



Douglas Lake NEWSLETTER

Douglas Lake Improvement Association

www.DouglasLake.org

P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

November, 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jayne Morse's interview with DLIA's 2019 UMBS Scholarship recipient, Emma Ortlieb, is featured in this Newsletter. Emma also wrote a heartfelt 'thank you' letter to DLIA saying "Without your scholarship, I would not have been able to attend UMBS... You allowed me to learn more than I ever thought possible and gave me an experience I will never forget."

I know just how Emma feels. This summer I jumped into Douglas Lake (figuratively, not literally) for my first fieldwork experience, assisting the Watershed Council staff and interns with the vegetation survey. It was fun to be a student again, learning how to identify the various aquatic plants that make Douglas Lake their home. I have some new vocabulary words - Chara, Coontail, Elodea, Naiad, native Milfoil, etc. All these used to be just 'green things' in the water. We crisscrossed the Lake assessing and cataloging sites recording pertinent data. They even trusted me to throw out the rake (see picture) and drag in samples. Fortunately the rake was tied to the boat so I didn't throw both me and the rake enthusiastically into the Lake. Volunteering on this project was fun and educational!

In lieu of an oral Report to the Membership at the DLIA Annual Meeting in August, Bill Foster, DLIA's liaison with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, suggested that Gail Gruenwald, Executive Director of the Watershed Council, write an article for this Newsletter describing the history and the benefits of DLIA's partnership with the Watershed Council.

Following the approval of the Membership at the Annual Meeting August 19, 2019, an Amendment to DLIA's Articles of Incorporation was filed with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau, to update the Purpose of the Association. This is the first Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation that was originally filed October 16, 1967. The amended Articles became effective with the date of filing noted by the State, September 16, 2019. The membership also voted to update the DLIA Bylaws, effective the date of the Annual Meeting. The amended Articles of Incorporation and the updated Bylaws are posted on the DLIA website under the Membership tab.

There is some "breaking news" as this message is being written (early November for the Newsletter November publication date) – there are exploratory discussions underway with the Cheboygan County Road Commission, Munro Township and the DLIA Executive Board regarding possible plans to pave the section of dirt road that accesses the Douglas Lake Boat Ramp from Douglas Lake Road to the ramp. The Watershed Council is providing important advice about the opportunity to mitigate water quality issues arising from run-off from a hard surface road into the Lake. As with many projects, there are different opinions about the merits of this project. Some see a hard-surface road as an improvement for boat ramp function; others see disadvantages from increasing the hard surface area with potential for affecting the Lake's water quality and sediment damage. At this time, we are gathering information from other Lake Associations about their experiences with hard surfaces leading to their boat ramps, and assessing the value of rain gardens and other drainage options to reduce harmful road/sediment/rain/snow run-off into the Lake. Typically Munro Township shares road construction project costs with the Cheboygan County Road Commission. Munro Township has yet to vote whether it will support the access road project. At this point, the Township Supervisor has indicated the he is looking for DLIA (and possible other partners) to cost-share the Township's portion of the costs. For the past 6 years, DLIA has shared the cost of boat ramp maintenance with Munro Township, totaling roughly \$2600 from DLIA. Boat ramp maintenance will continue to be a shared responsibility. Funding a road construction project would be a precedent for DLIA. The Executive Board would have to vote to approve funding any part of the road constructions project. Feedback from DLIA members with questions, concerns, opinions, etc. is welcome. Please address your messages to president@douglaslake.org. Between November and May, eNews will keep members up to date on this topic.

DLIA is an organization of voluntary members who share a love of all things Douglas Lake. What the Association is able to support financially and accomplish through volunteer effort benefits our members, the community we live in and Douglas Lake. Thank you for being a member of our Association.

Mary Ellen Sheridan DLIA President

FIBER INTERNET FOR DOUGLAS LAKE

by *Grant Case*



I am a resident of the Northwoods Shores neighborhood on the southwest part of the lake. Along with Cherry Capital Communication (CCC), an internet provider located in Elk Rapids, I am trying to garner interest from the residents of Douglas Lake to finally bring fast reliable internet via fiber optic cable to Douglas Lake. I have been using Cherry Capital's "Fixed Point" wireless for the last year. This form of internet relies on "line of sight" between a large antenna located in Levering and a small antenna near my house. While adequate, the speeds are slow (better than a cell phone hotspot) and the service is affected by foliage blocking the antenna. Streaming movies is possible but spotty and slow by today's internet standards.

However, the GOOD news is while researching internet options for our location, CCC discovered that a fiber optic cable has been run down Bryant Rd to the corner of Bryant Rd and Northwoods Shores Dr. The owner of this fiber optic cable has given CCC permission to use this fiber cable for commercial internet service. What CCC is trying to assess is the interest level from the residents primarily located on **Bryant Rd, Northwoods Shores Dr, Douglas Lake Rd and the side roads along Maple Bay** and generally speaking all residents of Douglas Lake not currently served in order to bring those parts of the lake service as well.

It goes without saying that fast reliable internet service is long overdue on Douglas Lake and is almost a necessity for full time residents. For seasonal residents this type of service would provide reliable service when you are here via a "seasonal" plan and the option to "monitor" home and cottage systems from afar. NO deposits or charges are due at this time...just a form that expresses your interest. Once CCC determines enough people are interested they will schedule the project and begin. I am hoping enough residents express interest so that a project could be completed by Summer/Fall 2020.

In order to express your interest please fill out the form:

<https://www.douglaslake.org/Douglas Lake Fiber Reservation Form>

and email to Kolleen Thomas at Cherry Capital Communications. Please select/circle one of the plans (Plans 1-4) on page one while completing the form.

kthomas@cherrycapitalconnection.com

If you are unable to print or email to Kolleen, you can provide your basic information (info on top of the form) and plan choice to me and I can transfer to the form and submit. I can be reached at:

douglaslakefiber@gmail.com

If you have questions, please reach out to Kolleen at Cherry Capital via email or phone 231-264-9970 option 1 or to me via email and I will do my best to get you an answer.

Looking for a unique dining experience?

by *Bill Hartwig*

Well, try the Les Cheneaux Culinary School Restaurant. The restaurant is in the quaint village of Hessel, overlooking Hessel Bay and the Les Cheneaux Islands in northern Lake Huron. The restaurant operates from late May to early September, Wednesday to Sunday, with a Cocktail Hour from 4:30 – 5:00 and Dinner Service from 5:00 – 9:00, and a Sunday Brunch from 10:00 – 2:00.

While the restaurant closed in September, they host Special Events throughout the Fall and Winter until opening in May. The events are: **Wild Game Dinner** – Fri. Nov. 22nd; **Michigan Beer & Wine Tasting** – Sat. Dec. 7th; **New Year's Eve** – Tues. Dec. 31st; **Valentine's Day** – Fri. Feb. 14th; **Easter Brunch** – Sun Apr. 12th; and **Mother's Day Brunch** – Sun May 10th.

For the Special Event menu or a reservation go to:

www.lcculinary.org or call 906-484-4800.

This coming Spring check the website for: 2020 menu; more information; or to make a reservation.

The restaurant is operated by the Les Cheneaux Culinary School which was developed in the Fall of 2011 by a small group of summer and year-round residents. It is a unique concept in culinary education that ideally suited the Les Cheneaux Islands area, and the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan. On September 15, 2014, LCCS welcomed its first class of eight students.

In addition, Lake Superior State University offers a Culinary Arts Chef Certificate (a one-year, three term program) at the Les Cheneaux Culinary School. This program's mission is to provide a unique, culinary education that focuses on hands-on, farm-to-table fine dining geared to regional cuisine, and assuring its students promising careers.

Hessel is only about an hour's drive from Douglas Lake. After crossing the Mackinac Bridge take M – 134 east to Hessel. It is a beautiful drive across the bridge and along the north shore of Lake Huron.



8th ANNUAL RIGGSVILLE REDNECK CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, December 21 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Check out their Facebook page
for additional information.

DON'T BE S.A.D.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS (SAD's) CAN HELP

by *Ron Witthoff*

The Special Assessment District (SAD) process is a method whereby certain public improvements, which are desired by a majority of landowners in a defined area, can be funded by placing the costs of the improvement on the taxes of the benefited landowners. To be valid, these pro rata special assessment "costs" must confer a special benefit to that property different from the benefit enjoyed by the general public.

The Michigan Legislature set up this process over 60 years ago by enacting several Statutes (Public Act No 188 of 1954; MCL 41.72 et seq. is most commonly utilized) which allowed local government units—cities, townships, villages, etc.—to administer and pay for public improvement projects which benefited only a limited group of properties, without using general tax revenues.

PROCEDURE

Depending upon the statute, the establishment of a special assessment district can be initiated by township board resolution and/or citizen petition. There is a veto power granted to property owners who oppose the creation of a special assessment district initiated by township board resolution. It takes 20% of affected property owners to file a petition objecting to the SAD project to invoke this veto power.

For a citizen petition to initiate a (SAD) project, over 50% of involved property owners must sign the SAD petition. It is important to recognize the SAD projects are a government function and while individuals, lake associations, and other groups can have input into the process, ultimately a SAD project must be approved and administered by a local government unit (for us most likely Munro Township).

If the Township determines to proceed with the SAD project, it must follow a rigorous procedure of conducting two public hearings on the project to determine and review the necessity and benefits of the project and to receive and approve the cost. Notice of such hearings (by newspaper publication and mailing to affected property owners) must be provided, and citizens and landowners can express their support or opposition at these public hearings.

UNIQUE APPLICATION FOR LAKE OWNERS

Historically, special assessments have been used to raise revenue for constructing and maintaining local capital improvements such as water and sewer mains, street improvements and sidewalks. In fact, recently, Munro Township has administered SAD projects for road improvements/maintenance on roads servicing Douglas Lake. However, the SAD process has potential for use, if supported by a sufficient majority of landowners, to fund a wide range of lake improvement projects per a 1994 amendment to the authorizing statute. In the event property owners determine that, in the future, a lake improvement project would be beneficial, the SAD process is an option to consider for funding such an endeavor.

2019 DLIA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

by *Jayne Morse*

Emma Ortlieb, a graduate of Harbor Springs High School, and currently a senior at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, was the 2019 recipient of the \$2,500.00 DLIA Scholarship. Emma's major at UM is, Program in the Environment, with a focus in Conservation Biology. This past summer she took the General Ecology course at the University of Michigan Biological Station. Upon graduation from UM in the spring of 2020, Emma hopes to pursue a master's degree at the University of Iceland. Her professional goal is to work in a field-based career as a wildlife conservationist. Because of the UMBS curriculum format, Emma was fortunate to experience many hours in the field, which will provide a strong basis for her future work.

Emma expresses her appreciation to the DLIA, and says that without the generosity of the Association, she would have missed out on a valuable life adventure with some of the brightest minds in her chosen field. In her short time at UMBS she packed in more learning than she ever experienced before, and was able to make memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. Emma is to be congratulated on her accomplishments and enthusiasm, and is wished the best of luck as she continues to work toward her high goals.



STATUS REPORT ON THE DOUGLAS LAKE VEGETATION SURVEY

by *Mary Ellen Sheridan*

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC) expected that the data gathering portion of the 2019 Vegetation Survey of Douglas Lake would be finished by early October. TOMWC staff, interns, and volunteers from UMBS (thank you, Adam Schubel), from DLIA (thank you, Sue and Pete Klaas) and from TOMWC (thank you, Sam Baker) were out on the lake starting in late July, taking samples and identifying vegetation by type and density. As of late September, no invasive plant species had been found. The TOMWC is using new GPS technology, Survey 123, which has facilitated sample site location and mapping, and replaced paper data recording with detailed pull-down menus specific to plant identification at every sampling point.

Douglas Lake appears to be very healthy lake, with a sufficient and diverse environment of nutrients that make good substrates for plant variety, and has good gravel. These latter two items support bass spawning and an abundant fish habitat.

The DLIA and the University of Michigan Biological Station, who jointly funded the Vegetation Survey, can expect to see a written report next spring. The report will be shared with DLIA members. The report, including extensive mapping of vegetation, will compare 2019 data with data gathered in the most recent previous survey (2012) to better assess the overall vegetative health of Douglas Lake.



THE CHARM AND MYSTERY OF BESSEY CREEK

by *Frank Beaver*

For years at Douglas Lake my morning walk has pretty much followed the same pattern—out Reinhardt Road and down Brill Road to Ingleside Road, where I turn left or right at the stop sign, for an hour stroll. Left leads me toward Silver Strand, the right toward Lancaster Lake. Either direction takes you to road stream-crossings over Bessey Creek—one of the two major in-flow waters that drain into Douglas Lake. Bessey Creek enters into Marl Bay off Silver Strand (Illus.#1). The other, Beavertail Creek (AKA Trout Creek), flows into the lake at the south end of North Fishtail Bay. Beavertail Creek has been described as “hard to find,” but if you’ve played with your children or grandchildren on the “Tail’s” sandy shoreline, your feet will let you know where Beavertail Creek meets Douglas Lake: the creek’s stream is refreshingly, almost ice-water cold.

A Cheboygan County atlas lists five road crossings over Bessey Creek after it emerges from Lancaster Lake—three on Ingleside, and one each under Brill and Silver Strand Roads. But my research shows a sixth. A 1945 map compiled for the University of Michigan Biological Station by F.W. Ramsdell, identifies a short arm of Bessey Creek heading southeast, and passing under Koepke Road before entering Lancaster Lake in the basin below. Is that its true origin, perhaps rising there from underground springs?

Each of the road stream-crossings over Bessey Creek is different—some wide, some narrow, some shallow, some deep. The first sighting occurs shortly after Bessey Creek begins its 1-1/4 mile journey out of Lancaster Lake, making its way south like a shiny garter snake—now you see it, now you don’t. In that first Ingleside passage a sandbar emerges on the Creek’s westside, as the water becomes shallower and less rapid in its flow (Illus.#2). From time to time I’ve been luck, and spotted a deer quenching its thirst on the solid, hard-packed sandbar. A second passage occurs under Ingleside Road where Bessey Creek turns east and flows through a large culvert on its way into Harold

Brill’s woods. This is where one can see the creek’s flow at its most forceful. If you step off the road into the woods, you’ll find that the creek splits briefly into two parts. The effect is that of a dark, noir aquatic habitat. Quiet and lovely. Once walking with my chocolate lab, Tootsie, I heard a voice from below the road say:

“Be sure you don’t let your dog wander down here.”

It was Harold Brill, legendary beaver trapper, resting on his side at an area on Ingleside where Bessey Creek has become known for its impressive beaver dams. At that second juncture, depending on the season, you’ll find flowering trees on the creek’s steep banks, and down below in late summer, patches of cardinal flower.

Bessey Creek’s crossing under Brill Road is the site of one of its popular “fishing holes,” displaying a sun-reflected field of shimmering waterlily pads. Around the corner on Ingleside, and further down on Silver Strand, are similar Bessey Creek fishing holes where parents, grandparents and youngsters can be seen with poles, styrofoam worm cartons, and snacks—trying their luck.



Sister/Brother, Mia and Brandon Roberts proudly display their fishpan catches.

These last three road stream-crossings reveal Bessey Creek at its widest, 30-feet at the Silver Strand passage into Douglas Lake. The beautiful wide expanses are in and of themselves attractive areas for spending recreational time with children. The fishing has proven rather steady for four to six-inch panfish catches. (Illus.#3/4). The final Ingleside site is also where the Douglas Lake Pike Marsh (1968-2010) released its fry spawn into Bessey Creek—with the aid of a water pump—for entry into Douglas Lake at Marl Bay.

RECREATION AND HIGH DRAMA

Many old-timers remember Bessey Creek as an adventuresome place for catching frogs, tadpoles and turtles, and for taking quiet canoe trips into the stream’s surrounding forest habitats. Silver Strand Road wasn’t completed until 1968, providing canoe access out of Douglas Lake and offering longer trips up Bessey Creek that are no longer possible. A bridge was built over the creek, some say, so that residents at the Ingleside Inn could also take walking excursions along the Silver Strand shore (Illus.#5).

Bessey Creek also became the occasional site of aquatic drama. Wendell Judson recalled the time when an early January thaw and high winds drove sixteen ice shanties away from their fishing holes, many landing up in the waters of Bessey Creek. Jim Todd remembers a major fire (there were many around the lake in earlier times) that threatened to spread to the cottages on Ingleside: “All

the men fought to keep it from jumping Bessie Brook while the women made sandwiches and coffee....the roads were almost cut off and plans were even made to evacuate my ailing grandmother by water. Fortunately, it wasn't necessary."

SCIENTIFIC RESOURCE

"Bessey Creek has been best studied and supports a rich fauna of warm-water fishes, but cold-water trout have been collected upstream where ground water cools the creek." ("The Changing Environment of Northern Michigan: A Century of Science and Nature at the University of Michigan Biological Station," 2009, p. 136)

As early as 1913, research studies were conducted in the waters of Bessey Creek by Miss Eva G. Miller. Her research titled, "The Waterbugs [Hemiptera] of the Douglas Lake Michigan Region" was reported in Volume 75 "Occasional Papers of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, 1919), written by Roland Fountain Hussey. Hemiptera is a broad order of insects that includes some 50,000-plus species that includes cicadas, aphids, planthoppers, pond skaters, bed bugs (oh, dear!), etc., etc. Miss Miller's project took place in the slow-flowing waters of lower Bessey Creek.

Later projects carried out by the University of Michigan Biological Station on Douglas Lake, The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, lake residents and volunteers have worked together to monitor and protect the waters of Lancaster and other surrounding lakes whose outflows, such as Bessey Creek into Douglas Lake, are said to have "played a key part in the Maple River's designation as a high-quality Blue Ribbon trout stream." Maple River's East Branch starts at Douglas Lake's drainage in its southeast corner. (HEADWATERS OF THE MAPLE RIVER: DOUGLAS, MUNRO, AND LANCASTER LAKES, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, 2009 Report.)

MYSTERY

Nowhere in my research was I able to discover how Bessey Creek (cited by some old-timers as Bessy Creek, Bessie Brook) got its name. Charles Edwin Bessey (1845-1915) was a renowned botanist of the late 19th, early 20th century, known in the field of plant pathology and taxonomy. His academic careers took place at Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska. His son Ernst Bessey (1877-1957) was also a prominent botanist, but neither father nor son appears in accounts of Northern Michigan scientific research. Maybe a former student or admirer of the two men chose Bessey Creek as a name of honor? Any other thoughts? I'll keep at it, too.



A long ago quiet summer canoe trip on Bessey Creek. Notice the walkover bridge above; and below, the napping lady's early 20th-century clothing.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Douglas Lake Improvement Association: A Partnership

by Gail Gruenwald,

Executive Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council greatly values our partnership with the Douglas Lake Improvement Association (DLIA) and looks forward to many more years of common commitment to protecting the Douglas Lake Watershed.

The Watershed Council was formed in 1979, but for years before our formation, DLIA was an active association. DLIA was one of the Watershed Council's first member organizations, joining in 1982. That's 37 years of partnership! In 1984, when the Watershed Council first began our Volunteer Lake Monitoring program, DLIA was one of the ten associations that participated. DLIA and Watershed Council have partnered on two significant surveys of Douglas Lake in the past decade. DLIA financially supported to completion, an aquatic plant survey in 2013, and a shoreline survey in 2017. These surveys provide valuable information toward the wise management and protection of Douglas Lake moving forward.

All throughout the years, DLIA has had a representative on the Watershed Council board of directors linking the two organizations together. We have valued this participation.

The Watershed Council relies on DLIA as active partners in our work, and in turn the Watershed Council provides expertise and support for DLIA's projects and issues. Some of our programs that are relevant to the success of DLIA include:

- The Watershed Council hosts an annual lake association summit designed to bring information to area lake associations to increase their effectiveness. DLIA has participated since 2004.
- Our policy work in Lansing and Washington DC helps support the protection of Douglas Lake. The following is a list of examples of this work – an agreement to stop water diversions from the Great Lakes Basin, a national ban on the use of microbeads, defending Michigan's wetland protection program, working toward improved regulations of oil and gas extraction and transportation, and protecting Michigan's lakes and streams from introduction of new invasive species.
- The Watershed Council provides DLIA and lake residents with water quality monitoring data through our Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring program.
- DLIA members benefit from our work to provide over the counter drug drop off events and the installation of permanent drop off boxes at area law enforcement offices.
- Our boater education efforts, newsletter, website, lecture series and printed materials are available for use by DLIA, its members, and the public.
- The Watershed Council recently completed a thorough review of all the local ordinances that impact Douglas Lake and have distributed it to local government officials to improve protections for these valuable resources.

Most recently, DLIA has worked with the Watershed Council to complete an aquatic plant survey on the Lake to compare the changes since the 2013 survey to alert DLIA of possible occurrences of invasive aquatic plants. DLIA provided three invaluable volunteers to the project.

There is a very valuable, and effective partnership between DLIA and the Watershed Council. Together, we have worked to improve the waters of Douglas Lake. The Watershed Council will work alongside DLIA for many years to come to protect these valuable resources.

We Will Miss . . .



CAROLYN DURYEA (Zone 81)

Carolyn Ann Duryea, age 86, a lifelong resident of Royal Oak, Michigan, died May 21, 2019. She was born December 10, 1932 in Royal Oak to the late James and Laurene Dobie. Mrs. Duryea earned her Masters degree in Education from George Washington University, and was a teacher for many years in Detroit. Carolyn loved to spend time at her cottage on Douglas Lake, to ski with friends, and was a loving mother to her 2-, and 4-legged children.

Surviving are her children, Nancy Duryea of Arlington, VA, and Jeffrey (Stacy) Duryea of Dallas, TX; God-daughter, Shelly (Steve) Turbin of Royal Oak, and her calico cat, Sweet Pea. She was predeceased by her husband, Lynn in 2011.

DEBRA KAE HALL (Zone 41)

Debra Hall, beloved wife, friend, mother, and grandmother passed away at the age of 68 on August 29, 2019.

Debra was born on July 19, 1951 in Detroit, MI to Edwin and Marquita (Robbins) Harris. She was raised by her mother Marquita, and her stepfather Edward Rothe, whom she adored. Debra spent much of her youth with her family on Bois Blanc Island, MI where her stepfather, Edward, was the DNR officer, and her mother, Marquita, ran The Birch Shop. Debra graduated from Petoskey High School in 1969. She received her nursing degree from Kellogg Community College, and later her bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. She worked as a registered nurse for more than 25 years before retiring from Northern Michigan Hospital's Lockwood-McDonald Hospital to travel with her husband, Richard. She had a passion for quilting, Zumba, collecting clowns, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family. She and Richard lived in Alaska for 18 months, and enjoyed traveling the country in their 5th wheel for years before deciding to split their time between their homes in Douglas Lake and Lecanto, FL.

Debra was preceded in death by her father, Edwin; mother, Marquita; and stepfather, Edward. She is survived by her husband, Richard; her children, John (Crystal) Skaggs of Battle Creek, MI; and Maisean (Ian) Simpson of Williamston, MI; four grandchildren, Chretien, Ocean, Carter, and Finleigh; and several cousins.

JOHN RICHARD KURKJIAN (Former Zone 32 Rep)

John Richard Kurkjian, age 84, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed on Sunday in his home surrounded by his loving family. John was born and raised in Grand Rapids, the son of Mehial and Nooshig Kurkjian and was the youngest of three siblings (Haig Kurkjian, Florence Zaratzian and Gladys Zaratzian); all of whom predeceased him. He was proud of his Armenian heritage and continued tradition by baking lavash and boreg with his children and grandchildren.

John was, as he put it, a "realtor by trade, a developer by choice and a builder by default." He made his mark on the Ann Arbor map with developments like Northbury, Ridgmaar Square and Earhart Subdivision. John was a proud graduate of the University of Michigan, where he studied business, met his wife, and developed a lifelong love of Michigan sports. When his health prevented him from continuing the tireless work of his first several decades, John focused his boundless energy on his family, and volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, the breakfast program at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Douglas Lake Improvement Association.

The family arrived at Douglas Lake in the early 60's, and rented at "Bennie's Beach" until establishing/building their cottage on Maple Bay. John took pride in their cottage and cherished the many friends they met over the years. When the DLIA Merchandise Sales traveled to each part of the lake, the Fourth of July sale was always at the Kurkjians'. John served as the DLIA Zone Representative for his neighbors, he was on the Finance Committee, and tirelessly sold ads for the DLIA Directory. He raised over \$32,000 for

DLIA selling ads for the 2013, 2015 and 2017 directories. He was genuine, thoughtful, and caring. His spirit is greatly missed.

John was a doting grandfather, showing his love through generous gifts and breakfasts at the local diner. With countless health issues spanning more than 30 years, his family and friends referred to him as a "medical miracle" kept alive by his determination and hope, and most of all his wife's infinite support. He is survived by his wife, Julia (Richards); his daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and Michael Marengi and son and daughter-in-law William Kurkjian and K.J. Miller; his grandchildren Katie and Elena Marengi and Atticus Kurkjian; and Katie's fiancé Allison Baker. A memorial service was held at the family home in northern Michigan in July.

ARV PETTIT (Zone 81)

Arvillee Wayne Pettit, born September 2, 1950, of Grand Ledge, passed away peacefully on November 29, 2017, at his cottage on Douglas Lake, 26 years to the day of his father's passing. He is remembered by all those who loved him for his jovial smile, big hugs, and sense of humor that kept us all laughing. He is survived by his sons and daughter, Joe, Nick (Amber) and Brooke (Tim), and his 13 grandchildren, (Dakota, Austin, Lily, Beau, Ty, Tori, Alexis, Rachel, Jessica, Claudia, Olivia, Jack and Ella) whom he adored and will carry on his legacy. He is also survived by his older brother John; and other family members.

JOHN PHELPS (Zone 12)

John Phelps, a resident of Southfield, Michigan, passed away on April 1, 2019 at the age of 76. His love affair with Douglas Lake began one July morning over 50 years ago, as he canoed over to Pells Island at sunrise. A walk along the shoreline and through the island's enchanted trails was all it took. Thereafter for five decades, he repeated that journey annually save for three years of military service in Europe. A graduate of Albion College and the University of Michigan Law School, he practiced law in southeast Michigan for nearly the same 50 years. His final visit took place on Pells Island with his daughter in September of 2018.

He is survived by his children, Heather Phelps, and James (Lauren) Phelps from his first marriage to Janet Huntley, as well as by two granddaughters, Julia and Melanie Phelps. John is also survived by his widow, Kathleen Strauch.

JOHN TANTON (Zone 102)

On July 16, 2019, John Hamilton Tanton passed from this life, a life fully lived with concern for the well-being of his family, community, country and the world. He passed peacefully at Villa at the Bay after a 16-year battle with Parkinson's disease.

John was born on February 23, 1934 to John Fitzgerald "Jack" and Hannah (Koch) Tanton in Detroit, Michigan. Upon graduation from high school in Sebawaing, Michigan, John moved to East Lansing to pursue his undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Michigan State University. Dr. Tanton earned his medical degree at the University of Michigan and interned at Denver General Hospital in Colorado. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Michigan.

John's formal advocacy for nature started in 1958 when, as secretary of the Michigan Natural Areas Council, he organized letter-writing campaigns and offered supportive testimony for the Wilderness Act.

Dr. Tanton always took the "long view" - thinking ahead to future generations and what could be done to protect our planet for them. From this perspective came the motivation to help create a myriad of charitable organizations, including the Little Traverse Conservancy, Northern Michigan Planned Parenthood, Petoskey Regional Audubon Society, Recycle North, Top of Michigan Trails Council, ProEnglish (advancing understanding through the bond of a common language), as well as a Great Books discussion group. Dr. Tanton's family, friends and colleagues will remember him for his love of nature, his intimate familiarity with botany, biology, wildlife, beekeeping, gardening, stewardship, nature preserves, history, and quotations.

Pellston Elementary Reading Buddies Program

by *Marilyn Kelemen*

The Reading Buddies Program has been a labor of love. The idea started with the library project at Pellston Elementary School involving Gail Beaver, one of our Womenade members. Working with the school volunteer staff, Gail worked tirelessly to help weed out the old and inappropriate books from the library, and to incorporate new and up-to-date books that are now part of the all-school library system.

Throughout the library work, Womenade believed there was a need for reading help at the school. We felt we could make a difference. At this time, the Read by Grade 3 Retention Law in Michigan was enacted and scheduled to go into effect for the 2019-2020 school year.

As a member of the Womenade Board, Mary Ann Huntington was asked to spearhead an effort to get involved with a reading program at Pellston Elementary. Because of her background as a teacher and a reading specialist, she was the perfect person to head up this project with the school to develop a reading assistance program. Through countless hours of negotiation with the Principal/Superintendent of Pellston Schools, Mary Ann was able to make a proposal that made sense. Thus, the Reading Buddies Program came into being. The program was devised as a K-3 program. As Reading Buddies, we were not to replace the current reading programs at the school, but to supplement the current endeavors. We were not to be perceived as another reading class but as a reward for the students who wanted to read and would enjoy and benefit from reading with, and to an adult.

The first year of the Reading Buddies Program (school year 2018-2019) was a bit of trial and error. The readers didn't exactly know their role and the teachers didn't know what to expect from the readers.

Throughout the school year, the readers repeatedly raised the question as to whether we were making a difference. The first of June, 2019, we met with the six teachers and were given an overwhelming seal of approval for our efforts. The reading scores were better than expected and the students seemed to have a great year interacting with the 'readers'.

A large group of the readers, teachers, students and Bob Huntington, Mary Ann's husband, gathered at the elementary school on Friday, September 27, 2019 to honor Mary Ann Huntington and to dedicate a flowering bush in honor of Our Reading Buddies Champion. In addition to the bush and an engraved rock, three benches were placed in the great room by the K-3 classrooms for the Reading Buddies and the students to have a special place just for them to read.

Mary Ann was never able to realize the legacy she left with the school. However, she is never from our thoughts and we are forever grateful for the program she developed for us. Because of her dedication and tireless efforts to make this happen, the Reading Buddies have returned for a second year and, we hope, many more to come.

Remarks provided by Bob Huntington at the dedication on September 27: My wife, Mary Ann – "The Teacher"

Good teachers never stop teaching and helping others in life.

The Reading Program here in Pellston is a direct product of Mary Ann's desire to help children in need as well as their teachers. The program also affects other people, not directly involved with either the children or the teachers, by providing an opportunity of not only involvement, enjoyment and learning but also the satisfaction of doing something that is further meaningful in their lives.

On behalf of Mary Ann and all participants in this wonderful program, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

WELCOME NEW DLIA MEMBERS

Zone 21

- Wagner, Brian & Dawn, 7124 Bryant Road

Zone 32

- Carroll, Jordan & Elizabeth, 11604 Seabrook Lane
- Fraust, Gary & Peachie, 11517 White Birch Drive

Zone 41

- Butler, Jim & Sandy 8184 Silver Strand Road
- Friend, Chad & Toni, 8462 Silver Strand Road

Zone 81

- Duryea, Jeff & Stacy, 10803 Reinhardt Shores
- Liederbach, Fred & Kathy, 9330 Ingleside Road
- Shepler, Chris & Michele, 9481 Ingleside Road

Zone 102

- Gates, Murray & Ruth, 8455 Quiet Lane

Listed are new members who joined May 1 thru September 30, 2019

We Will Miss . . . (cont.)

Dr. Tanton is survived by his wife and loyal companion of 61 years, Mary Lou, and their two daughters, Laura and Jane. Daughter Laura de Olazarra, married to John, resides in Florida with their son John Xavier; their daughter Olivia Jane is attending the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Daughter Jane Thomson, married to Hugh, resides in Ann Arbor.

SANDRA ANN SNYDER (Zone 31)

Sandra Snyder, nee Dennison, of Pellston, Michigan, passed away on September 19, 2019 at the age of 78. She was born on October 10, 1940 in Anderson, Indiana to Dwain and Celeste Dennison. Sandy attended Butler University receiving both her Bachelors in Education, and Masters in Guidance and Counseling degrees, and taught English and literature to high school students, night school students, and inmates of the local prison. She later moved to Carmel to raise her daughter and best friend, Leslie Ann Speicher.

A few years later, she used her talents as a chef to start her own catering business and highly regarded restaurant, 'The Classic Kitchen'. She loved

being an entrepreneur and continued her passion for educating others by teaching cooking classes. After selling her restaurant and retiring from her catering business she moved to Pinehurst, North Carolina, where Sandy worked at a local animal shelter and focused on her desire to help care for animals. It was there that she met, Lucy, her loving canine companion. Eventually, Sandy and Lucy resettled in Harbor Springs, MI. In Harbor Springs, Sandy moved into an artistically restored former church and was the manager of Tvedten Fine Art Gallery.

Fifteen years ago, Sandy met the love of her life, Stephen Snyder and moved to Douglas Lake. They had a great time entertaining with their mutual love of cooking and preparing special dishes and meals for friends and loved ones.

She was lovingly adopted into the Snyder clan including her stepdaughters, Mary Catherine Crumlich (David) and Elizabeth Ann Snyder; and, her grandsons, Zachary and Noah Crumlich. Sandy is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, Steve; her daughter, Leslie; her sister, Lana Kay Dennison; her Snyder family clan; and, a host of other family and friends.

Douglas Lake Improvement Association

ZONE REPRESENTATIVES

DENISE BOSIN



Denise Bosin is the DLIA Zone Representative for Zone 61 on Silver Strand Rd. Denise, her husband Doug, and their dog and cats live here year-round. Their three children, Shannon, Kari, and Jordan and five beautiful grandchildren are spread around the country.

Denise and Doug were introduced to Douglas Lake years ago when their now son-in-law Brian was dating Shannon. He had been coming to the lake with his parents since he was 2 weeks old. Doug and Denise fell in love with the lake, and when they retired in 2010 from work in Jenison, MI they built their house here.

This is Denise's first summer being Zone Rep where her biggest job so far has been distributing the new Directories. Denise also works part time at Meijer in Petoskey, in the Garden Department. For enjoyment she and Doug like to garden; they also enjoy the many groups of family and friends that visit, and the beauty of the area.

BETTY CASSIDY



Betty moved to Douglas Lake when she was seven years old when her father, Art Griffith, and uncle, Cliff Griffith, purchased plots of land that are now bordered by Douglas Lake Road, White Birch Drive and Seabrook Lane. Betty is the zone representative for Zone 33 which includes the residents along a portion of Douglas Lake Road.

Many residents in the Pellston, Cheboygan and Mackinaw areas remember Betty from her years working at the Damn Site Inn, and as a barista at a coffee house in Mackinaw Crossings.

Betty has been a zone rep for many years taking the place of Ruth Paddock when Ruth resigned. Betty enjoys being a zone rep because it affords her the opportunity to meet and greet the residents in her zone, and keep them abreast of what's happening within DLIA. The job is described as not being tough, and she's happy not to have to go door-to-door to collect dues. She sees her primary duties as a zone

rep are to represent DLIA, and volunteer when needed. Betty sees DLIA objectives as maintaining the cleanliness of the lake, and to provide lake residents with updates and information pertaining to things involving the lake and surrounding areas.

Betty laughs when asked about electronic media. She says she has a 'dumb phone'. Her husband, Jim Cassidy, keeps her up to date with what's going on through his smartphone. Betty is a tremendous asset to the DLIA executive board and a joy to know.

MARTY FOSTER



Marty Foster is a first-year Representative for Zone 32, accepting the position this summer. Marty came to know the lake through her husband Bill. Bill's family has a long history of coming to Douglas Lake. They came here every summer since he was five years old, spending about 3 weeks each summer. He has very fond memories of his time growing up here, especially learning to fish. Marty and Bill's first time together at the lake was 42 years ago, when they spent their honeymoon here. As their daughter Elizabeth was growing up, they also came to Boyne to learn to ski. It has always been Bill's dream to retire at Douglas Lake, and in 2011 they bought their lake house. Six years later they sold their house in Indiana and now live here year-round.

This summer in her position of Zone Rep, Marty has enjoyed getting to know the neighbors that she had not met before. One important aspect of being a Zone Rep she feels, is to help others understand the value of being a member of DLIA and therefore help to grow the membership and the support for the lake. Marty and Bill enjoy many outdoor activities. Their hobbies including bird watching, sailing and boating, and in the winter, they snowshoe and ski, both cross country and downhill.

JUDY GREUBEL & JAN HUNTLEY



JUDY GREUBEL has only been Zone Rep for Zone 11 for 4 years, but her roots at Douglas Lake go back many more years. Judy's father was born in Pellston and she remembers traveling as a small child from Detroit to Pellston to visit her grandmother and aunt throughout the year. Another aunt had a cottage on Douglas Lake, which made a perfect place for swimming and summer fun. Eventually her parents bought a cottage on the lake, and now Judy and her husband live in the same cottage her parents bought when she was ten years old!

Now that they are retired, Judy and Ray spend the summer months Up North where Judy enjoys reading, spending time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and eating out. Judy isn't keen on attending Executive

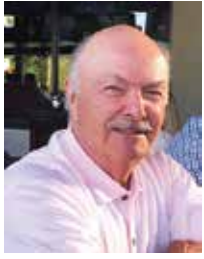
Board meetings; she prefers to keep current with DLIA activities through email. Along with many other DLIA members, she wishes that better, more reliable internet service were available in her zone. She is disappointed that Bryant Road residents don't have free library privileges.

JAN HUNTLEY sort of inherited being a Zone Representative. Jan's mother had been zone rep for the combined area that included Pells Island. During Sue Nelson's presidency, the Island was carved out as a separate zone and Jan has served as this new zone's representative ever since. Zone 12 stretches the length of the island and, as she observes, is quite a trek for visiting her zone members. Her grandmother met her husband (John Bryant) at Douglas Lake in the 1920's when the grandmother traveled north from Kentucky in the summer to escape her daughter's (Jan's mother) terrible hay fever. Mr. Bryant and his family owned and operated a hotel and restaurant on the site of the current DLB. Jan spent childhood summers at the lake, and worked summers when she was older at the Dam Site Inn – with many fond memories of those times.

Typically, Jan spends mid-May through late October at Douglas Lake. She enjoys having her son and grandchildren visit, joined by her daughter when her work schedule permits. Jan's passion is collecting genealogical and early historical materials, much from oral histories and stories of "the old times" at Douglas Lake and the area, from interviews she collected about 25 year ago. She plans to convert all this source documentation (file boxes full!) into a written history for her grandchildren to enjoy.

With over seventy years' hindsight, Jan regrets seeing the transition from natural shorelines and native plants to cottages and homes with way too much refined and fertilized lawns to the water's edge. She would like to see DLIA do more to encourage preservation of the lake's natural environment.

RON KELEMEN



Ron is the Zone Representative for Zone 31, which includes the residents of White Birch Drive. Ron took over the position of Zone Rep when Otto Busard retired from the position and became Zone Representative emeritus. Ron is a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in criminal justice. After 22 years with the United States Secret Service, 11 years as Director of the Security Police with St. John Health System in Detroit and, finally, six years in Executive Protection with Ford Motor Company, Ron decided to retire to Douglas Lake. Ron came to Douglas Lake unofficially around 1968 when his wife Marilyn's parents, Alice and Glen Stratton, moved permanently to the lake. With the passing of Alice and Glen, the lake property was passed on to Marilyn.

Life around the lake for Ron includes working around the house, enjoying the lake itself, entertaining in the summer and relishing the four seasons. He was instrumental in developing the Boat Assist program for those who become stranded and in trouble while on the lake. Ron sees the primary responsibilities of a zone rep are to distribute materials and stay in touch with the residents in the zone. Now that the dues process has become more efficient, Ron questions the importance of zone reps. Passing out materials could be handled by

a team of volunteers. At the beginning of the lake association, zone reps were an important part of the communication flow at the lake, but now with electronic media, not so much.

Ron worries that the elected positions on the DLIA board have become status symbols for those involved; the positions have become their identity. The lake population is aging and things should be considered to entice younger people to enjoy the lake and become involved. To improve the relationships of the lake residents, Ron would like to see more social activities be planned and encouraged. He feels they don't have to be expensive and elaborate but casual social activities where residents can come together, mingle, get to know each other and have fun. The north/south mentality of the residents drives a wedge in community building.

Ron strongly favors continued invasive species surveillance and maintaining an ongoing healthy relationship with the BioStation. He'd like to see the DLIA put their association power behind improvements for the lake residents such as reliable internet service and natural gas for all.

BETSY NAUMER



Zone 102 snakes along Bonnet Road, Quiet Lane, and Young Road - an area rich in family history for Zone Rep Betsy Naumer. Betsy's grandfather (James French) was a Presbyterian minister in Ann Arbor in the early 20th century. He traveled to Douglas Lake to fish with some of his congregation members. When the lumberjacks /lumber companies who had cleared the land in that area couldn't afford to pay the property taxes, a large hunk of the property in that area (roughly from North Fishtail Bay to Manitou Shores) was sold by the Cheboygan County auction to Reverend French. He sold some lots, gave some property to the UMBS, and set up his family in "tin cabins" - no electricity, no inside running water, limited heat. Some of these cabins are still in use at the UMBS to house summer students.

Betsy relates that she first came to Douglas Lake when she was 3 months old, and she's been here every summer since - except for 2 summers in the '80s when her travel was restricted by pregnancies. One of her favorite early memories is celebrating the 4th of July, when her

grandparents would organize a parade featuring Betsy and her sister and cousins singing and accompanying themselves with musical instruments. Now Betsy and Walt spend mid-April through November at Douglas Lake, but no longer in a tin cabin! When asked what DLIA could do to improve residential life she quips, "it's so great already." She suggests that zone reps spend time with their zone members, get to know them, and be able to speak to their concerns and opinions.

JOYCE OLDHAM

Joyce and Dan Oldham came to live at Douglas Lake after visiting family here. Dan and his sister Barb had grown up on Walloon Lake, and many years later, Barb bought a house on Silver Strand. Joyce and Dan had the opportunity to visit many times. They fell in love with the lake, and 22 years ago when the house next door to Barb's went up for sale, they bought it. Joyce has served as the Zone 51 Representative for the past 18 years.

While they are here in the summer, they stay busy with their hobbies. Joyce's creativity comes out in her knitting, cross stitching, and the quilts she designs and creates for her grandkids and others. Dan spends his time building model boats, sailing his Sunfish and working with the UM Biological Station Stewards on Thursdays. They also enjoy riding bikes together.

They have a long history with the Sunfish sailboat races on Douglas Lake. While Dan has sailed in the Tuesday and Saturday races (races are only Saturday now) for many years, Joyce spent her time on the Boat Committee calling the starts and finishes of the races. Back when there were Sunfish Regattas held here, they were also very involved in those.

One of Joyce's favorite things about being Zone Rep is that it gives her the opportunity to talk with and get to know her neighbors. She likes to attend the DLIA Executive Board Meetings so that she continues to learn about the lake, which she can then share with the neighbors she represents. She appreciates the change to on-line membership and dues paying that have made her job easier.

JOHN PERKINS



John is the Zone Representative for Zone 21, which includes Northwoods Shores, Catsmans Corners and portions of Bryant Road. John has been an active member of the DLIA Executive Board for a number of years. After spending two terms as Treasurer (2002 - 2006) he became the Zone 21 Representative.

John is a graduate of General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) and worked for General Motors (GM) for 40 years as a member of the design staff. Trained as an engineer, he spent his entire career in styling and design. Through his years with GM, he worked with all five of GM's nameplates: Oldsmobile, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet and Pontiac.

John ended up at Douglas Lake thanks to his wife Lorayn. Lorayn's parents (Rosenquists) settled on Silver Stand around 1958,

as did many others from the Lansing Board of Water and Light. With Lorayn at the lake it was natural that John, in courting mode, followed along. The John and Lorayn's time at the lake is dictated by black fly season and the fall foliage. John's hobbies include collectible cars, model cars, architecture and photography.

John sees his role as zone rep as a two-way communication link: DLIA to the residents and residents (through John) to DLIA. It's an informal social connection whereby he provides official DLIA information and materials to his zone members and they give him feedback about burning issues, etc. The current dues process has shortened his walk-around time but he thinks it's a much more efficient way to collect dues. John uses social media to stay in touch with his zone members. He sends them reminders of annual meetings, merchandise sales and 'fan-outs' such as information about algae blooms, swimmer's itch outbreaks, bear sightings, etc.

As far as DLIA improving the quality of life for lake residents, John thinks DLIA should do more 'soft' things to help unify the residents: things to entertain and build fellowship. DLIA has become quite remote and impersonal to some of its membership. There needs to be increased opportunities to build harmony and civility. Party anyone??



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

President – Mary Ellen Sheridan, president@douglaslake.org

Vice President – Marilyn Kelemen, vice-president@douglaslake.org

Treasurer – Suzanne Witthoff, treasurer@douglaslake.org

Secretary – Barbara Huey, secretary@douglaslake.org

Newsletter Team – Joan Hartwig (Chair), Frank Beaver, Holly Gedert,
Jan Huntley, Margie Ladzick, Jayne Morse, Linda Orlow

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

2020 Spring Newsletter

The deadline for submissions: April 1, 2020

ARE YOU STILL HERE?

If so, might you be interested in joining other Douglas Lake lovers for occasional seasonal dinners at various area restaurants with the “Leftovers”?

If you're interested, please email Linda Orlow at LindaOrlow@gmail.com to be on the Leftovers contact list for anytime – even short visits – over the winter.



DLIA Merchandise on Sale Online

t-shirts – sweatshirts – jackets - caps

necklace – earrings – mugs - glasses

Download the catalog and the order form from

www.DouglasLake.org/merchandise

Questions? Contact Kelly Davis at merchandise@douglaslake.org

DLIA 2021 Calendar

Please consider sharing your beautiful lake-related photos for the 2021 calendar.

Send them to calendar@douglaslake.org.

www.douglaslake.org

Add info@douglaslake.org to your contacts