

# Douglas Lake NEWSLETTER

**Douglas Lake Improvement Association** 

www.DouglasLake.org

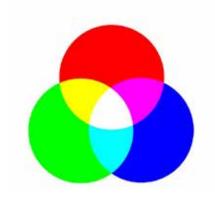
P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

May, 2018

#### President's Message

I became a DLIA Zone Rep in 2003. My neighbors constantly asked what we do. So, I asked the DLIA Board how to answer that question. The reply was too generic for me; I'm detail oriented. I combed financial sheets, logged events and committee work, and listed partnerships. This led to our first flyer in 2014 that contained a list of DLIA Programs and in 2017 we added a Projects Page to our website. Now, I've got a handle on what we do. But, who are we? And how do we know what to do and when?

Members attend a variety of conferences and meetings each year. Bill Foster and Mary Ellen Sheridan attended the 2-day 57th Annual Michigan Lakes & Streams Conference in April at Crystal Mountain. Please read their full report in this newsletter; it's full of great information. One of the sessions they attended was about Stewardship. I borrowed that segment of their report for my message because it is a clear picture of what we do and who we are.



Stewardship – We are stewards because we value each of the circles:

- WATER QUALITY/WATERSHED AWARENESS
- REASONABLE ENJOYMENT OF THE LAKE AREA
- STRUCTURING AND LEAVING A LEGACY

Our Association responsibility is where all three circles overlap. It's at that intersecting "sweet spot" where we must keep all aspects balanced – environment, recreation and legacy – and deal with all wisely and respectfully.

Rich and I selected this lake for our home, because of its good water quality, it is not part of the inland lake boating system, and we view the U of M Biological Station as an asset (even though we are Ohio State fans). We've never regretted our decision. And the community here is fabulous.

Thank you all for being good stewards of Douglas Lake. Not only does it help our property values, it helps our well-being. It's great to know we are doing our best to preserve the legacy of Douglas Lake.

Holly Gedert, DLIA President

"The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations." - John Paul II

As a volunteer association, we are always looking for people to help.

Open DLIA Positions:

Swimmer's Itch Representative and Merchandise Manager Contact Holly Gedert at 231-537-3269 or email president@douglaslake.org

### DESTINATION



## NAUTICAL NORTH FAMILY ADVENTURES

by Holly Gedert

Having grown up in lower Northern Michigan and navigating the waters of Black Lake Lake Huron, and Lake Michigan all her life, Nautical North Family Adventures is a dream come true for Captain Jennifer Robydek. The dream is becoming reality for she began booking tours in April for the summer.

Adventures are centered around the Cheboygan area including Lake Huron, the Cheboygan River, and Mullett Lake. The 36' Glass Bottom boat holds 30 people and a variety of tours will take off from the Cheboygan County Marina which is near the Cheboygan Crib Light. There will be shipwreck tours, lighthouse tours, Cheboygan lock and dam tours, snorkeling and scuba diving tours and "Music at the Mouth" charters. The boat tours offer a new perspective through the glass bottom and lights are installed for enchanting nighttime underwater views.

The website is up and running at

### www. Nautical North Family Adventures. com.

Take a look to get a feel for the offered adventures and prices. The start date for the new business has not yet been determined. While they plan to be open for business in July, the online bookings will begin with August dates.

You can contact Captain Jennifer at jennifer@xplorshipwrecksandmore.com or 231-444-3400.

### Rules of the Road

Now that Spring seems to have finally made an appearance in Northern Michigan, more and more Douglas Lakers are returning and getting out to enjoy the "Pure Michigan" sunshine and fresh air. This means more walkers and bikers on our roads so please slow down and watch for them. There are a couple of "rules of the road" for the walkers/runners and bikers to remember and follow as well, for everyone's safety.



Walkers and runners should walk/run facing the oncoming traffic. This is especially important on curvy roads where line of sight is impaired.

A bicycle is considered a vehicle, so it is subject to the same laws as cars and trucks. Cyclists should ride with traffic.

Please be safe.

### WELCOME NEW DLIA MEMBERS

Since January 1, 2018

Zone 11

Eric Signs, 7188 Bryant Road

Zone 12

Donald & Catherine Kirk, 7886 Pells Island

Zone 31

Laurel Nelson & Guido Bartolucci 11472 White Birch Drive

Zone 32

Deb Bethel, 11535 White Birch Drive

Zone 71

Chris DuBois, 9700 Silver Strand Rd

Zone 81

Matt & Susan Williams, 9354 Ingleside Drive

### Munro Township Clean Up Day Saturday, May 26, 2018

Please have your trash ready at the end of your driveway near the road by 7am. One pickup load per household.

**ALLOWED:** Household junk, bagged garbage, bundled building materials, furniture, scrap metal, appliances without Freon, dry cut carpet. Lumber must be cut to 3-foot lengths.

**NOT ALLOWED:** Brush, leaves and grass clippings, oil, liquid paint, flammable materials, chemicals, explosives, tires, batteries, cement, appliances with Freon and hazardous waste materials.

If you have problems or questions pertaining to trash day cleanup, please call Supervisor Charles Antkoviak at 231-627-7232.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

**Built by Hand** 

U-M's newest eco-friendly building at LSA's Biological Station is completely off the grid—and built entirely by U-M students.

by Rachel Reed

A lot of courses claim to be hands-on, but for students in Professor Joseph Trumpey's Green Building class, it's no exaggeration.

That's because Trumpey's Art & Design course, which is cross-listed in LSA's Program in the Environment, required students to apply the information and skills they learned about sustainable building practices to construct a brand-new building at the U-M Biological Station in Pellston by themselves.

"Students are anxious to engage in hands-on learning," says Trumpey. During the winter semester, Trumpey's

students explored how conventional "green" methods compared to the environmental impacts of natural building methods. They visited several sustainably built structures in Southeastern Michigan, and they learned how to safely use tools.











During the month of May, Trumpey's class put their new skills to work by breaking ground on the Straw Bale House at the Biological Station, the first student-constructed official U-M building in 100 years.

From sunup to well after sundown, the crew toiled six days a week working on everything from the foundation to three heavy coats of earthen plaster. They raised posts and beams and trusses, and they installed the roof, windows, and doors and a large wraparound deck. They milled lumber for the project using logs Trumpey salvaged from U-M's Ann Arbor campus. They also installed their own handmade ceramic tiles.

The class proudly noted that they were the first majority-women crew to build any building in U-M's history.

"Students were excited that they would make something of value that potentially has a very long life span," says Trumpey. "They learned that it is possible to have buildings that are constructed around a set of sustainability values that resonate with their own values, and they developed a keen eye to critique a building based on how it relates to its site, the sun, energy, people, materials, and its carbon footprint."

The Straw Bale House, U-M's first fully off-grid and solar-powered building, held its opening festivities on May 28, 2017. The event was attended by dozens of appreciative members of the Ann Arbor and Northern Michigan communities.

"It was inspiring to see the students' passions develop, along with their dedication to the project," says Trumpey. "They learned the pride that comes from making something. They developed a strong relationship with each other and also with the building. They developed myriad new confidences—everything from hammering, power tools, team work and communication, to thinking larger than they had before."

Top image courtesy of University of Michigan Biological Station.



### by Bill Foster and Mary Ellen Sheridan

We attended the 57th Annual MLSA Conference on behalf of DLIA. MLSA is a non-profit state-wide volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and management of Michigan's inland lakes and streams. It advocates for the protection of riparian (i.e. waterfront property) rights. The association encourages individuals, associations, corporations and various non-profit advocacy groups to work collaboratively as stewards and responsible users of Michigan's invaluable inland lakes and streams. Some of the information and advice we gleaned from the two-day conference are summarized below. Check out MLSA's web site at www.mymlsa.org for more about this organization and useful partnerships. Note that as of the conference, MLSA now stands for Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations.

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote speakers were Grenetta Thomassey, Watershed Policy Director, Tipp of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC) and Vicki Springstead, Chairperson of the Higgins Lake Foundation.

Dr. Thomassey, Watershed Policy Director for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, kicked things off with a discussion on watershed plans. Watershed plans are data driven studies of specific watersheds in the northern Michigan area. These plans are generally 10 years in length and include watershed analysis, improvement plans and remediation. Plans are generally reviewed after 5 years for progress and potential redirection depending on new data. These plans require DNR and DEQ approval. These plans are developed with community partners (including lake associations, State and community government agencies, community groups, the Tribes and environmental organizations) to identify how watersheds are negatively impacted by activities related to higher population densities and utilization. These include septic leaching, storm water runoff, agricultural runoff, invasive species and other activities contributing to higher lake and river sediment content. Sediment is the worst factor for wildlife viability. After identification of the issues, action plans are developed and monitored.

Douglas lake resides in the very large Burt Lake watershed. The DLIA and the U of M Biological Station were involved in the creation of the Burt Lake Watershed Plan that was recently approved by DNR and DEQ. Funding is now being pursued.

Watershed plans which are now either approved or in the planning stages for many of the major watersheds in our area include: Little Traverse Bay, Lake Charlevoix, Elk River chain, and Duncan Bay/ Grass Bay area of Lake Huron (in development).

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council speaks for Northern Michigan's waters and is dedicated to protecting the lakes, streams, wetlands and ground water quality. Through advocacy, education, technically strong water quality monitoring, research and watershed restoration, they work locally, regionally and throughout the Great Lakes Basin to achieve these goals. TOMWC is funded through membership, gifts, fund raising and competitive grants from the State of Michigan and Federal government (some reduction is expected due to Federal budget cutbacks). This is a well-managed and effective organization advocating for our water resources. More information on Tip of the Mitt and their work can be found online at: www. watershedcouncil.org

The second keynote was delivered by Vicky Springstead of the Higgins Lake Foundation. The foundation, which relies on donors and an annual raffle for project funding, was established in 1989 and focuses on the lake environment concerns. Fortunately for DLIA and Douglas Lakers, we don't have the significant problems Higgins Lake residents and visitors are confronting with acres of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and persistent widespread swimmer's itch. Higgins Lake has 3 DNR public access boat launches/boat wash areas; the Foundation has donated boat wash equipment at 2 or 3 and pays for boat wash staff. With approximately 10 acres of actively growing Eurasian watermilfoil, the Foundation funded the purchase and operation of a "dash boat" and divers who annually harvest EWM from the lake bed. These efforts keep slightly ahead of the infestation. The Foundation also funded (>\$100,000 last year) participation in the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership research program. Ms. Springstead emphasized the importance of community outreach and education programs for effective boat wash outcomes with a "spray before you play" message.

#### **INLAND LAKE ECOLOGY 101**

A session on "Inland Lake Ecology 101" identified helpful standards to protect and preserve inland lake quality and awareness of watershed impacts. Key features of protecting our lakes include monitoring water quality, education and awareness of the potential shoreline problems caused by high-wave wake boats, adherence to set-back regulations for new construction/renovations, and the importance of identification and early management of invasive species (Eurasian watermilfoil is just one of approximately 6-8 other invasive species that are in Michigan or very near the state line). Encouraging shoreline management with effective use of native plant species is critical to preserving the quality of inland lakes. Summarizing helpful advice:

- · Keep grass clippings, leaves, pet waste out of lake
- Stabilize your shoreline (poor shoreline habitat has greatest impact on lake health!)
- Maintain your septic system (consider replacing old septic systems)
- · Minimize impact of storm run-off directly entering the lake
- · Educate lake residents and visitors about your lake's watershed

A recurring theme echoed through many presentations was the "prevention" approach to Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and other invasive species. Studies on the economic effect of EWM infestation on an inland lake determined ~ 20% decrease in property values. Many conference participants were from EWM infested lakes. All were looking for remediation strategies. Although there are 3 approaches currently in use (mechanical removal, biological predation (milfoil weevils) or herbicide), none are ideal. **Startling fact:** No invasive species has ever been eradicated. The best approach is to prevent introduction to our lake.

#### **LEGAL**

Clifford Bloom, legal counsel for Michigan Lakes and Streams and a practicing lawyer who specialized in riparian rights, presented several repeating sessions which were most helpful. Hot topics for discussion included:

- problems with wake boats (and consequent damage to shoreline and lake bottomland)
- parks (common areas) generally in private developments between lakeshore and "lakefront" property owners
- access to lake and "backlot" rights of usage from public/private road ends and private easements
- short term rentals may become more of a concern with Air B&B and Vacation Rental by Owner increasing. Be aware that local ordinances may be pre-empted by potential or existing state regulation.
- other concerns discussed concerning non-riparian parcels pointing out that "Deeded access" is not a legal term and is preempted by recent court rulings.

#### Points that were emphasized for riparian property rights:

- Only a judge can decide riparian rights.
- Surveyors can only give 'opinions' about riparian boundary rights.
- Wet land issues DEQ must permit property construction/development
- Lake access devices 'walkways'/easements

Knowing what local ordinances govern with respect to zoning is important. Police power with respect to docks and boats, noise, wetland protections can be useful. How and when can your local township/county help in addressing riparian/non-riparian issues? Some of us have learned about 'special assessments' and 'special assessment districts' in recent years for road improvement funding. Some inland lake associations have used 'special assessments' as mechanism to address remediation of invasive species. There are pros & cons about this tool.

Among the several State Statutes that govern Michigan lakes and streams, those of relevance for Douglas Lake are:

- The Inland Lakes and Streams Act
- The Wetlands Protection Act

### RIPARIAN RIGHTS: COMMON MYTHS IDENTIFIED

MYTH 1 – I have a right to walk along the shoreline or in the water along the shoreline of any home. Reality: When walking along the shoreline of one of the Great Lakes, the public generally has an easement right when walking lakeward of the ordinary high-water mark. But, unless there is a public road right-of-way, easement, park, or other encumbrance between an inland lake and riparian properties, members of the public and other riparians do not have the right to walk on lakefront or bottomlands of another riparian without permission.

MYTH 2 - Every lake in Michigan has a public access site. Reality: Not true, nor is there any requirement that every lake have a public access point or site. Of course, we know that Douglas Lake does have several road end public access sites.

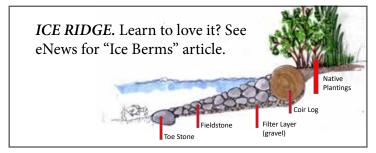
MYTH 3 - If I have a lake access easement, I have the right to install a dock, moor a boat, lounge, sunbathe, and picnic. Reality: Lake Access easements almost never accord the beneficiaries such rights. Private walkways and easements are for lake access only, walking to and from the lake.

We found these sessions with the legal expert to be very informative and educational. They were very well attended. Some of the questions and anecdotal cases made us very grateful to be living on Douglas Lake.

MLSA has several publications written by Mr. Bloom for sale that might be useful to DLIA members:

- "Michigan Lake Associations The Nuts and Bolts"
- "Buying and Selling Waterfront Property in Michigan"
- "The Practical Guide to Lakefront Living"

You do not have to be a member to purchase these publications. Check under Resources on the MLSA website.



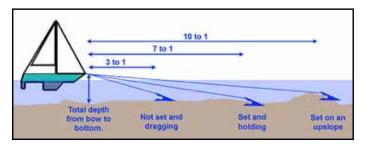


### by Linda Orlow

Proper ground tackle (equipment attaching your boat to the bottom) is important for a safe mooring system to prevent your boat from getting loose.

Most of us on Douglas Lake use a "clump" (concrete in a tub) type mooring bottom piece which will resist a horizontal pull of less than its own weight. A buried clump greatly increases the holding power. Attaching heavy chain to your clump keeps the pull horizontal therefore decreasing chafe to the line attached to the hull. A rode line spliced to the chain with an oversized shackle (secured with wire) then attached to the floating mooring buoy is recommended. A swivel should be added between the clump and chain or between the chain and rode line.

Nylon twisted 3 strand line is the leading choice for mooring due to its loosely woven ability to stretch (shock absorber) and not being prone to unraveling or chafing. The worst line is polypropylene (often yellow and inexpensive) due to its short life in the sun and inability to stretch. The purpose of the mooring buoy is to support the mooring chain and be a visual marker and attachment point for the lines leading to the boat.



Appropriate scope (ratio of anchor line to depth of the water) is important. Your bottom to buoy line should be at least three times (3-1 scope) the depth of the water you are mooring in, ie. water depth of 10' means 30' of line. The effectiveness of your mooring increases as the angle of the line to the bottom decreases.

Another wise precautionary step is to attach two lines from your mooring buoy to the boat. Clipping one onto the bow eye and the other tied with a properly locked cleat hitch (Animated knots by grog) to a cleat on the boat.

If you don't incorporate all of these suggestions, you should do your best to incorporate enough to make your boat safe. You and your neighbors (in your absence who may need to try to prevent damage to your boat) will benefit!

### THE GIVING CONTINUES

### 15 Years for DL Womenade

The mission of the Douglas Lake Womenade (DLW) group is to give back to our Cheboygan County community by assisting children and families in Pellston and Cheboygan County, who have demonstrated an immediate financial need due to a family crisis or emergency. They will assist where other help is not immediately available. Each family is assisted only once. Recipients of the assistance are recommended by local contacts who are in a position to know of family emergencies and also by DLW members who are aware of a family in financial need.

DL Womenade is in its 15th year. The current Board members are Sue Nelson, Kathy Buchweitz, Marilyn Kelemen, Linda Alexander, Holly Gedert, Kim Grant, and Mary Ann Huntington.

There are two items for sale as fundraisers. One is a cookbook of favorite recipes for \$10 and the other is a set of 15 high quality vintage Douglas Lake postcards for \$20. Both items can be purchased at the meetings. The postcards are also available at the DLIA Merchandise sales.

They are also collecting Education Box Tops which are exchanged for funding for the Pellston Schools. Please clip the Education Box Tops from your grocery or other items and



bring them to a DL Womenade meeting or pass them along to a member.

Everyone is welcome to the meetings. Bring a friend or neighbor. The group meets the 3rd Wednesday at 6pm in June, July and August. Bring your own table setting, a dish to pass, and a donation of \$35. Make a check payable to DL Womenade.

#### **2018 MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

6/20/18 Sandy Synder 7/18/18 Irene Crum & Mary Scholtens 8/15/18 Barb Huey Fall 2018 TBD

Information is also on the internet. Go to the DLIA website under Resources. http://www.douglaslake.org/resources/douglas-lake-womenade/

#### **Fall Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for submissions October 1, 2018

### Area Books

We are very appreciative of the number of members that shared area book ideas. This list contains some of the submissions from Carol Weilert Hodgson, Joan Hartwig, Linda Orlow,



Mary Scholtens, and Mary Ellen Sheridan.

- **Sparkle Island** by Ellen Rosewall, published June 2000, is a collection of short, homey essays about Walloon Lake and the Petoskey area.
- The Land of the Crooked Tree by U.P Hedrick is still available at Amazon. Hedrick writes of his youth and shows himself to be a sharp and often witty observer of the little details of domestic life on the Michigan frontier.
- Jerry Harju (pronounced HAR-YOU) has written entertaining and humorous series focusing on his growing up in the 1940's to mid-50's in the Upper Peninsula. A complete list of his books can be found at Goodreads. The first five books he wrote are: *Northern Reflections, Northern D'Lights, Northern Passages, Northern Memories*, and *Northern Tales No. 5.*
- Bryan Gruley **Starvation Lake**. The mythical northern Michigan town, Starvation Lake, is the center of the riveting mystery series. There are now 3 books in the series.
- Steve Hamilton wrote The Alex McKnight series of 10 novels and a short story. It focuses on the ex-Detroit police detective, who is a private investigator in (fictional) Paradise, Michigan, on the shores of Lake Superior, in the Upper Peninsula.
- Anatomy of a Murder by Robert Traver. Goodreads shows that Robert Traver is the pseudonym of John Donaldson Voelker who served as the Prosecuting Attorney of Marquette County, Michigan and later as the 74th Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He wrote many books reflecting his two passions, the law and fly fishing.
- Author Mardi Jo Link wrote *Isadore's Secret: Sin, Murder,* and Confession in a Northern Michigan Town and When Evil Came to Good Hart. Both are in the Michigan murders

- category. *The Drummond Girls* is one of her memoirs along with *Bootstrapper: From Broke to Badass on a Northern Michigan Farm*.
- The Women's Great Lakes Reader, edited by Victoria Brehm, published by Ladyslipper Press, second edition 2000. It is full of short pieces about interesting historical women around the Great Lakes.
- The Great Lakes Cottage Book by Kathy-jo Wargin, Photography by Ed Wargin. This is a rich and beautiful coffee table book that contains many photos of Northern Michigan, particularly near Cross Village, Harbor Spring, Petoskey, Bay View and Lake Michigan.
- *Michigan, The Spirit of the Land* by Kathy-jo Wargin, Photography by Ed Wargin. Coffee table book.

#### **MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS:**

- *The Legend of the Lady's Slipper* by Kathy-jo Wargin, Illus. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
- *The Legend of the Petoskey Stone* by Kathy-jo Wargin, Illus. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
- *The Legend of Mackinac Island* by Kathy-jo Wargin, Illus. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
- The Legend of Sleeping Bear by Kathy-jo Wargin, Illus. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
- *Mackinac Bridge*, by Gloria Whelan, Illus. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
- *The Legend of Michigan* by Trinka Hakes Noble, Illus. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen
- *M is for Mitten* by Annie Appleford, Poems by Kathy-jo Wargin, Illus. by Michael G. Monroe
- The Michigan Counting Book by Kathy-jo Wargin, Illus. by Michael G. Monroe
- *Up North in Michigan* by Chari Yost Binstadt, Photography by Ken Scott
- The Twelve Days of Christmas in Michigan by Susan Collins Thoms, Illus by Deb Pilutti
- *The Michigan Reader* by Kathy Jo Wargin, Illus. by K.L.Darnell
- *Mitt, the Michigan Mouse* by Kathy-jo Wargin, Illus. by Karen Busch Holman
- Once On This Island by Gloria Whelan
- The Indian School by Gloria Whelan

### **Local News**

#### Did you know...

There are many business changes in the area each year. Here's a few of them for 2018.

- Maple River Golf is OPEN, but the Maple River Pub changed name and menu. Rusty Saw North Smokehouse and BBQ opened this winter with limited hours with menu items from a popular Hemlock, MI, restaurant The Rusty Saw Smokehouse. Summer hours began in
  - **The Rusty Saw Smokehouse**. Summer hours began in May. The Friday night special is Michigan Cherry BBQ Sauce Ribs; the Saturday night feature is Memphis Style Dry Rub Ribs. Open Mon-Sat 10-10; Sun Noon-9. Ph 231-529-6574
- A Gourmet Experience in an Auto Dealership. (The title is from a TripAdvisor review.) Libby's Café features

Libby's homemade pies, soups, lite breakfast, lunch, and specialty drinks. Grab and go or dine in. You will be delighted you tried Libby's. It is located in the Fernelius dealership in Cheboygan (Toyota Chrysler Dodge Ram), 11283 N Straits Hwy. Open 8-4 daily and 8-2 Saturday. Ph 231-445-9330.

- The Levering Café and Levering Pizza went out of business.
- Remember Goldies on Paradise Lake? A new restaurant will be at that location this summer. Rumor says it will be called Harbor Cove and will be open by Memorial Day.
- In Petoskey, the Bob-In Again frozen custard shop is now **Up in Smoke BBQ.** The menu includes barbecue meats such as brisket, pulled pork, chicken and ribs.



P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769



### Douglas Lake Improvement Association www.douglaslake.org

Membership Dues: \$25 a year Mail to DLIA, PO Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

Newsletter Editor - Holly Gedert

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Vice President - Mary Ellen Sheridan, vice-president@douglaslake.org

Treasurer - Susan Klaas, treasurer@douglaslake.org

Secretary - Joan Hartwig, secretary@douglaslake.org

Email News Articles and Obituaries to info@douglaslake.org Membership Updates to membership@douglaslake.org

New member and update form can be found at www.douglaslake.org



The DLIA Annual Meeting is Monday, August 20 at 7:00 pm, registration begins at 6:30 pm.
Location: Gates Lecture Hall at UMBS

### DLIA Merchandise Sales Summer 2018

Sat. June 16 • Wed. July 4
Sat. July 21 • Sat. Aug. 11 • Sat. Sept. 1

Contact Holly at merchandise@douglaslake.org or 231-537-3269 with any questions



www.douglaslake.org