by lumberjacks all around the lake. You learn that during the winter the logs are taken over the winter ice of Douglas Lake then over land to Burt Lake where they later were floated along the inland water route to the Cheboygan mills.

In June of 1882 you are remembering your time at Turtle Lake and so you decide to visit and see what has developed along the shores of the lake. Ahh... the name has been changed to Douglass or Douglas depending on whom you ask. This time it is much easier traveling as you do not have to paddle your way across the lake instead you take a train to Levering where a horse and buggy (or wagon) awaits you. Instead of staying with your friends you take a room at the newly built Ingleside Hotel. This summer resort includes not only 30 to 40 rooms but a store and post office as well as a large main gathering room featuring a massive fireplace. As your trip comes to an end

you marvel at the changes and realize that before long other hotels will appear as visitors discover the allure of the lake.

You were proven correct; soon cabins, then cottages and summer homes as well as summer camps begin to dot the shoreline. Many of these abodes are still in the same family now owned by children of seceding generations who enjoy many of the same summer activities as their fore fathers.

May the lake residents hold the allure of the lake and its history close as generation after generation of families return to appreciate the old and embrace the new.

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

RESULTS OF THE DNR 2014 FISH SURVEY



In the June newsletter we reported that the DNR was conducting a fish survey of Douglas Lake, Neal Godby has given the DLIA a brief summary of this 2014 survey. He states summary is as follows:

In June 2014, the Department of Natural Resources conducted a fish community survey of Douglas Lake (Cheboygan County) following Status and Trends protocols. Survey effort included a variety of gear types and mesh sizes designed to capture different fish species and size classes. During the survey, we used large mesh trap nets, large mesh fyke nets, small mesh fyke nets, variable mesh gill nets, seines, and electro fishing. We captured more than 20 species of fish, including northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, yellow perch bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish. Once the field season is over, we will have the opportunity to age the scale samples we collected during the survey, as well as enter and analyze all the data. I will be writing a report on the survey this coming winter, and will be sure to share that with you. Please contact me if you have any questions.
Neal



Dues



If you have not yet paid your dues for 2014 please send a check for \$25 dollars to:
Douglas Lake Improvement Association
Treasurer
P.O. Box 472
Pellston, MI 49769

A Thank You Note

Dear Douglas Lake Improvement Association,

Thank you so much for awarding me your scholarship to UMBS. Without you it would not be possible for me to attend. I am looking forward to this opportunity very much.

Thanks again, Carly Crossley

Children's Books Needed

Douglas Lakers can help fill a great need

DL Womenade has helped the Pellston library, and they are reaching out to all the people on Douglas Lake to help fill a need for pre-school and kindergarten level books. There are 3 ways available to help.

The 1st one: McLean and Eakin has a "Pellston Wish List" for pre-school and kindergarten level books. The books range in price from \$5-\$18. They will be sold at a 20% discount. Purchase in person or call 231-347-1180. The books will be picked up from the store by one of the project members and delivered to Pellston. (Note: Since there is a 20% discount, purchases from the "Pellston Wish List" do not count toward the "Buy 10 books, get a \$10 coupon" program.)

The 2nd one: McLean and Eakin has an existing program in which 10% of ANY other purchase will be donated to an area school of your choice – please choose Pellston Elementary.

The 3rd one is a Book Exchange. We are looking for gently used books appropriate for pre-school and kindergarten children. The students will be able to take these books home and return them for another book. Picture books are welcome even if the reading level is higher. We will collect donations at Book Club, DL Womenade, or from your home. Just call 231-537-2189 or email gailbeav@umich.edu.

The pre-school program is in session now and will continue through the summer. Our goal is to introduce the new books to the pre-school children by mid-August and the kindergarten children in September. All are welcome to participate in this effort so don't hesitate to spread the word. Encourage your friends, relatives, and groups to purchase and donate.

Many thanks for your generosity!

Sharon Anderson, Jill Francis and Gail Beaver

Annual Meeting

The DLIA Annual Meeting will be held on August 25

Refereshments at 7:00 pm. Meeting at 7:30 pm.

UMBS David Gates Lecture Hall

Elections will be held for the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

There will be drawings for DL Merchandise.

REMAINING DLIA MERCHANDISE SALES DATE

Saturday, August 31, 10a.m. - 12p.m. at DL Store #5

Calendars, clothing, caps, visors, note cards and the new DL flag.

Marilyn Kelemen, Merchandise Manager,

merchandise_manager@douglaslake.org



Editor's Comments

Barbara Wilkinson

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed this newsletter as well as the previous newsletters over the last eighteen years. It was a pleasure to bring to the membership stories of the lake, history of the area, news pertaining to the lake and announcements. Currently my time and focus do not allow me to continue as editor so it is time for someone else to step up to the plate and take over this volunteer job. Time and time again the articles and submissions have brought home that we as members of the DLIA treasure our freedom to use the lake in a careful and respectful manner while enjoying every moment of it. No matter what the season, spring, summer, fall or winter the area offers us gorgeous surroundings among friends of all ages. We all work to maintain the area and to maintain great relationships, treasuring both. So please, if you are asked to serve on the board or to help on certain projects, such as the newsletter, please accept the opportunity; you might even consider volunteering.

In preparing this newsletter I actually took a trip down memory lane and was surprised at all the news we covered. From the DLIA barbeques at the DLB, the celebration of the acquisition of Camp Knight by the UMBS, the several picnic parties at the UMBS, the Pike Marsh reports, the information in being a good and responsible lake steward, the information and issues concerning invasive species, and of course to the merchandise sales. I learned more about others on the lake through the Know Your Board column and often, while in a sad way, through the obituaries. It was interesting to learn of someone's non-lake life and the many things many of our members did and what they accomplished. The History Corner was perhaps my favorite to write and for all the articles that Mark Paddock wrote I owe a huge THANK YOU. Those were always met with enthusiasm by our readers as they were both entertaining and informative. To everyone else who submitted an article that helped make my job easier I thank you, and also to every President for submitting one of the, if not the, most important part of the newsletter – the President's Message. One of the unexpected contributions was given to me by a mother whose son had written a poem from his heart. I will close out this newsletter with that poem.

Now please sit back and enjoy the reprint of a few of my favorite articles. Everyone take care and enjoy the lake during all seasons.

MacArthur Road a Poem

July 2005

Anonymous

Everything feels like I have seen it before, like a rerun of my favorite show.
But it still interests me enough to steal my attention.
The leaves move in the wind the same way they have for years.
The road still holds the same hubcap killing potholes.
The only thing different is the sky, which I have never seen the same shade of blue,
The same mailbox row sits dented by the delinquent rocks thrown by generations.
The cottages stay untouched and some unkempt by owners
Concerned more about the wildlife than curb appeal.
These people have fought change tooth for tooth
And they will until this paradise is wiped off the earth.
Just so they can let their seed see what they have seen.
And experience the untouched landscape that has kept my attention
Since I first saw it a month after I was born.



Douglas Lake: Its Origin,

Features and Watershed

March 1999

By Mark Paddock



Douglas Lake with a surface area of 3,773 acres is a medium-sized inland lake. It has a mean elevation of 712 feet above sea level, or 120 feet above Burt Lake into which it's water drains and 134 feet above Lake Huron, into which Burt Lake drains thru Indian River, Mullett Lake and the Cheboygan River.

Douglas Lake was formed by the last continental glacier, which covered the region during the Pleistocene geological period about 12,000 years ago. When the ice melted and the glacier retreated northward about 10,000 years ago, it left behind 7 huge blocks of ice. When these ice blocks melted, the resulting seven depressions filled with water, forming what we know as Douglas Lake. Each of these seven distinct depressions exceeds 50 feet in water depth. The deepest point in the lake of 89 feet exists in the western portion of the lake about one-half mile northwest of the northern tip of Pells Island. But four other depressions approach 80 feet in depth including two in Fishtail Bay and two others in the center of the lake.

Douglas Lake did not exist as a separate body of water immediately after the glacier retreated. This entire Great Lakes region with the exception of a few higher hills which were islands was covered with an enormous lake, named Lake Algonquin by glacial geologists. This lake was formed soon after the glacier retreated northward. It is fascinating to learn that the incredible weight of the continental glacier ice, up to 3000 feet thick over Michigan, caused the earth's crust to become depressed many hundreds of feet, especially in northern Michigan. It was into this general depression, plus huge deeper depressions created by the erosive forces of the glacier, that water accumulated during the Lake Algonquin period. Later on as the earth's crust slowly rebounded, and the continental glacier retreated further north, a series of huge regional lakes occurred (a complex process lasting over 9000 years). Finally, water filled only the depressions we know today as the Great Lakes. Douglas Lake became a separate inland lake about 4000 years ago, sooner than those lakes still connected to the Great Lakes system such as Mullet, Black, Burt, Charlevoix, Torch etc.

Excluding the lake itself, Douglas Lake's watershed (the area from which all surface water drains into Douglas Lake) encompasses about 10,300 acres. It is located mostly to the north and west of Douglas Lake and contains several smaller lakes including Munro, Lancaster and Vincent. It also contains the village of Levering and extensive farmlands almost to the Hamlet of Bliss. The only sizable stream flowing into Douglas Lake, Betsey Creek, drains the Lancaster and Munro Lake areas. Much water also flows in Douglas Lake from a number of small streams that flow very heavily for several weeks just after spring ice melt, primarily from wetlands to the northwest. Ground water also is a major contributor into Douglas Lake. Numerous springs are found under the surface of the lake water, especially along the north and west portion of the lake basins.

The only surface outlet of Douglas Lake is the East Branch of the Maple River, which originates at the west shore of Maple Bay and flows generally south into the West Side of Burt Lake. It is joined by a larger branch from the west before reaching Burt Lake. Flow is heavy in April and May, but slows as the level of Douglas Lake drops, usually by mid-July relatively little water drains from Douglas Lake via the Maple River. On an annual basis most of the lake water drains out underground and emerges as scores of springs in numerous deep gorges about one-half mile south of South Fishtail Bay. This area is locally known as "High Springs" or "The Gorge" by the University of Michigan Biological Station which owns the site. The many springs gradually coalesce into one sizable cold, clear stream called "Little Carp Creek" which flows one mile south into Burt Lake. The flow rate of this stream being almost entirely spring fed is remarkably stable at about 15 cubic feet per second (112 gallons)!

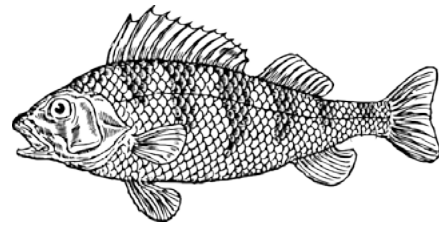
Physical Features: Lake area 3783 acres
 Watershed area 14125 acres
 (including lake surfaces)
 Shoreline length 15.6 miles *
 Maximum length 3.8 miles
 Maximum width 2.3 miles
 Maximum depth 89 feet
 Mean depth 18 feet
 Elevation 712 feet
 Water retention time 3 years (Lake Water is displaced externally once every 3 years)

* The University of Michigan owns and protects about 6.3 miles of shoreline and 10,000 acres around and near the lake for research and teaching. This insures that about 40% of the lakeshore will not be commercially developed.

THE FISH OF DOUGLAS LAKE

Mark Paddock

January 2009

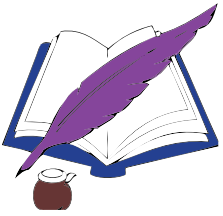


You may be surprised to learn that there are 40 different kinds (species) of fish living in Douglas Lake and its streams. Most of us are aware of about four or five species commonly caught by fishermen. But even the most ardent and skilled anglers can catch only about ten species out of our lake with hook and line. The other 30 species are either too small to be caught by hook or are not attracted to bait or lure because of what they eat.

How did these fish get into Douglas Lake? Glacial Geologists tell us that Douglas Lake had its origin about 10-11,000 years ago when the Continental Glacier melted and retreated north from this site. Seven huge blocks of ice remained behind and when they eventually melted, the deep depressions where they were, filled with water thereby creating Douglas Lake's topography. For about 6,000 years after the Continental Glacier retreated north, The Great Lakes region went through a complex series of lakes of vastly different sizes and location. This Douglas Lake site was often part of the huge Great Lakes system. It was not until about 4-5000 years ago that Douglas Lake became established as a separate lake with a geographically distinct watershed.

Probably some fish that were in the huge Great Lakes System remained in Douglas Lake when it became a separate body of water. Especially cold water loving species like the Lake Herring or Cisco may owe their existence in our lake from such a source. Our Cisco can remain here because Douglas Lake has cold, oxygenated water in the deep depressions during summer. However, although Douglas lake was a separate lake, it was, and is still, connected to Burt Lake (and thereby the Great Lakes through Indian River, Mullet Lake and the Cheboygan River) via our outlet the East Branch of the Maple River. Undoubtedly during this 4-5,000 year period many species of fish, especially warm water fish because The East Branch is a warm water stream much of the year, migrated upriver from Burt Lake to Douglas Lake. Some species established themselves as breeding populations in our lake and some did not. We know that Burt Lake has a number of fish species not found in Douglas Lake. Some of the more interesting examples are: the huge, up to 200 lbs and long-lived, Lake Sturgeon; the fabled, very large, hard fighting Muskellunge or "Musky"; a living remnant of an ancient family, the Longnose Gar, also very large and voracious, and the highly prized Walleye, much to the frustration of Douglas Lake anglers who want it established in Douglas lake too.

Although our lake's outlet, The East Branch of the Maple does flow into Burt Lake, for more than a century upstream migrating fish have been restricted by a dam on the river. You may have seen it just below the Dam Site Inn Restaurant. This may be the reason Douglas Lake does not have a population of Carp since they were just getting established in this region at the turn of the century. And of course that dam may be keeping out some of the recent disturbing, invasive fish into the Great Lakes? That dam is a good thing in that regard.



THE HISTORY CORNER

Barbara Wilkinson
May 2005

The early 1900's saw many forest fires in northern Michigan. Climatic conditions were at their worst, with droughts, high winds, and hot temperatures off and on for several years. In 1908 the village of Metz in Presque Isle County, a hub of farming, lumbering and a stopping point of the Detroit & Mackinac Railway on the way to Alpena and Cheboygan, burned to the ground. Metz vanished as a brush fire which started several miles to the west cut a swath 3 miles wide by 30 miles long taking 42 lives and destroying 200,000 acres of land before burning itself out on the shores of Lake Huron.

That same fall there were fires at West Branch, Black River, Sault Ste. Marie, Petoskey and Cheboygan to mention only a few. A Petoskey report stated "A summer resort near Conway is threatened with destruction, forest fires creeping upon all sides. A pall of smoke hangs over Bayview, the big Methodist resort, but fires are not near enough to cause anxiety. East of Brutus, the fires are sweeping towards Riggsville." At the same time "Cheboygan, Mich. Oct. 17 an immense tract of hardwood burned over, destroying the new camps being built. The men escaped with only their clothes and one horse, being driven out last night at midnight, and compelled to run to the lakeshore. Lakeside resort has been burned, the groves and cottages. County farmers are saving their homes, but all the stuff in the woods has burned. The Indian Reservation south of Mullet Lake has burned over and the Indians are homeless."

Around 1913 Douglas Lake had its own forest fire. In the book *Memories of Douglas Lake*, compiled by the north shore residents, Fritz Roberts remembered, "For four or five summers we lived in the Inglis house, Sunny Sands, on the west shore of Douglas Lake. It was a wonderful vacation spot. We learned to handle boats, to swim, to explore in the woods, to play in the sand on the beach; and we even experienced the more serious part of living when, in our second summer, a forest fire came roaring from the G.R.& I. Railroad in Van, right down to the west shore of the lake. It went around the house at Sunny Sands, it jumped the fields there and ignited the woods behind the cottages on the lake shore.

By that time about one hundred men arrived to fight the fire, and the first thing they did was to put two boys on the roof of each cottage. The men brought water in buckets up ladders, and the boys on the roofs kept putting the water on the roof shingles. My cousin, Harry Berlesky, and I were on one of the cabins. It was my job to meet the man at the top of the ladder, and to take the bucket of water to Harry who kept wetting the shingles and dousing the sparks that had fallen on the roof. All cottages were saved. When we were relieved as fire fighters we went to our cottage and Mother doctored the burns on our arms from the sparks that fell on us.

In other years we all were involved in fighting forest fires. It was hard work but none of the fires were as exciting and dangerous as that first fire on Sunny Sands." Over the years forest fires have claimed lives and destroyed property but as fire fighting methods have improved less life is lost and less property is destroyed and yet for those who lose a part of their life or their part of the world it really is much the same.

The more things change the more they stay the same

NOTICE OF THE D.L.I.A. ANNUAL MEETING

The Douglas Lake Improvement Association Annual Meeting will be held on
Monday August 25, 2014

at the University of Michigan Biological Station's Lecture Hall.

Registration will begin at 7:00 p.m. Meeting time 7:30 p.m.

There will be committee reports, election of Officers and any other business which may come before the assembly.

If you are unable to attend the annual meeting and would like to be represented please choose the proxy you prefer, fill it out, and give it to the person that you are appointing to act on your behalf.

IMPORTANT! ONLY ONE PROXY PER MEMBERSHIP

FULL PROXY

I, _____, a member in good standing of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association, do hereby appoint _____, a member in good standing of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association, as my proxy to act and vote in my place at the annual meeting of the Association to be held at the University of Michigan Biological Station on August 25, 2014. I do hereby grant _____ full power and authority to act on my behalf in any matter, which may come before the annual meeting or at any adjournment thereof.

Name _____ Date _____

LIMITED PROXY

I, _____, a member in good standing of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association, do hereby appoint _____, a member in Good standing of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association, my proxy to act and vote in my place at the annual meeting of the Association to be held at the University of Michigan Biological Station on August 25, 2014. My proxy, is to vote in favor of _____ and against _____, but in all other matters is to have full discretion in any and all voting at the annual meeting as fully as I would have had if personally present.

Name _____ Date _____