



# Douglas Lake NEWSLETTER

May, 2023

Douglas Lake Improvement Association

[www.DouglasLake.org](http://www.DouglasLake.org)

P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769



*"Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm" – John Muir*

## President's Message

This year, as planned, a new Directory is being produced, and we are all indebted to the "Directory Team" for making this happen. Our new Directory is scheduled to be completed and will be distributed to all DLIA members by the Zone Reps in June. Holly Gedert agreed to take on this significant project and put together her "team" of Gwen Kuehn, Barb Huey, Cheryl Krehbiel, and Suzanne Witthoff. This group worked tirelessly to make this happen including selling Directory Ads, which will enhance our treasury by over \$10,000. Good job by all.

You may recall, at last year's Annual Meeting, Aimée Classen, Director of UMBS, mentioned during her remarks, that the Station was planning a "BioBlitz" to be conducted on the lake in 2023. This exciting event has now been confirmed, and Helen Habicht, UMBS Lab Manager, is the lead person on this project. Please review Helen's article in this Newsletter to learn more about this event scheduled for July 21-July 23, and options to participate.

The boat ramp project has been completed except for the installation of some rip rap work on the south side to hopefully address some erosion issues. Once completed, Munro Township and the DLIA will make payments to the contractor to close out the Contract. I am pleased to announce that currently 60 DLIA members voluntarily donated funds to the DLIA, to assist with the costs of the boat ramp project, totaling \$5,776. These funds will help replenish our finances, which took a big hit on the boat ramp project.

In the November 2022 Newsletter, I mentioned the possibility of a DLIA fishing group, club, or committee. I received significant positive feedback, so I will be setting up an initial organizational meeting to move the idea forward. Anyone who is interested and did not previously respond can contact me at [rewitthoff@gmail.com](mailto:rewitthoff@gmail.com).

Finally, after many years of dedicated service, Gwen Kuehn has decided to step down from the important position of DLIA Membership Administrator. This position is a big job, and Gwen deserves a big "thank you" from all members. Barb Huey has been appointed to this position.

I'm looking forward to a safe and enjoyable season on the lake, and wish you all the same.

*Ren Witthoff*, DLIA President

# SUMMER HAPPENINGS

## DLIA ANNUAL MEETING:

TENTATIVE DATE AND LOCATION - SATURDAY, JULY

29, 9:00 A.M., PELLSTON HIGH SCHOOL

*Confirmed details to follow in eNews.*

**Saturday, July 8, 2023**

**DLIA Sponsored**

### 10th Annual AIS Landing Blitz

This is a multi-state outreach initiative to raise awareness about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species caused by the movement of boats and other watercraft between water bodies at both public and private boating access sites across the state.

An educational booth at the Douglas Lake Boat Ramp will be set up from 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM. Free materials including temporary fish tattoos for children, fishing lures, and educational materials about invasive species will be on hand.

DLIA is responsible for providing local volunteer partners to reinforce the "Clean, Drain, Dry." Message. (That's YOU!!) Please give us a couple of hours on July 8th for a very important cause. Drop by, talk to your neighbors, and others using the Douglas Lake Boat Ramp, and help get the word out about the potential impact that the introduction of aquatic invasive species could have on the fishing and boating health of Douglas Lake.

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE TO DO?

CHECK OUT:

[www.northernmichiganeventscalendar.com](http://www.northernmichiganeventscalendar.com)

Emmet and Charlevoix

[www.mackinawchamber.com/events](http://www.mackinawchamber.com/events)

Mackinaw City, Carp Lake, St. Ignace, Mackinac Island

[www.us23heritageroute.org](http://www.us23heritageroute.org)

Cheboygan, Presque Isle, and Rogers City (& more!)

For road closures and construction information, check the website:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdot>

## WOMENADE

Womenade is a great way to get to know ladies from around Douglas Lake. On the third Wednesday of June, July, and August we gather at someone's house on the lake for a potluck dinner, beverages, and conversation. We accept contributions to be used to help individuals and families in the communities around the lake. If you would like to be notified of gathering details, contact Kim Grant at 989-506-0401 or [grant1kj@gmail.com](mailto:grant1kj@gmail.com)

*We'd love to have you join us!*

### DLIA NEW MEMBERS Spring 2023

#### ZONE 31

Steve & Sarah Muench  
11244 White Birch Drive

#### ZONE 61

Brent & Lisa Trent  
9020 Silver Strand Road

#### ZONE 41

Rob & Stacy Knasiak  
8408 Silver Strand Road

#### ZONE 71

David McNabb &  
Sarah Weatherington  
9560 Silver Strand Road

Kelsey Krehbiel  
8378 Silver Strand Road

#### ZONE 91

Tammy Orlow  
9251 MacArthur Road

Henry & Andrea Walton  
8378 Silver Strand Road

Curt & Stacy Witthoff  
8408 Silver Strand Road

Linda Schulte  
9561 MacArthur Road

Mark & Jacqui Witthoff  
8408 Silver Strand Road

#### ZONE 101

James & Patricia Voth  
Manitou Shores Trail (Lot 7)

## WAKE ALERT

Michigan Law P.A. Act 70 of 2020

(modification of P.A. Act 451 Of 1944)

"No wake within 100 feet of the shoreline."

A wake causes shoreline erosion.

**PLEASE NO WAKE NEAR THE SHORE**

## Munro Township Clean Up Day

**Saturday, May 27, 2023**

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

ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED
Household junk; furniture; dry, cut carpet;	Brush, leaves, grass clippings; chemicals; oil;
Bagged garbage; bundled building materials;	Liquid paint; flammable materials; explosives;
Scrap metal; appliances without Freon;	Tires; batteries; cement; appliances with Freon;
Lumber cut to 3-foot length.	Hazardous waste materials.

## U-M Biological Station Invites Community to 2023 Summer Lecture Series

by Christine Billau, UMBS Marketing and Communications Specialist

The University of Michigan Biological Station is excited to welcome our neighbors and their families for the 2023 Summer Lecture Series. Please join us from 7 to 8 p.m., on:

**June 14, June 28, July 5, July 17, July 26, and August 9**

Hear from leading experts across the country at these free, public events. Lectures will take place outdoors under a large tent along the shore. We are located at 9133 Biological Rd. in Pellston.

Topics range from “slow birding” and scientific art to Indigenous science and infectious diseases in wild animal populations. A list of topics and brief descriptions are listed on the UMBS website. For 114 years, students, faculty, and researchers from around the globe have studied and monitored the impact of environmental changes on northern Michigan ecosystems. “We are honored to welcome an incredible lineup of distinguished scientists to our historic, world-class field station,” said Aimée Classen, director of the U-M Biological Station and a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

### SPEAKERS

#### Wednesday, June 14

Vanessa Ezenwa, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Yale University and an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellow, will give the Pettingill Lecture in Natural History. Ezenwa studies the ecology and evolution of infectious diseases in wild animal populations, such as deer, gazelle and buffalo. Her lab work explores interesting questions such as whether group living and migration increase or decrease the negative effects of parasites in the wild.

#### Wednesday, June 28

Robin Clark, an assistant professor at Lake Superior State University, plans to talk about northern white cedar trees, or “Giizhik,” their projected decline, and Indigenous knowledge and practices that can inform forest management and growth.

#### Wednesday, July 5

Joan Strassmann, an evolutionary biologist, U-M Biological Station alumna, the Charles Rebstock Professor of Biology at Washington University in St. Louis, member of the National Academy of Sciences and author of “Slow Birding: The Art and Science of Enjoying Birds in Your Own Backyard,” will give the Hann Endowed Lecture in Ornithology. She will explain the fascinating world of common, everyday birds, such as blue jays, cardinals, robins and sparrows.

#### Monday, July 17

Callie Chappell, a graduate student researcher and professional scientific illustrator, graphic designer, and biomaterials artist, is an artist in residence at the U-M Biological Station in July. Chappell is a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University’s Department of Biology. She will discuss science communication and art.

#### Wednesday, July 26

Melissa Duhaime is an assistant professor in the U-M Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and instructor of “Microbes in the Wild” at the U-M Biological Station. She will explore the fascinating world of viruses and microplastics.

#### Wednesday, Aug. 9

Jennifer (JP) Pett-Ridge, a senior staff scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, will give the Bennett Lecture in Mycology and Plant Biology. Pett-Ridge, a leading soil scientist, examines natural land solutions and emerging carbon-friendly technologies designed to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Her talk will highlight her work building interdisciplinary teams to shed light on how soil organisms impact the global carbon cycle.

**For a full list of speakers in the Summer Lecture Series or more information about our campus and your proud neighbors in the Northwoods, visit the U-M Biological Station website. <https://lsa.umich.edu/umbs>**



All events start at 7:00 p.m.  
at the Biological Station  
(9133 Biological Rd., Pellston, MI 49769)

***Please join us!***



# UMBS BioBLITZ

by Helen Habicht

The University of Michigan Biological Station is planning a BioBlitz in Summer 2023! Now you may ask, “What is a BioBlitz?” A BioBlitz is an intense period of ecological sampling that attempts to record all living species within a selected area across a short window of time. This BioBlitz will focus on aquatic species in and around Douglas Lake! The event will involve researchers, staff, and students at the Station, as well as Douglas Lake (and broader) community members! The event is planned for Friday, July 21 - Sunday, July 23, 2023.

We will be seeking a select number of the DLIA community volunteers (10-15 people) to participate in the observation and collection process on Friday evening and all day Saturday (July 21 and 22). Sunday the 23rd will be a UMBS Open-House. Community members will be welcome to tour the Station, engage with researchers, check out specimens collected during the event, etc.

If you'd like to participate in the BioBlitz from the comfort of your own shoreline on Douglas Lake, we will be using an app called **iNaturalist** to log species observations. We'll send out more information as the date approaches. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact UMBS Lab Manager Helen Habicht [habicht@umich.edu](mailto:habicht@umich.edu)



## LAKE HURON SHIPWRECK TOURS



by Susan O'Dwyer

If you are looking for interesting things to do in Northern Michigan with your summer guests, there's a fun way to experience the Straits on a 1.5-hour glass bottom boat shipwreck tour out of Cheboygan. Leave port in Cheboygan to cruise down the Cheboygan River and out into Lake Huron, passing by three lighthouses and continuing over three shipwrecks that sank between 1891 and 2010. There are multiple scheduled departures, weather permitting, including sunset cruises with underwater lights to illuminate the shipwrecks. Tours are offered at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. (with a snorkeling option), 5 p.m., and sunset - daily during July and August. Call Captain Jenn of Nautical North Family Adventures at 231-444-3400. Located at 123 South Main Street,

Cheboygan, MI 49721 (across the street from Scoops). She does a great job and is a very funny storyteller too!

Check out their website for current tour times, tickets, and other options offered during their season from May 1 – October 31 at: [nauticalnorthfamilyadventures.com](http://nauticalnorthfamilyadventures.com)



Enjoy the stunning views while on Lake Huron on their professionally guided glass bottom shipwreck tour. See three different shipwrecks!



Captain Jenn



# McGulpin Point Lighthouse and Historic Site

Written by *Richard Moehl*,

President, Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association

Article prepared by *Susan O'Dwyer*

**E**veryone has at least seen Old Mackinaw Point Lighthouse next to the Fort at the Bridge's base, but many people may not be aware of another lighthouse in Mackinaw City, McGulpin Point. The background...

"With the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 Americans started to flood to the Chicago area. During the 1850's, vessel traffic through the Straits of Mackinac was increasing rapidly, and while the Waugoshance Light marked the western entry into the Straits, and the Bois Blanc Island light marked the eastern entry, the absence of a navigational aid within the shoal-ridden Straits themselves made passage during darkness and periods of low visibility extremely dangerous.

To answer that need, the Lighthouse Board petitioned Congress for the construction of a lighthouse at McGulpin Point, approximately two miles west of Fort Michilimackinac. Congress responded favorably to the request on August 3, 1854 with the appropriation of \$6,000 for the station's construction.

A clouded title and the Civil War interrupted this effort and it was not until late in 1867 that the State of Michigan condemned the land thus clearing the cloud over the title and obtaining ownership of this land. The land was then transferred to the federal government and work on McGulpin Point lighthouse began early in 1869. The station was built as a mirror image of the design used at Chambers Island and Eagle Bluff lights under construction in the Death's Door area that same year. This plan, which is sometimes referred-to as the "Norman Gothic" style was also later used at Eagle Harbor in 1871, White River in 1875, and at Passage and Sand Islands in 1882.

Among the Station's most notable keepers was James Davenport, who after serving at Waugoshance and Little Point Sable, was transferred to McGulpin Point in September 1879, a position he held for twenty-seven years, until the station was discontinued in 1906. The Davenport family lived the entire navigation season in the lighthouse, but after the close of the navigation season every year, moved to their home in Mackinaw City so that the children could get to and from school, the snow making the trip from town to the lighthouse virtually impossible. With the construction of the Old Mackinac Point light and fog signal station in 1892, the Lighthouse Board decided that McGulpin Point station no longer served its once critical purpose.

The lighthouse finally passed into private ownership in 1913 when Sam Smith, an early village president and entrepreneur, purchased the property for \$1,425. The station was subsequently resold a couple of times. The last private owners were the Peppler family from whom the station was purchased by Emmet County in 2008."

Now back into public ownership, Emmet County's mission reestablished McGulpin Point Lighthouse as a Private Aid To Navigation (PATON), which the U.S. Coast Guard approved.

The McGulpin Point Lighthouse and Gift Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from mid-May through late October. The park grounds around the lighthouse and down to the Straits of Mackinac, including a shoreline view of the Mackinac Bridge, is always open to the public.

It is located just 2 miles west of I-75, out Central Avenue, at 500 Headlands Road, Mackinaw City, MI 49701. Further information may be obtained at (231) 436-5860, or [info@emmetcounty.org](mailto:info@emmetcounty.org).



# WATCH OUT FOR SWIMMER'S ITCH THIS SUMMER!

by *Mary Ellen Sheridan*

Late in January 2023, the Michigan DNR (Department of Natural Resources) announced the cancellation of its Common Merganser capture and relocation program. In 2022 this program was canceled because of the detection of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild birds in the state. With HPAI still present in the state this year, it presents a clear and important threat to wildlife and domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and geese. With continuing disease concerns, the DNR has indicated that it is considering permanent changes to programs that involve the capture and relocation of wild birds.

Common Mergansers host the parasite *Trichobilharzia stagnicolae*, the main cause of swimmer's itch in many northern Michigan lakes. Many DLIA folks will recall that the summer of 2020 was a particularly bad year for cases of swimmer's itch. The DLIA formed a Swimmer's Itch Task Force, led by Kim and Ed Grant. The Task Force collected reports of swimmer's itch throughout the summer and recommended that the DLIA Executive Committee support a proposal from Swimmer's Itch Solutions (a private firm with regional experience in the trap and release program, and familiarity with water bird populations/swimmer's itch on Douglas Lake), to participate in the DNR's permitted program to trap and release Common Merganser broods in 2021 on Douglas Lake. At the time the Executive Board considered this request, it was anticipated that a trial trap and release program would be carried out over two years (summers of 2021 and 2022). Both the DLIA and Swimmer's Itch Solutions obtained the required permits from the DNR to participate in the trap and release program. In the summer of 2021, Swimmer's Itch Solutions trapped 5 broods of Common Merganser chicks and hens. The broods were all removed to DNR-approved relocation sites (Cheboygan State Park or Wilderness State Park). Bird surveys of the entire shoreline of Douglas Lake identified three broods of Hooded Mergansers and five broods of Common Mergansers among the various waterfowl species on the Lake. Based on testing of some Hooded Merganser chicks, evidence suggests that Hooded Mergansers play a much less significant role relative to Common Mergansers in causing and spreading swimmers' itch on Douglas Lake.

Because of the Avian Flu threat last year, the DNR canceled the trap and release program for Common Merganser broods for summer 2022. Fortunately, there were very few reported cases of swimmers' itch. Again, this summer, no Common Merganser broods can be trapped and released. No one can know for certain what the incidence of swimmer's itch will be this summer. We can expect that Common Mergansers will be living and raising young chicks on Douglas Lake. Please advise family and friends to be aware of the risks of swimmer's itch.

There are proactive steps that can be taken before going into the lake that can reduce the potential to get swimmer's itch, and there are also some recommended steps that could reduce the severity of swimmer's itch. Here are some recommendations:



## Before going into Douglas Lake:

- Apply a barrier cream or gel to the skin to reduce the potential for the parasites to enter child or adult skin. Some folks use Vaseline; others use anti-swimmer's itch products such as Swimmer's Itch Guard which are available online or in local stores. Some recommend generously applying and often re-applying a "waterproof sunscreen" before going into the water.
- Do not encourage ducks/geese to stay in your area by feeding them.
- Avoid placing rip-rap on your shore as this is an excellent surface for certain species of snails to attach their eggs. The higher the number of snails, the greater the chance of swimmer's itch.

## Be careful of when/where you swim:

- Avoid swimming in areas where lots of ducks/geese congregate.
- Avoid swimming in the morning when snail populations are greater nearer the shoreline.
- Avoid shallow waters.
- Avoid swimming in areas where swimmer's itch is a known problem.
- Avoid swimming in shallow waters where there is an on-shore wind.
- Avoid marshy areas that may have lots of snails.

## After swimming:

- Towel off immediately after leaving the water to reduce the opportunity for parasites to enter the skin as the water dries on the skin.
- Take a warm/hot soapy shower to reduce the potential for the parasites to remain on the skin.

## What to do with a bad case of swimmer's itch?

- Apply available anti-itch or swelling-reducing topical creams, sprays, etc.
- See a dermatologist/Urgent Care for prescription relief.

## Is There a Safe Place to Swim?

Swimmer's itch can't be completely eradicated from our lake as there are always going to be migratory birds flying and (even temporarily) stopping on Douglas Lake. To avoid any chance of exposing children and adults to swimmer's itch, head for the beaches on Lake Michigan or Lake Huron. There are lovely areas to swim and picnic locally in Wilderness State Park, and Petoskey State Park on Lake Michigan, and Cheboygan State Park on Lake Huron. The snails that host the swimmer's itch parasite are not found on these Great Lakes.



## *The Wake Boats: Love Them or Hate Them?*

by *Scott Davis*

Back in the day when I was growing up and spending my summers on the lake, we all learned to sail a sunfish and water ski. Learning to ski was especially considered a rite of passage. If you couldn't ski – well, you needed to learn, and at the time, we even had one or two competitive skiers on the lake. These days you don't see quite as many skiers. You see kids being towed around on inflatable couches, and more and more folks are learning to wakeboard. Although wakeboarding has been popular for some time, it is the advent of wake boats that has some people concerned.

A wake boat uses ballast or weighted hulls and other forms of technology to create significantly larger wakes for wakeboarders to jump. Bigger wakes make for more “airtime” and that translates into more fun. The problem is that wake boats – when used improperly – can cause significant damage to lakes like ours. Wake boats produce waves with 2 – 17 times the energy of those generated by similarly sized power boats, and these waves often need more than 500 feet to begin dissipating their energy. As we all know – especially with water levels so high – these kinds of waves can result in serious shoreline erosion and just wreak havoc at someone's dock. Another potential drawback of wake boats is that their engines direct water from the prop toward the bottom of the lake. This can stir up the lake bottom reducing both water clarity and quality.

And of course – everyone's biggest fear is that an invasive plant, or the next zebra mussel, will hitch a ride in the boat's ballast as they move from one lake to the next.

So, what do you do if wake boating is your recreation of choice? Well, there are a few “best practices” that will limit any potential damage to the lake and minimize your neighbor's angst:

1. Always try and stay at least 500 feet from the shoreline, giving waves time to dissipate their energy before hitting the shore.
2. Never use a wake boat in less than 15 feet of water. Basically, just play out in the middle of the lake.
3. Stay away from fishermen and kayakers.
4. And always completely drain the ballast tanks before moving the boat to another lake – limiting the incredibly destructive potential spread of invasive species.

We all love Douglas Lake for different reasons, and we all recreate in different ways. There's no reason we all can't have fun if we're just thoughtful and follow a few commonsense rules. ***Enjoy the summer!***



## Womenade is 20!!!!

by Sue Nelson

Sparked by an idea in an article in Real Simple magazine in January of 2003, I invited four women from different neighborhoods around Douglas Lake to lunch, to discuss whether this might be something we would like to try here. The premise was that a woman physician had spent \$10,000 of her own money to assist families in her practice who were experiencing a variety of one-time emergencies. When she mentioned the needs to a group of women friends who met monthly for dinner, one of them said, "Well, when life gives you lemons, you make Lemonade...when life gives problems, we'll make Womenade." They decided that at each of their monthly dinners, each would contribute \$35, or the cost of dinner at that time, to help.

When we discussed this idea, we realized that we were in a similar situation, living a good life on the lake, but knowing that there were many in our community less fortunate.

We wrote a mission statement, planning ways to find folks who needed us, and decided that we would meet 4 times a year. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of June, July, and August in members' homes, and in the Fall, inviting spouses/guests to the Fall meeting. We would contribute \$35 each time, or whatever amount suits the member. We each bring a dish to share; there are many fabulous cooks in this group! To celebrate our 10th anniversary, we published a cookbook of members' recipes, an effort led by Martha Beechler.

In the beginning, we found a woman pediatrician in Cheboygan who was our primary reference. She knew when a family was in crisis and would contact us. We contacted all of the agencies in Cheboygan County, explaining our mission and offering our help. We have worked closely with Pellston Elementary School, providing a variety of services. We work with the McLaren Foundation, asking that referrals come from Pellston and Cheboygan County. Working through North Central Michigan College, we have aided women from the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan, Safe Home program.

We have focused on women, children, and families who are experiencing a one-time emergency and are referred by an agency or professional who can be a reference. Their stories are varied, and the need has been immense.

One of our members, Mary Ann Huntington, started the Pellston Reading Program at Pellston Elementary School, which is now ably led by Marilyn Kelemen.

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*If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.*

*If life gives you problems, seek Womenade.*

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One of the unexpected outcomes of Womenade has been that rather than a collection of neighborhood groups, we have united as the Women of Douglas Lake. It is only through the generosity of each of the members that we have continued this good work.

The 5 women who met for lunch in 2002 became the original Board: Linda Alexander, Carma Case, Diane Ellman, Margaret Gilbertson, and Sue Nelson.

We will celebrate our 20th Anniversary on June 21st at the home of Linda Alexander. Come and join us in the celebration of our good work!



## Meet Neighbors New to Douglas Lake

Steve and Becky Elieff

Manitou Shores (Zone 101) welcomes our new neighbors, Steve and Becky Elieff. The Elieffs are building their lake home with many of their own employees, as they are owners of Pottsville-based Elieff Brothers Roofing/Exterior Contractors. Parents to three grown children, they enjoy golfing and antiques. They have been coming Up North for many summers.



## U.S. 31 Reconstruction by *Bill Hartwig*

If you have recently traveled on U.S. 31 through Alanson to Petoskey, you may have noticed tree-cutting and work on underground utilities. This was the start of the U.S. 31 project. MDOT plans to rebuild U.S. 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 March 15, 2023, and continuing until November 15, 2023, the U.S. 31 project will necessitate road closures and detours.

While traffic and local access will always be maintained with lane shifts and detours, as you might imagine, there may be slow downs and possibly some delays. The southbound lane (headed into Petoskey) will be closed, and traffic detoured from March 15th through November 15th. Southbound traffic will be detoured off U.S. 31 onto Milton Road from its northern junction with U.S. 31, down to Powers Road, and then back onto U.S. 31 near the Citizens National Bank and Dairy Queen. Northbound traffic between River Street (Fairbairn Hardware) and M-68 (traffic signal) will be detoured from March 15th through May 25th. This traffic detour will follow River Street, across the Crooked River bridge to Banwell Road, then up to M-68, and back to U.S. 31.

As with any project constructed while maintaining traffic, caution, patience, and concern for worker safety should be of utmost priority. I again recommend that all members plan for at least 15 minutes of extra travel time to go between Douglas Lake and Petoskey on U.S. 31, or maybe better yet utilize the alternative route of using Pleasantview Road to M-119.



**ALERT!**

**ALERT!**

**ALERT!**

**ALERT!**

**Beginning in June, the bridge over the Maple River on Douglas Lake Road will be replaced with a timber bridge by the Emmet County Road Commission. Detours will include U.S. 31 to Riggsville/Robinson to Bryant Road and vice versa. It is expected the project will last for approximately 45 days.**

## SKY BRIDGE

at Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls, MI

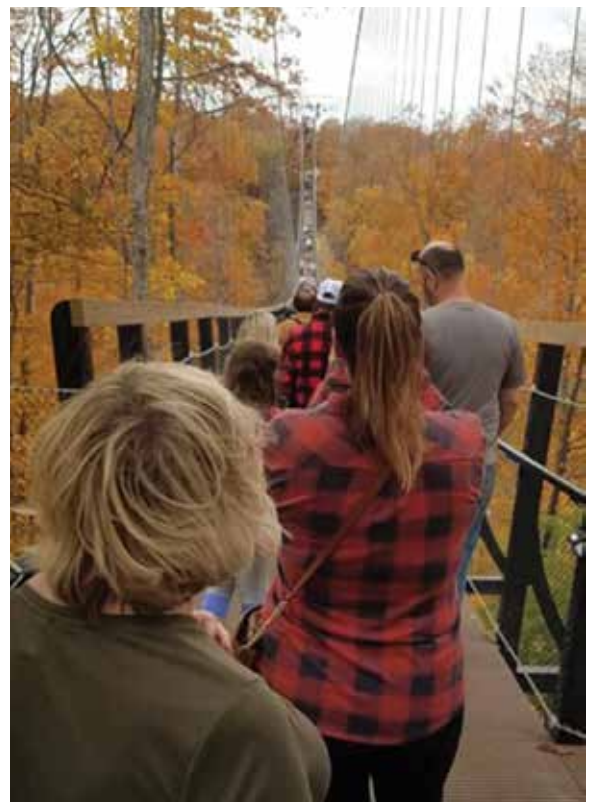
SkyBridge Michigan is easily about to become “Michigan’s second bridge,” enticing travelers to take a walk on the wild side. Panoramic valley views and extensive light displays are a guaranteed camera pleaser. Open year round, every season has a reason to take in the views from this architectural masterpiece.

SkyBridge Michigan is constructed between the peaks of McLouth to Disciples Ridge. Guests ride the historic Hemlock Scenic Chairlift to the mountain’s top, then venture out along the exhilarating 1,200-foot long and 118-foot high pedestrian bridge.

Tickets include up to 3-hour access. Your SkyBridge Michigan tickets allows for a single ride up and down the Hemlock chairlift and three hours at the summit where you can cross the bridge as many times as you would like.

There are restrooms and indoor dining available at the Eagle's Nest (top of Hemlock chairlift) and our Disciples Overlook food truck is on the far side of SkyBridge with outdoor firepits. Please check the Mountain Messenger for operational hours.

SkyBridge Michigan hours are weather permitting. More information can be found at <https://www.boynemountain.com/skybridge-michigan>.



# We Will Miss . . .



## Michael W. Robinson – Zone 61

Michael W. "Mike" Robinson, age 73, formerly of Wauseon, Ohio passed away Thursday, November 10, 2022, at the University of Michigan Hospital with his family by his side. He was born on September 11, 1949, to Wayne E. and Stella M. (Meridew) Robinson in Wauseon, Ohio. Mike graduated from Wauseon High School and Adrian College, receiving his Bachelor of Science in History and Special Education. He was a retired history and special education teacher in Evergreen, Springfield Shawnee, Edon-Northwest, and Hicksville Schools. Mike was also Dean of Students in the Hicksville School District for several years, and coached girls' softball, girls' basketball, and football for several school districts. His passion for football, coaching, and teaching was handed down to his nephew, David Robinson (1967-2014) who was also a coach, athletic director, and teacher at Fairview Schools. Andrew Michael Robinson, Mike's great-nephew continues his love for the game of football by coaching and teaching in the Montpelier School District.

After retirement, Mike became owner and operator of the Birchwood Resort in Levering, Michigan where his friends and neighbors on Douglas Lake knew him as, "Mayor Mike." Mike liked the social aspect of NASCAR racing and was an "ok" fisherman. His family and friends will remember Mike for being a genuine person who always gave to others and never met a stranger.

He is survived by his brothers, Larry (Carol) Robinson and Jeff (Melinda) Robinson; nieces and nephews, Tracy Robinson, Lisa (Brent) Trent, Tim (Stacy) Robinson, Teresa (Jake) Haas, Jason (Andrea) Robinson, Kelsi (Kristoffer) Knicely; many great-nieces and great-nephews, and a host of friends and special neighbors – too many to mention!

Mike's family would like to especially thank the Mattin Family for their unconditional love and outpouring of support that has been given to Mike over the years; Dr. Michael (Leigh) Mattin and their children, Drew, Cole, Zack, and Adam Mattin.

Memorial contributions can be made in memory of Mike to the NASCAR Foundation – Impacting lives of children in our NASCAR racing communities, by visiting <[www.nascarfoundation.org](http://www.nascarfoundation.org)>.

## John Wilhelm – Zone 31

John Robert Wilhelm passed away on January 19, 2023, at the age of 84. John was born in Columbus, Ohio to Emil and Helen Wilhelm on January 12, 1939. He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years Leslie, his loving daughters Amy (Scott) Prechtel and Sarah (Ron Doughty) Wilhelm and his four adored grandchildren, Alec (Carli Waken) Prechtel, Madeleine (Tyler Reinke) Prechtel, Joey Prechtel, and Lily Solheim. John embraced being a grandfather with enthusiasm and delight. He also leaves behind his sister Mary Ann (Hilliard) Harper, his brother Dan (Sue) Wilhelm, several nephews, and one niece. John was predeceased by his parents, and his brother Tom.

John graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Ohio State University, a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan, and a Master's degree in Political Science from Michigan State University. John influenced everyone he met with his intelligence, concern for humanity, and sense of humor. He taught thousands of students at Delta College for almost 40 years and was blessed to have a career that he enjoyed and believed in. He served on the Board of Directors for Legal Services of Eastern Michigan for many years.

After living in Saginaw for 39 years, John and Leslie retired to their wonderful cottage on Douglas Lake. He loved the natural beauty of the lake and the surrounding area. He spent his days driving his pontoon boat, reading, walking, having lively discussions, and fishing with his long-time friend Jerry.

A memorial service will be held this summer at Douglas Lake. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

## John Conover – Zone 71

The Honorable Judge John L. Conover, of Davison, Michigan, age 81, passed away on Friday, March 10, 2023, at his home. He was born in Danville, Illinois on August 19, 1941, to Robert E. Conover and Esther Doris Laflen, who preceded him in death.

John graduated from Michigan State University with a BS Degree in Economics and later graduated first in his class at the Detroit College of Law. He married the love of his life, Karen D. Figg on January 3, 1964, and they set out on a wonderful life adventure that included careers of public service and family blessings for both of them. John and Karen moved to the Flint area where he had a flourishing family law practice and Karen taught High School English. He was appointed to the 67th District Court of Genesee County in 1993 where he served for 24 years with such distinction and fair-mindedness that even criminals often credited him with turning their lives around. While putting his family first, John joyfully managed to wrestle his court dockets to the ground and still volunteer to coach little leagues. He was equally at home in hunting gear and flashy sports coats. He was a master of corny jokes, sage advice, and colorful stories, all delivered liberally to friends and strangers alike. He was manifestly generous with his time, patience, and wealth. He fiercely believed in the American dream of hard work and lived it out with enthusiasm as a model for his family and friends. "Retirement" was a foreign word in his vocabulary. He recently ran and was elected to the Genesee Intermediate School District board of directors. And he and Karen wrote a book about his years on the bench: all part of his "nonretirement." He is survived by his wife and closest friend, Karen, after 59 years of marriage. His fantastic children left to cherish the memories of a devoted father are BreeAnna (Scott) Moore and Chad (Julie) Conover. The doted and deliciously spoiled grandchildren are Brandon Conover, Lilian Moore, Ciera Conover, Miriam Moore, Zoe Conover, and the 5th-grade phenom: Oscar Moore. He is also survived by his sister, Judith (Allan) Sanders, three wonderful nieces, and one terrific nephew, brother-in-law Stephen (Marjorie) Figg, and John's feisty 94-year-old mother-in-law: Marian Figg who says of John: "He leaves a mighty big wake." Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Appropriately, John's favorite Louis L'Amour novel describes Judge Conover perfectly: The Last of a Breed.

## Janet A. Olt – Zone 11

Janet A. Olt, age 91 of Dayton, Ohio peacefully passed away at Kettering Medical Center while surrounded by love, Friday evening, April 29, 2022. She was born Friday, January 16, 1931, to Edward and Elsa (née Rinne) Olt.

Janet graduated from Stivers High School, attended Wright State University and Miami University - Middletown. She worked for Michigan Bell Telephone Company for 4 years, then 30 years as a supervisor for Ohio Bell Telephone Company (both now known as AT&T). Janet retired from AT&T and worked as a Travel Agent for

another 18 years! After a second retirement, in her spare time, while serving on several boards with David's United Church of Christ, Janet selflessly volunteered more than 4000 hours for Kettering Medical Center, as well as delivered mobile meals to local families for Meals-On-Wheels.

Janet also loved to travel. So many summers were spent enjoying Douglas Lake, Michigan. She enjoyed classical music, particularly attending live events by the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, as well as attending musicals and plays. In her later years, she would spend hours and hours working on crossword puzzles and playing computer Solitaire.

She is survived by her dear friend Sarah Hartman, and by many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service was held on May 14, 2022, at David's United Church of Christ, Kettering, Ohio.

### **Susan Carrick – Zone 11**

Susan Carrick, 80, passed away on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at Beaumont Trenton Hospital.

Born on December 11, 1941, in Sumner, Iowa, she was the daughter of Walter and Cleone (Adams) Schult. The youngest of three daughters, Susan grew up and attended school in Sumner, Iowa, graduating in 1960.

After high school, Susan went to St. Luke's Methodist Hospital School of Practical Nursing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and graduated as an LPN in 1963. She then moved to Denver, Colorado to work at St. Luke's Hospital. Next, she moved to Honolulu, Hawaii where she met her husband Larry who was serving in the United States Navy and stationed in Hawaii. They were married on May 11, 1968,

and lived in Alpena, Michigan; Key West and Jacksonville, Florida; Norfolk, Virginia; and Marietta, Georgia while Larry was in the Navy. After her husband retired from the military, they moved back to Michigan, living in Saginaw, Petoskey, and eventually on Bryant Road in Pellston.

Susan was a member of the New Hope Methodist Church in Levering. She was an avid reader and enjoyed traveling, gardening, and fishing on Douglas Lake.

Surviving are her daughters, Kristina (Steven) Ferrante of Taylor, Michigan; Jennifer Carrick of Denver, Colorado; and Suzanne (Scott Curtis) Carrick of Thornton, Colorado; grandchildren, Kayden, Ryan, and Emerson; sister Alice (Bud) Reimler of Sumner, Iowa and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Larry; her parents; and a sister, Gretchen (Bob) McNaughton.

### **Brenda Mae Roberts – Zone 71**

Brenda Roberts (née Brancheau) passed away suddenly in Columbus, Ohio on November 4, 2022.

Born October 15, 1955, in Monroe, Michigan, Brenda put herself through the Mercy College of Nursing before going on to a career of more than 20 years as a Nurse Anesthetist. Not even two bouts with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma could dampen Brenda's passion for helping others. Despite her battles with cancer, she still volunteered her time with Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

In her spare time, Brenda enjoyed reading, gardening, and traveling with her loving husband Dick.

She is survived by her husband, Dick; son, Lee; and daughter-in-law, Katie.



**DOUGLAS LAKE**  
45.5770° N, 84.6929° W



- New Calendars
- New Designs
- New Coasters
- Much MORE!

### ***Greetings Douglas Lake Merchandise Fans!***

After a wild ride this winter season, we are all ready to settle into summer on Douglas Lake! And what better way than showing your love of Douglas Lake than with all new designs for wearing and sharing? We will continue to have 5 Saturday sales throughout the summer, with times from 10 am to Noon, and located at the Self-Storage locker behind the Pellston Lodge. The dates are as follows:

**June 10 -- July 1 -- July 22 -- August 12 -- Sept 2**

Rain dates for each sale will be the Sunday after but will be announced ahead of time by eNews, or on the "I Love Douglas Lake" Facebook page. We are always looking for volunteers to work a few hours on these sale dates. Not only do you get to meet other Douglas Lake fans, but you get a jump on purchasing all the great new stuff! Just reach out to me if you are interested in helping with the sales, or assisting in any way: [merchandise@douglaslake.org](mailto:merchandise@douglaslake.org)

***See you this Summer!***

Kelly Davis, Merchandise Manager





P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

## Douglas Lake Improvement Association

[www.douglaslake.org](http://www.douglaslake.org)



**Membership Dues: \$25 a year**

Mail to: DLIA, PO Box 472,  
Pellston, MI 49769

**President – Ron Witthoff**, [president@douglaslake.org](mailto:president@douglaslake.org)

**Vice President – Scott Davis**, [vice-president@douglaslake.org](mailto:vice-president@douglaslake.org)

**Secretary – Linda Woolcott**, [secretary@douglaslake.org](mailto:secretary@douglaslake.org)

**Treasurer – Suzanne Witthoff**, [treasurer@douglaslake.org](mailto: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



### **FALL 2023 Newsletter Deadline**

**The deadline for submissions OCT 2, 2023**

Email news articles and obituaries to [info@douglaslake.org](mailto:info@douglaslake.org)

Membership updates to [membership@douglaslake.org](mailto:membership@douglaslake.org)

Send your terrific photos for the calendar to  
[pictures@douglaslake.org](mailto:pictures@douglaslake.org)

Add [info@douglaslake.org](mailto:info@douglaslake.org) and  
[membership@douglaslake.org](mailto:membership@douglaslake.org) to your contacts.



**A Message From Kelly Davis,  
Merchandise Manager**

### **Don't Miss the 2023 Sale Dates!**

**June 10, July 1, July 22, Aug 12 and Sept 2**

**Sale times: 10 AM until 12 Noon**

The Douglas Lake Store is at the storage unit beside/behind  
the Pellston Lodge, near the corner of US-31  
and Douglas Lake Road.

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

[merchandise@douglaslake.org](mailto:merchandise@douglaslake.org)

**Enjoy your Douglas Lake Merchandise!**