



Douglas Lake NEWSLETTER

November, 2022

Douglas Lake Improvement Association

www.DouglasLake.org

P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

President's Message

As the new President of the DLIA, and a person relatively new to the organization, I'm sure many members don't know me well. Here is a brief snapshot of my background. I am a retired attorney (2014) from Plymouth, Michigan, married to Suzanne, and we have three children and three grandchildren. Our family is "first generation" on the lake, having purchased our Silver Strand cottage 24 years ago. We relocated full-time to the lake in 2015, built our lake home, and have never looked back. Fishing is a big part of me, but I like all things outdoors—hiking, biking, bird hunting, tennis, swimming, gardening—so for me, I've found my "go-to" spot right here.

I heard much discussion late this summer regarding the low lake levels. I decided to investigate, and enlisted the help of Mark Paddock, retired Associate Director of the University of Michigan Biological Station to provide data. Here are the facts. The September 2022 lake level reading for our lake was 712.50 feet above sea level (FASL)—the average for September over the past 60 years was 712.80 FASL—this year we were a little over 3 inches lower than average. The highest lake level this year was 713.85 FASL, which occurred in April 2022. The lake normally fluctuates 1.31 feet from the year's highest to the year's lowest level, and the highest recorded lake level was in 1986 at 714.95 FASL, and the lowest recorded lake level was in 1955 at 710.80 FASL. Interesting facts that show this year wasn't particularly out of the norm.

All members should be pleased with the DLIA's response to the significant boat ramp problem. Members spoke up at the 2021 annual membership meeting, and the DLIA leadership and Executive Board listened and reacted. President Sheridan quickly formed a "Boat

Ramp Working Group," (Ron Witthoff, Holly Gedert, Glenn Brantley, and Frank Spezia), and this group immediately tackled the problem. Through their efforts, Munro Township agreed to assume legal jurisdiction of the boat ramp and undertook legal action to formalize the Township's jurisdiction. Further, the Township and the DLIA worked together to engage a professional engineer to manage the permitting, bid specification preparation, contractor selection, and review the actual construction - which was completed in 2 ½ days in August. The final result is a completely replaced boat ramp which is three feet wider than the old ramp, and which will have stone riprap on each side to hopefully prevent erosion. The Township and the DLIA agreed to a 60/40 cost split (DLIA 60%-Twp 40%), and the DLIA will continue to engage with the Township to insure appropriate future maintenance. The DLIA financial position took a significant hit because of this project, and some voluntary, unsolicited,



member donations in support of this project were received, and greatly appreciated. For any members who are able, and wish to donate towards this effort - such donations will also be much appreciated and helpful.

Glenn Brantley, of Pells Island, shared this picture of a trophy northern pike caught a few years ago on our lake. The angler was Harry Zienta, a guest at the lake. Several people have asked about the DLIA having a "fishing group or club," or perhaps reinstituting a fishing committee. This group or committee could be about all things related to the fish and fishing in Douglas Lake— it could provide a forum for those interested to meet, socialize, study, and learn about the fish and fishing, and how to improve this resource. Some even suggested a fun fishing derby. If any of this interests you, please contact me with your ideas, so I can determine if sufficient interest exists to pursue the idea. (rewitthoff@gmail.com)

Lastly, my message is not complete without acknowledging and thanking Mary Ellen Sheridan, the DLIA's immediate past President, for her devoted service. During her four years leading the DLIA, Mary Ellen was confronted with operating through the Covid crisis, dealing with the boat ramp issue, managing, and producing the "eNews," and dealing with the innumerable other normal problems all volunteer organizations experience. Her skillful leadership throughout her tenure benefited us all.

Ron Witthoff, DLIA President



→ WINTER HAPPENINGS

Michigan State University Extension Introduction to Lakes Online Course

JANUARY 10, 2023 - MARCH 1, 2023

Registration Deadline: January 8, 2023 – 5:00 PM

PRICE: The cost of the course is \$115 per person. Register by December 19 for an early bird price of \$95 per person. The deadline to register is January 8, 2023.

Introduction to Lakes Online is a six-week course designed for property owners, lake managers, and anyone interested in learning about lakes. Topics include lake ecology, watersheds, shorelines, aquatic plants, law, and community engagement.

For additional information, and to register, use the following link:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/introduction-to-lakes-online-course?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=extensiondigests

Let's Go Out to Dinner Together!

"Leftovers" is a fun name we created for those of us who are here most of the year. We try to get together about once a month during the Winter and early Spring, for dinner at an area restaurant.

If you would like to be added to the current email invitation list, contact Linda Orlow at LindaOrlow@gmail.com.

11th Annual Riggsville Redneck Christmas Parade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022, AT 7 PM



11th Annual Riggsville Redneck Christmas Parade will be collecting donations for those around Cheboygan County and surrounding areas. Benefits are the local food pantry and the "Coats for Kids" foundation.

Unique redneck Christmas parade through the rolling hills of Riggsville.
(Check Facebook for additional details)

READING BUDDIES by Marilyn Kelemen

Reading Buddies was the dream of Douglas Lake resident, Mary Ann Huntington. As a board member of Douglas Lake Womenade, Mary Ann spent countless hours putting together the plans for a Reading Buddies Program for Kindergarten through 2nd graders at Pellston Elementary School. The force behind the program was the Michigan law that was enacted requiring all 3rd-grade kids to read at a 3rd-grade level or risk being held back.

Unfortunately, Mary Ann passed away before the program could be actualized. However, Douglas Lake Womenade decided to continue with her commitment, and the program has been successfully in place for several years.

Reading Buddies is a volunteer endeavor. Reading Buddies needs Douglas Lake people, and people from the surrounding area who are here year-round and have a little extra time to volunteer. The Reading Buddy goes to Pellston Elementary for an hour at a time to read with the kids, one on one. In truth, the kids read to the Reading Buddy, and the Reading Buddy gives a little help now and then.

Reading with the younger kids helps them build confidence, self-esteem, and a true interest in reading and the magic of books. On the flip side, for those who have grandchildren or have grown kids beyond elementary school ages, the rewards are unbelievable. Many of us live a distance away from our grandchildren, and would love to have more time with "the precious little people." The love and hugs bestowed on the Reading Buddy by the kids are amazing and pull at the heart's strings.

If the Reading Buddies Program is of interest to you, please contact Marilyn Kelemen at kelemenm44@gmail.com. The kids have been in school since the first full week in September and have acclimated to the school schedule. It's time to start a new year of Reading Buddies! Join the fun!!



Loon Committee Report

Photo by Kelly Davis

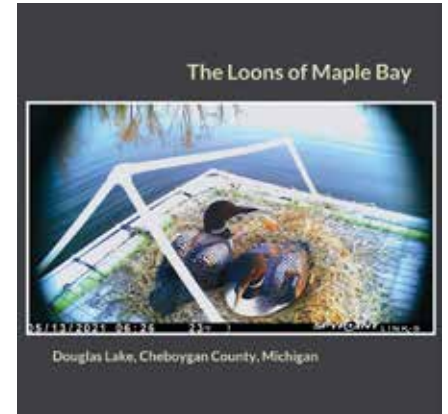
by *Anne Covy*

September 1, 2022 - The Loon Committee is thrilled to report a record-setting breeding season here on Douglas Lake! Of the four nesting platforms placed on the lake this spring, four breeding pairs raised two chicks each. One of the adults was our returning resident loon, Claire, (#95 banded female born at Clam Lake in 2013), who successfully hatched, and raised, two of this year's offspring.

Monitoring by Rich and Holly Gedert, confirmed that the Maple Bay, Marl Bay, and Manitou Bay chicks had all survived to 10 weeks of age, while the chicks from North Fishtail Bay were last observed at 9 weeks of age. Rich is confident that all 8 of the chicks fledged – which would have taken place when the chicks were between 11 and 12 weeks old.

We believe that the placement of extra buoys helped to discourage boaters from getting too close to the nests. Additionally, we're grateful to the volunteers and residents of Douglas Lake for helping to make 2022 a successful loon breeding season.

The book, *The Loons of Maple Bay*, is available through the DLIA online store. Filled with beautiful photographs and information, it makes a great gift, or coffee table book, and is wonderful to share with children.



A New Book to Add to Your Reading List - *Ward, Wife, Widow*

Submitted by Joan Hartwig

A bookseller told me recently that books set in Michigan are “in” right now. Didn’t we Douglas Lake residents already know this? The only question is whether to read books set in Michigan while you are at the lake, or should you save those titles for when you are not at the lake and are longing for it? I cannot answer that question for you, but I can recommend a new book with not only a Michigan back-drop, but a Douglas Lake connection--the author was inspired to write the book while summering on the lake, and a couple of scenes in



the narrative actually take place at the UM Biological Station. I suggest that you pick up a copy of *Ward, Wife, Widow* by A. Arbour. *

This historical novel is based on the lives of former Michigan Governor Chase Osborn and his ward, wife, and widow, Stellanova Osborn. The author weaves the facts of their lives into the narrative and leaves the reader to decide if life is indeed stranger than fiction. As the archival letters penned by the Osborn’s attest, their devotion to one another was tested many times over many years. None more so than in the summer of 1937 when an art professor from the University of Michigan, spent six weeks on Sugar Island making a study for a bronze bust of Osborn. During that summer, the relationship of Chase and Stellanova Osborn was strained by their own efforts to maintain the fiction of their public façade. This is a saga of public accomplishment and suppressed realities, of burnished reputations becoming art, and broken promises betraying the importance of honor over honesty.

Ward, Wife, Widow is available through schulerbooks.com and is also available at McLean and Eakin Booksellers in Petoskey.

*Pen name for Mary Crum Scholtens

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.” — **Edith Sitwell**

A Brief History of Nutting's Bay

by *Frank Beaver*

Nutting's Bay is the site of our cottage on Reinhardt Shores Lane on the northwest side of Douglas Lake. We've been here now for over forty years, having first rented the cottage from Bob Bishop, a colleague at the University of Michigan. In 1980 we began looking for a place; "Up North" for the time when our three children would be attending Interlochen Music Camp, and had to be picked up or dropped off on three successive weekends. The drive south on US-31 took longer than we expected, but the cottage on beautiful Nutting's Bay was a true find: long, sweeping vistas of Douglas Lake in every direction. The children could walk a short lakeshore path to Annie and Paul Reinhardt's store for ice cream. The Reinhardt's had bought lakeshore property on Nutting's Bay in 1942, and over the years developed their small resort that included the store, four rental cottages, and a marina. Sixteen-year-old Jeff Sydow helped his grandparents tend the store and the small marina where lakers came to get gas, rent boats, replenish bait supplies, and when successful, return to clean their fish in a tank by the boat ramp. Unable to resist, we selected one of Reinhardt's aluminum boats, and Jeff showed us how to operate the motor. We just wanted to explore Douglas Lake. Cruising about we discovered the bucolic beauty of



other bays and their largely undisturbed shorelines. North Fishtail Bay is a naturalist's dream come true. When we returned to Ann Arbor that fall, I sought out Bob Bishop and asked if he would be renting his cottage the next summer. His reply: "I just put it on the market!" was very good news. The next summer we had our own special place on Douglas Lake's Nutting's Bay.

Lake Origins: The Ingleside Inn/Judson's Point

The Ingleside Inn was built by Jim Inglis at the end of the 19th century. Set on a front site above Bessie Creek and Silver Strand Road, the Inn would become a haven for early Douglas Lake resorters. In 1903, Lambert Wilson bought the Inn and surrounding property, and added two rental cottages. A ledger kept by Wilson's daughter Kathryn Leshner notes that in 1905 room and board was \$18 a week, and a boat was \$3.50. A homestead beyond the Inn had been

settled by the Judson's, a farm family. Among the first year-round residents on the Lake, the Judson's sold milk, cream, butter, eggs, and blocks of lake ice for storage in underground coolers - the ice preserved by layers of sawdust. The area became known as



A 1916 Photo of Eloise Nutting at original cottage

Ingleside Village with Judson Point at its end. As more resorters fell in love with Douglas Lake and began to buy land and build their own cabins, many were attracted to lots on the northwest and north shorelines of the bay below, eventually called Nutting's Bay. Just past the Reinhardt's store and marina, the shoreline began to curve around the lake toward Bentley Point, nicely situated on land below MacArthur Road. Wilma and Harry Roberts bought a lot in 1914 from Clark Judson to build a cottage that took almost ten years to complete. The Roberts led the way, and by the 1970's there was a community of a couple dozen cottages on the north shore of Nutting's Bay. Popular building sites were purchased from an area called Lake Ridge Addition. Among them were the Berlesky's, Reynolds, Butler's, Lighthammer's, Tuthill's, and many more.

The Nutting's

The Nuttings arrived at the lake in 1912, a large close-knit, mid-Western family. Brothers, Charles C. Nutting and Willis Nutting inherited the property from Charles B. Nutting, and his sister,



Recent photo of the same cottage

Continued next page

Elizabeth Nutting. All four were college professors - with Elizabeth having become the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in divinity from Boston University. Most other Nutting's, back then, and more recently, were also educators.

The Nutting's called their new cabin (albeit a work in progress), The Green Cottage. The various Nutting families shared the cottage in two-week vacation slots. As the family grew, additional space was rented at the Ingleside Inn, an emerging gathering place. The Inn housed a small store and a post office, where the locals came by boat daily to pick up their mail, chat, and get needed items at the store. The Inn also had slot machines.

The Nutting families kept a journal detailing their stays in the Green Cottage, titled, A Log Book of the Sojourns in the Green House on Douglas Bay. For this article, Liz Nutting Verhoeven (daughter of Charles C. Nutting who now owns her own Douglas Lake home on Manitou Shores), allowed me access to the journal and a photo album, both now decades old. The two resources recall the evolving years of the Nutting's life on Douglas Lake, the anecdotal stories about fishing adventures, weather reports, construction and repair projects, insect proliferation, family picnics to area sites - Sturgeon Bay, Wilderness State Park, the Soo Locks, North Fishtail Bay, Mackinaw Island, and Big Springs (known to some on the lake as, "The Gorge"). The Big Springs excursions at the time required a difficult climb back up the slope to Robinson Road. Liz's husband, John Verhoeven was a member of the Biological Station Stewards who built the long stairway that now makes Big Springs more easily accessible. The Green Cottage remains on



The Nutting grandchildren at 2nd reunion.

the Lake at its original site on MacArthur Road, and continues to welcome Nutting families each summer. The Nutting family celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Green Cottage in 2012.

Liz's father was a marine zoologist and was happy to spend time at the Biological Station talking "shop" with the professors there. That attachment seems the most likely source of the bay having been named for him.

The Cheboygan Coywolf – Myth or Reality? by *Scott Davis*

Two years ago, on a bright sunny February day, I looked out at the lake and saw what at a distance looked like a coyote wandering across the ice between Maple Bay and Silver Strand. I've seen a lot of coyotes over the years – but after picking up my binoculars and taking a closer look - I distinctly remember thinking, "damn – that's a big coyote!". I recounted the sighting to a friend a few days later and he wondered aloud if maybe it wasn't a coywolf.....?

The Lower Peninsula hasn't had a sustainable wolf population in more than a century, but wolves have occasionally turned up on the southern side of the bridge in the intervening years. A radio-collared wolf from the Upper Peninsula was accidentally trapped and killed in Presque Isle County in 2004, and a trail cam captured a wolf on the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Reservation in Emmet County in 2014. Wolves living in the Upper Peninsula have several routes they might use to cross into the Lower Peninsula, including ones that end in Wilderness State Park in Emmet County, and Cheboygan State Park in Cheboygan County; both of which are shorter than the ice bridges wolves have crossed to get to Isle Royale from Minnesota or Ontario. And there are documented instances of wolves breeding with both coyotes and dogs that produced viable offspring (hybrids).

So, it wasn't a complete surprise when in 2010 biologists following up on reports of very large dog tracks caught several wolf-like hybrids on trail cams around Pellston and Cheboygan. Several pups were subsequently trapped in and around Cheboygan County. Their genetic profiles indicated that they were mostly coyotes, but at some point, in their lineage, they had a female wolf as a relative – suggesting that great lakes wolves can in fact interbreed with coyotes.

Phil Myers, an evolutionary biologist with the University of Michigan, has studied what's believed to be a pack of coywolves in the area around the UM Biological Station. In 2012, talk among locals about large coyotes in the area, and the above-noted DNA test results prompted students in Myers' class to find out more about the animals. Using radio trackers, and a collar on one of the pups trapped earlier, Myers and his class found the animals to not only look like hybrids but to act like them too. They had a larger home range than a coyote, but smaller than a wolf. They also seemed to use swampland and dense forest more than coyotes usually do.

So, as the Upper Peninsula reaches its carrying capacity for wolves (estimated at approximately 800 individuals), there is always the chance we'll see some migrants looking for new territory below the Bridge. The northern Lower Peninsula has suitable habitat to accommodate as many as 100 wolves. In fact, a DNR survey in 2019 reported 97 possible wolf sightings in the northern Lower Peninsula. Most turned out to be dogs or coyotes (or maybe coywolves), but two reports from Montmorency and Kalkaska counties could potentially be wolves. So, the next time you see a big coyote, you might just want to take a second look.....

Legend on the Lake - Harold Brill

by *Linda Orlew*

Have you driven down Brill Road where you saw just a very old, empty house? It was the home of the Brill family from 1904 to 1991, holding many experiences of a family in an era we can only imagine.

Harold Brill (1908–1991), was a talented, knowledgeable, interesting friend, for whom those of us on MacArthur, Ingleside, and beyond, were fortunate to have known. He was a farmer, pilot, Air Force veteran, builder, naturalist, hunter, fisherman, storyteller, and sharpshooter - whom we admired, enjoyed, and depended upon.

Harold's grandfather, George, emigrated to New York, then to Wisconsin, from Hamburg, Germany, arriving in Michigan in about 1858. He and his wife, Margaret, who emigrated from France, first ran a stagecoach stop near Brutus. In 1858 they homesteaded the George Brill Farm (now Manitou Shores) called the halfway house, which was between Mullet Lake and Cross Village, where anyone going through stopped to eat or sleep. They cleared 100 acres at a time, planting a "most beautiful" orchard of apples, pears, plums, and grapes. In 1903 George Brill's daughter, Emma, married Lambert Wilson - who owned the Ingleside Inn.

Harold's father, Mike, and his wife lived in Cheboygan briefly, then in 1904 purchased 40 acres from Mr. Munro in the current Brill location (including a gravel pit), and built a small house and barn (both now gone) on the property. A few years later, they tore down the small house and built the big house for their three children. Harold attended the one-room schoolhouse on MacArthur Road, just south of the MacArthur farm. Mike was a saw fitter and filer in the lumber industry in the U.P. They bought an additional 60 acres, gradually cleared and farmed it, raising cows, pigs and chickens.

Harold was 33 and in the Air Force, when his father died in 1941, leaving his mother and sister, Hazel, to run the farm for four years. Harold was an airplane maintenance chief with complete knowledge of the repair, and troubleshooting of all types of aircraft equipment, and had practical knowledge of the function and repair of all types of aircraft hydraulic mechanisms. He came home four years later having been awarded the Pre-Pearl Harbor Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal, and having qualified as a sharpshooter with a carbine.

Harold purchased an additional 40 acres to add to the original 100. He never married, therefore he and his mother ran the farm alone since one sister had died when she was three years old, and sister Hazel was married to Charlie Johnson. His mother was a small woman, barely 5' tall, but she knew how to farm and bake (especially pies and cakes). She died in 1961 when Harold was 53. He continued to farm, and began building cottages and cabins. His cows were like

family. He named the calves after people around the lake! He had an airplane and cleared an airstrip in a hayfield across from the swamp road (Ingleside) west of his home.

Every winter Harold cut 18" X 36" blocks of ice from Douglas Lake, delivering them by sled to at least eleven icehouses (wooden buildings packed with sawdust), for the summer cottage iceboxes along the shoreline of MacArthur and beyond. He was unusually strong!! He had only one major fear we knew of - FIRE! He had seen the Ingleside Inn destroyed by fire in 1916. Being self-sufficient he was not convinced he needed banks or hospitals.



He first built Barb Robertson's (now Grant's) cottage, single-handedly. He built all of the camper-cabins for my mother's Camp Chick-A-Mi on Vincent Lake. He and Pete Koszut were very good friends. They built and did major renovations and additions for at least 20 cottages along MacArthur and the two-track.

Harold recalled the baseball teams in the area - including the Levering team that would come out to the large, wide beach on Nutting's Bay several times a week to play ball.

One of Harold's favorite stories, and he had lots of them, was regarding Eb Roberts, Fritz's brother. Lambert Wilson, owner of the Ingleside Inn, was pulling the Roberts' launch with a team of horses. Now we all know that horses are not housebroken, so as the situation progressed the horses did what horses do. Eb yelled, "Look at all those floating rocks!"

One of the stories I recall Harold telling was of the Greywite kids trespassing on his property - so he shot at them, likely with the loaded gun he kept under his pillow. The next day the Sheriff came to talk to Harold about the shooting. He said, "I was just shooting at their feet," to which the Sheriff said, "Harold, you can't do that!"

Another story that Harold related to Steve Alexander was about one day, as Harold was picking blueberries, he reached behind a large, dense, recently fallen cottonwood tree, to a lush blueberry bush - only to have his hand slapped by a bear on the other side!!

In 1987 Steve Alexander took 79-year-old Harold, to Steve's home in Indiana for a week. It was the first time he had been away in 20 years. While he was gone, many of us donated for the cost of building materials, and built a garage for Harold. It was a big happy party for Harold when he arrived home to discover his new garage.

Sadly, in late November 1991, Harold died as a result of hitting a tree at the icy Brill/Ingleside intersection, while riding his new/used snowmobile, without a helmet, on his way to visit Pete Koszut. Harold's nephew, Mike Johnson of Munro Lake, now owns the 140-acre farm and house.

I hope the next time you go down Brill Road you will imagine the active family home and productive farm that the Brill family created.

Shoreline Restoration on Douglas Lake - Part II

by *Suzanne Witthoff*



ABOVE: 2022 Maturing restored shoreline

The old and failing seawall that was on our property was replaced with a rock revetment endorsed by the Tip of the Mitt and permitted by the DNR in the spring of 2018. Located on Silver Strand south of Van Road, our seawall was within inches of coming out of the lake bottom, and after years of ice pushing on the lake side of the seawall, the yard immediately adjacent to the seawall had risen close to 12 inches above the rest of the yard. In addition, the seawall had separated from the yard leaving a 4-6 inch space between the two. Our goal was two-fold. The main reason was to establish an effective ice barrier between the house and the lake, and secondly, we wanted to create a natural landscape to establish an animal habitat as well as to enhance the views from both the cottage overlooking the lake and for the boaters on the lake looking toward shore.

Once the rock revetment was completed, with a coir log placed at the top, and a 45-degree rock slope established outward to the lake, our very competent landscape team went to work to create a garden landscape composed of native perennials. The native plants would not only supply color and beauty but also establish a strong root system to hold the coir log in place and give additional strength to the rock revetment to minimize ice damage.

It has been almost four and a half years since the project was completed, and overall, we have been very happy with the results. As we all know, however, the ice on lakes in northern Michigan is a dominant force, and no system is perfect. During the first three winters, there was no ascertainable difference in the effect on our shoreline - though it was obvious rocks had moved and shifted some during the winter. Last winter during the spring thaw, our neighbors reported that as sheets of ice rolled up over the rocks, the ice came close to being parallel to the shoreline. There was enough

This story begins with the DLIA news article "Witthoff Seawall Removal" in the November 2018 newsletter that can be read at <https://www.douglaslake.org>



ON THE RIGHT: 2018 Restored shoreline with new plants

power in this "ice push" that the coir log was pushed upward, resulting in some exposure of the coir log, and a loss of a few of the smaller plantings-- probably due to roots being disturbed. The good part of this is that there has been no readily visible change to the lawn or landscaped area.

The now-established and mature perennials have, indeed, become habitats for various bird and insect species--bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and rabbits, to mention a few. While the various perennials start blossoming in May, the main color attraction is in July/ and August. We do not cut the perennials back in the fall, as the seeds continue to be a food source for animals, and the snow falling on the remaining plant growth provides a "winter garden" landscape.

Please feel free to contact either Ron or me if you want additional information on any phase of the project or stop by to see the shoreline in person.

"Representing time and place": Art and science at UMBS

(Adapted from the UM/LSA Biological Station News 08/31/2022)

After a pandemic-related hiatus, UMBS was pleased to recommence its tradition of hosting an artist to live and work among the usual population of undergraduates, ecological research scientists, teaching faculty, and families. Successful artist residencies of the past have shown that introducing art into a science space leads to dialogue and discovery that enrich both disciplines.

This year's artist, Sarah Koff, perfectly embodied that collaborative spirit. Koff, an accomplished block printmaker based in New Hampshire, uses art "to tell nature's stories." From mid-July to mid-August, she and her family lived at UMBS and established an active studio space in Nichols Lab, in the heart of camp next to the library. In addition to creating prints inspired by the research happening at UMBS, Koff hosted a series of woodcut workshops for students, staff, and researchers – to rave reviews.

"My daughter and I had a wonderful experience with Sarah," said Bob Pillsbury, longtime UMBS scientist studying wild rice ecology and nuisance *Didymosphenia* (a type of diatom) bloom. "It was an easy art form to get into and she was very encouraging. Both of us now want to continue this craft at home."



Pillsbury's mushroom print created during a drop-in session in Koff's studio.

Associate Director Karie Slavik echoes Pillsbury's enthusiasm.

"A remarkable person and block printmaker, Sarah shared her gift for coaxing creativity and delight from the entire U-M Biological Station community," said Slavik. "I know I'm not the only one grateful for her gentle encouragement to focus and create something I never thought I would be able to do."

As Koff wraps up her time at UMBS, she reflects on an unforgettable – and artistically fruitful – summer:

"I spent a month this summer at UMBS getting to know the community of researchers, students and staff as well as the lands and waterways comprising and surrounding the campus. A woodcut artist rooted in environmental education, I came here with the goal of creating a series of woodcuts inspired by the ecology— and ecological research— of the biostation. And I only wish I had another month here, because I was truly only able to scratch the surface.

My woodcuts included a piece on forest succession (inspired by a tour of the 74, 42, and 5-year-old forest burn plots), a scene of wetland grasses and birds (inspired by a paddling trip on the Maple River), Mitchell's Satyr, a Michigan butterfly that is one of the rarest in the world (inspired by a community lecture), an aspen clone (inspired by the clones on campus), a jack pine tree (inspired by my interest in fire-species), and a scene of freshwater shells (inspired by my daily walks along the beach).

The incredible humans I interacted with during my stay influenced each piece with their stories. All of this wouldn't have been possible without people touring me around to their favorite spots and folding me into the mix so I could have more conversations and feel part of the community. I sampled water with a microbes class, toured burn plots over 70 years old, canoed on a river, and had countless conversations on beaches, at the dining hall, on walks and paddles— and in my studio, sometimes late at night.

Because, after all, a major part of the residency was to provide an opportunity for the community to try their hand at my beloved craft. I held several workshops and twice-weekly open art sessions for members of the community to make their own block prints. Each participant designed, carved and printed a unique flag that represented what UMBS meant to them. We printed nearly 100 individual flags from a mix of students, faculty, researchers, staff, and kids— some as young as 7. At the end of the session, we sewed all of the flags together to create a 2022 garland, representing this specific time and place, to decorate the landscape of UMBS.

Working as an artist in a scientific community was an invigorating change of pace for me. The people I interacted with were intelligent, passionate, and dedicated to their work. I look forward to reliving my stay over the course of the next few months as I finish the pieces I started here, and am confident that my summer experiences will inform many more woodcuts to come. Many thanks to UMBS for this incredible opportunity to make and share art with this special community."

THE GREAT LAKES AND THEIR ROLE IN THE EARLY EUROPEAN EXPLORATION OF NORTH AMERICA

(A continuation of the North American Silk Road article from the DLIA Fall 2021 Newsletter.)

by *Janet Taylor Huntley*

The five Great Lakes and connecting waterways served as a major transportation vehicle for European exploration and later settlement of the North American continent. The Europeans, of course, were merely the latest arrivals to avail themselves of these watery thoroughfares. Indeed, the indigenous peoples had been utilizing the Great Lakes and connecting rivers to travel and trade for millennia prior to the arrival of the first navigators and explorers from the European continent.

An initial impetus for their arrival was the need to locate and secure a more expedient trade route between Europe and its trading partners in Asia. The routes being used prior to that time had been land-based and had involved slow travel across the extensive and dangerous terrain between the various trading partners.

By the latter part of the 15th and early 16th centuries, multiple nations were engaging navigators/explorers to locate a water passageway connecting Europe and the Far East. Spain and Portugal had focused primarily on locating such a water route in the more southern regions of the Americas while France and England had been directing their searches to the more northern coastal areas of what would become the United States and Canada.

Although England was the first nation to lay claim to territory in or around Newfoundland in 1497, internal political and religious upheavals during the 1500s caused that nation to delay further exploration for many decades thereafter.

The French crown did not lay claim to that region for over 30 years thereafter until Jacques Cartier, acting on behalf of Francis I, was able to explore Newfoundland and Labrador while navigating the Gulf of St. Lawrence. On a subsequent voyage to the New World, he traveled still further inland, traveling into the mouth of the St. Lawrence River as far as modern-day Quebec and Montreal and making claim to these new territories on behalf of the king. These newly claimed regions became the nucleus of the region identified as “La Nouvelle-France,” or “New France.”

Unlike the Spanish, who came with soldiers who brutally conquered and pillaged the indigenous populations of the territories they

claimed, the French integrated themselves into those populations in order to accomplish three major goals: 1) to increase the fur trading operations within the newly expanding territory; 2) to locate and secure a Northwest Passage across the North American continent to its Pacific coast in order to facilitate trade with Asian markets, and 3) to encourage the founding of Jesuit missions within the territory in order to convert the native populations to Christianity. Each of these goals would be dependent upon finding ways to travel deep within the unexplored lands stretching out to the west.

Samuel de Champlain, as the functioning administrator of Nouvelle-France, adopted a novel approach to achieve these goals by selecting

young men who engaged in fur trading activities or who were otherwise willing to live among the various tribes, to learn their languages, and to pass on any intelligence that would assist in the process. Two such men sent by him into the vast unexplored wilderness were Etienne Brule and Jean Nicolet, who between them came to “discover” Georgian Bay and other portions of Lake Huron, the rapids leading up to the entrance to Lake Superior [Sault Ste. Marie], the Straits of Mackinac, the northern



portion of Lake Michigan, and the western end of Lake Erie, thus opening up vast territories on New France's western flank.

Thereafter, Jesuit missionaries, heretofore concentrated along the St. Lawrence River, began to likewise explore the Great Lakes while founding missions along their shorelines. In doing so, they extended France's navigational reach deep into the Midwest and, subsequently, via river passages in the southwest portions of Lake Michigan, into the Mississippi River, and as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.

France was to remain a presence within this huge swath of its claimed territory until being forced to cede these lands to England via the Treaty of Paris in 1763 at the conclusion of the French and Indian War.

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Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) Restoring the Maple River

(<https://www.rivercare.org/>)



Photo from rivercare.org website

by *Pete Klaas*

The Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) conducted a field trip on the Maple River in August, to explain their progress following the removal of the Lake Kathleen Dam in 2020 and 2021. The dam was originally built in the late 19th century as a power source. After the dam failed in the mid-1960s, it was rebuilt as part of a property development project that never happened. The dam then continued to deteriorate until a near failure in 2014 from very heavy precipitation. During the period when the dam was in place, sediment accumulated in the pool behind the dam, stopping the natural flow of material downstream.

The field trip was led by Chris Pierce, CRA biologist, and project manager for the Lake Kathleen Dam project. Since the removal of the dam last year, the CRA has continued to work on restoring the Maple River at the dam location to a more natural river - to allow the natural flow for the entire length of the river. This consists of removing the sediment (sand) that had accumulated on the river bottom when the dam was blocking the flow, grading the riverbanks to allow a more natural wetland structure to be created by the river's normal flow, and planting along the bank to help stabilize the riverbank. This phase of the project will continue into next year.

The Lake Kathleen dam removal is the largest part of the CRA's nearly 2-decade project to completely 'free span' the Maple River and return it to a natural state for the entire 55-mile length. Nine projects have been completed to date, primarily converting culvert road crossings to free spanning, with a timber bridge to allow the river to flow naturally. Five have been completed on the West Branch of the Maple River, two have been completed on the East Branch of the Maple River (including the recently completed crossing on Robinson Road, East of US-31), and two on the Maple River south of the Lake Kathleen site.

The final group of projects includes the replacement of the culvert on Van Creek (a tributary to the East Branch of the Maple River) at the US-31 road crossing and the replacement of the Maple River culvert under Douglas Lake Road with a free-span timber bridge in 2023.

U.S. 31 RECONSTRUCTION - 2023

by *Bill Hartwig*

Traveling from Douglas Lake to Petoskey this coming summer will be a challenge. MDOT plans to rebuild US-31 between the north junction of Milton Road (north of Alanson), through Alanson, to just beyond Blumke Road, near Tri-Lakes Appliance Repair, and the Northwood Restaurant. Starting in March of 2023, and continuing into November of 2023, four separate segments of US-31 will be rebuilt. While through traffic and local access will be maintained, each segment will have a slightly different detour route.

You know how summer traffic can be a challenge without construction interruptions, delays, and detours, therefore, my recommendation is to select an alternative route for the entire summer - and avoid the area completely. You may want to select an alternative route and give it a try starting this fall.

An alternative route using county primary roads would be best as they are usually built and maintained to a higher standard than county local roads, and would be safer and more efficient for travel. So, consider:

- Van Road to Pleasantview Road to M-119 to US-31 (is 1.5 mi. and 3 min. longer than US-31).
- Robinson Road to Pleasantview Road to M-119 to US-31 (is 1.8 mi. and 3 min. longer than US-31).
- E. Brutus Road to N. Conway Road to US-31 (is 1.2 mi. and 3 min. longer than US-31).

Reconstruction updates will be available in the DLIA eNews throughout the summer.

DLIA NEW MEMBERS Fall, 2022

UMBS

Aimée Classen, 9133 Biological Road

Zone 32

Jonna Springer-Bopp and Mike Bopp
11550 White Birch Drive

Zone 33

Paula Keiser, 11323 Douglas Lake Road

Zone 51

Bruce & Amy Beshears, 8588 Silver Strand Road

Zone 61

Jim & Jenny Wassler, 9180 Silver Strand Road

Zone 81

Parker & Martha Tuthill, 9481 Ingleside Road

Zone 51

Mark & Melissa Wallace, 8797 Manitou Shores Trail

We Will Miss . . .



DALE NIXON, age 82, of Lansing, Michigan passed away on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Dale was born September 5, 1939, in Lansing, the son of Blair and Eva Nixon. He was a 1957 graduate of J.W. Sexton High School and attended Ferris State University before enlisting in the United States Army. Dale retired from Oldsmobile after 30 years of service.

Dale enjoyed his retirement at Douglas Lake, spending time fishing and boating. His favorite pastimes were playing golf and watching his favorite Spartans.

Surviving is his wife of 55 years, Julie; children, Amy (Fernando) Zaldivar and Matt (Cindy) Nixon; grandchildren, Jacob, Hannah, Abby, and Sam; sister, Alice O'Callahan; numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family. He was preceded in death by siblings, Larry, Marliss, and Mike.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at St. Gerard Catholic Church, Lansing.

FERRIS TODD, Ed.D, age 64, passed away on August 26, 2022, after a nearly 17-year battle with breast cancer. Ferris, beloved mother of Meghan T. (Paulo) Cabral, Zibby T. (Jake Keyel) Greenebaum, James E. (Lou Becker) Greenebaum III, and Daniel T. Greenebaum; and proud grandmother of Maria, Paulo Roberto, Ilana and Olivia, passed peacefully in her sleep surrounded by family. A memorial service will be held at Douglas Lake in the summer of 2023 with details to follow.

Ferris was born on June 23, 1958, to James R. Todd and Mary L. Todd in Evanston, IL. Ferris began her illustrious academic career at Crow Island Elementary School in Winnetka, IL (If you know it, sing along, "Good ol' Crow Island"). After graduating from New Trier West High School in 1976, she went on to study Psychology and French at Coe College; received her Master's Degree in Education from Harvard University in 1982; and later her Doctorate of Education from the University of Rochester in 1994. Ferris impacted countless lives as a Marriage and Family Therapist from her home-based private practice, which she started in 1989, and served the community for over 20 years.

Ferris met Robert Greenebaum during her senior year at Coe College. The two were married in 1981 at North Shore Congregation Israel. During their 32 years together, they created a lot of memories and raised four wonderful children. Ferris felt firmly that the greatest thing she did in her entire life was raising her four wonderful children.

After retirement, Ferris served as a volunteer for the American Red Cross for many years, changing lives as a Disaster Mental Health Volunteer. She said that she loved her volunteer work with the American Red Cross almost more than her career.

Many hobbies brought Ferris deep joy, including cross-stitching until her fingers were sore, taking adventurous road trips with her dog Rufus and friends, and surrounding herself with music. She said that the only things left undone in her life were seeing Adele, and Elton John -live - one last time.

Above all, what brought her the greatest joy was literature. Ferris, an illustrious bibliophile, poured her heart into books and shared that passion with her beloved book clubs wherever she lived, - Upstate New York, Northern Michigan, Palm Springs, and beyond. She was grateful for her chosen family, bound by a shared love for the written word.

Ferris asked that when anyone wants to remember her, they picture her sitting at the end of her dock on Douglas Lake in Michigan, watching the shimmer of sunlight bounce off the water while feeling the warmth of the light on her face. If you can, raise a toast to her (either a corona with a lime, or a glass of cream sherry), and know that she'll always be doing the same with you.

MARY LOU ZIMMERMAN, age 95, of Monroe, Michigan died on Sunday, June 26, 2022. Mary Lou was born December 7, 1926, in Newton Falls, Ohio to Harold and Esther Aduddell. She was a 1944 graduate of Monroe High School and worked in the office of Dr. Hilda Pinkus. After World War II, she met Blaine Zimmerman, and they were married on July 10, 1948, in Monroe. Together, they built a lifetime of love, centered around family. Mary Lou was the rock that held everything together and covered it all with love. She was active in her faith, up until the time of her stroke, almost 20 years ago. She was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church since 1938, serving the church in a variety of ways. She also volunteered with the Monroe Thrift Shop.

When she wasn't at home, Mary Lou loved spending time up north at the family cottage on Douglas Lake. She belonged to various bridge clubs and played almost daily. Most of all, she was a woman of integrity and grace, extraordinary patience, and unconditional love and kindness.

Mary Lou is survived by her husband, Blaine; and two sons Tom (Julie), and Don. She is also survived by 4 grandchildren: Alec (Lauren), Rachel (Justin) Distelrath, Aaron, and Marlena; and 4 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter Polly; her parents; and 4 siblings—Jack (Mary Lou) Aduddell, Dorothy (Bob) Bert, Tom (Sherry) Aduddell and Harold Aduddell.

SUSAN "DODIE" BUTLER died peacefully on Thanksgiving Day 2021, in Petoskey, following several years of illness. The daughter of Ann (Caldwell) and Fred Butler, Dodie was deeply attached to Douglas Lake - it brought her great joy and great comfort, both because of its beauty, and because of the community it attracts and sustains. Having spent all her childhood summers at the lake from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and then getting to the lake whenever she could as an adult, Dodie had friends and family who were lake-based that meant the world to her. We are sure Dodie would like us to thank all her family (Caldwells, Haensels, Breuchs, Gilbertsons) for the great family dinners, storytelling, dog and cat adventures (read porcupines, etc.), and family love. And we're sure she'd like us to thank all the people she played with as a child, with whom she went on snipe hunts, played cards, made fudge, skied, worked at the Dam Site, and later sat near the lake, and enjoyed life. There are many of you, and you know who you are!!

Dodie is survived by her sister Sally, niece Lyra Butler-Denman, and nephew Marcus Butler-Denman. She is predeceased by her mother, father, sister Betsey, and sister Jane, all of whom loved Douglas Lake.

Douglas Lake Merchandise by Kelly Davis, Douglas Lake Merchandise Manager

Well, Summer 2022 is in the books, and it was a great one! One of the things I love most about being the Merchandise Manager is that at each sale, I get to catch up with those of you who don't live year-round at the lake. It's also fun helping you show your love of Douglas Lake. From t-shirts, to hats, to bumper stickers, there are so many ways to show off YOUR lake! If you couldn't make it to one of the sales this summer, the online store will be open again this year starting November 1, and running through December 15, (this cut-off date allows me time to get everything to you by Christmas). Just a suggestion: the book, *The Loons of Maple Bay* would make a great gift for anyone who loves Douglas Lake!

I would like to thank all the volunteers that help with design and sales; we would not have Douglas Lake merchandise without these folks. A big shout out to Mindy Masterson, Betsy Naumer, Barb Huey, Denise Bosin, Joyce

Oldham, Karen Spezia, Linda Orlow, Cheryl Krehbiel, Hannah Apps, Kathy Buchweitz, Anne Covy, Joyce Paton, and Gail Beaver. THANK YOU!

Please know, that you do not have to be at the lake all summer to help. I can use additional help from 1 hour, to all summer, to all year! Let me know if you'd like to join the team! I am always looking for new design ideas, so if you have some skills in that area, please reach out. Also, if there is an item or two that you would like to see with a Douglas Lake logo, let me know that as well.

Don't forget about the online sales. A link to the store will go out by eNews, placed on the last page of this newsletter, and is available on the Douglas Lake website.

The store is open! You are welcome to reach out to me any time with questions or concerns at: merchandise@douglaslake.org

See you next Summer!





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 – Ron Witthoff, president@douglaslake.org

Vice President – Scott Davis, vice-president@douglaslake.org

Secretary – Linda Woolcott, secretary@douglaslake.org

Treasurer – Suzanne Witthoff, treasurer@douglaslake.org

Immediate Past President, Mary Ellen Sheridan

Newsletter Team – Joan Hartwig (Chair), Frank Beaver, Holly Gedert,
Jan Huntley, Margie Ladzick, Susan O'Dwyer, Linda Orlow

Spring 2023 Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions: April 3, 2023

Email news articles and obituaries to info@douglaslake.org

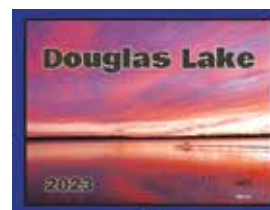
Membership updates to membership@douglaslake.org

Send your terrific photos for the calendar to
pictures@douglaslake.org

Add info@douglaslake.org to your contacts



WINTER 2023 Douglas Lake Merchandise



2023 Douglas Lake Calendar



Circle Silhouette
Embroidery Design

"The online store will open again this year for holiday shopping around November 1st, and will stay open until December 15th. Quantities are limited, so shop early to be able to get what you want. December 15 will be the FIRM cutoff date to allow me to get everything mailed, and hopefully to you by Christmas."

THE ONLINE STORE IS OPEN:

<https://douglaslakemerchandise.square.site/s/shop>

If you have any questions about merchandise or volunteering, please send an email to:

merchandise@douglaslake.org