



Douglas Lake NEWSLETTER

November, 2023

Douglas Lake Improvement Association • www.DouglasLake.org • P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769



DLIA President's Message

Greetings from the lake. At the time of this writing, we have enjoyed a beautiful, early fall season with spectacular weather.

During our summer DLIA Executive Board meetings, the subject of the DLIA's finances was discussed. This issue was spurred in part as a consequence of the significant financial commitment we made to Munro Township on the boat ramp replacement project. I suggested, and the executive board approved the formation of the ad hoc Future Planning and Funding Committee. A call for volunteers to serve on this committee was sent out (via e-News) and those who responded to me were placed on an 8-person committee that has been approved by the executive board. Scott Davis and Cheryl Krehbiel have agreed to co-chair this committee whose charge can be paraphrased as follows:

"To review DLIA's current activities and consider if changes are in order and to examine the costs for current and future DLIA activities and determine if the current dues structure will support these activities."

This committee may reach out, through a membership survey or other means, to determine member's views on these issues. The goal is to have recommendations to the executive board by early next summer. The plan is to provide periodic progress updates on the Committee's work to members through e-News.

The subject of low lake levels has been a hot topic amongst members and lake residents this summer. In September, the University of Michigan Biological Station published an article that set the record straight on this subject, which is in this newsletter, or you can access it by using the following link. <https://lsa.umich.edu/umbs/news-events/all-news/search-news/how-do-douglas-lake-water-levels-compare-to-previous-years---.html>

The September lake level is not a historic low, but it is the lowest since 2012, and the rate of decline in lake levels this year was more rapid than usual. The lake level usually fluctuates about 1.5 feet annually per UMBS records. However, this year the level fluctuated over 2 feet. The article is a very interesting read and underscores that our lake is subject to changing lake levels and always has been.

Finally, I would like to thank and recognize Stuart Case for his leadership on the Boat Ramp Maintenance Committee. Stuart and his group have worked tirelessly to put in and take out the boat ramp dock, as well as cleaning sand and debris off the ramp. Their work is invaluable to DLIA members. Stuart has decided to step down from leading this group, and the DLIA is looking for a new leader. Please contact me if you have an interest, as this is an important position for our organization, and thank you again, Stuart. (rewitthoff@gmail.com or 734.564.3476)

Ren Witthoff, DLIA President



WINTER HAPPENINGS

Introduction to Lakes Online

offered by MSU Extension Natural Resources

Introduction to Lakes Online is designed for interested individuals, decision-makers, local leaders, resource professionals, and lakefront property owners interested in gaining knowledge about inland lakes and connecting with others who have a similar interest. The course schedule allows for regular online communication with classmates and course instructors through discussion forums and live Ask-an-Expert webinars. In this introductory course, participants increase their knowledge and understanding of the following six topics:

- Lake ecology
- Watersheds
- Shorelines
- Aquatic plant management
- Michigan water law
- Community involvement

These topics are divided into units which feature closed captioned video lectures, interactive activities, discussion forums, quizzes, and additional resources. Each unit takes approximately 2 hours to complete.

The 6-week course will kickoff on January 30, 2024. Registration is open until January 28, 2024. The cost is \$115 per person. Register by January 12, 2024 for an early bird price of \$95 per person. Scholarships are available.

A course schedule, registration details, and the 2024 course syllabus are available on the Introduction to Lakes website at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/introduction-to-lakes>



**12th Annual Riggsville Redneck Christmas Parade,
Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 6 p.m.**

The annual Riggsville Redneck Christmas Parade is not only an amazing parade, but also a charity event to benefit the Cheboygan community. The 2022 Christmas Parade raised over \$6000 in cash; over 100 new coats for Coats for Kids were donated; and 5540 pounds of food was collected for the St. Thomas Food Pantry! There were nearly 40 beautiful floats!

This year's Riggsville Redneck Christmas Parade will start at 6 pm, on Saturday, December 23, 2023. Monetary donations and donations for Coats for Kids, and food for the St. Thomas Food Pantry can be made at Sacred Heart Church. Food and coats can also be put on the last float in the parade as it passes by. All coats will be distributed to all children in need throughout the entire Cheboygan County School District.

The Parade starts at the north end of Church Road, turns west on Dotski, proceeds to North Extension Road where it heads south, then east on Polish Line Road, and north on Church Road. There will be free parking along the route.

If you're up at the lake for Christmas, this is an experience you don't want to miss!

Douglas Lake Merchandise

The online store opened on October 1, 2023 and will be open through December 15, 2023. There are still lots of styles and sizes available, but I recommend you place your orders soon! Once items are gone, they will not be re-ordered. The link to the store can be found on the DLIA website DouglasLake.org or click here: <https://douglaslakemercandise.square.site/>

We had a great summer sales season this year and I want to thank all the volunteers who made it happen: Barb Huey (who has been my sidekick at the checkout table for almost every sale for the last 4 years), Betsy Naumer, Denise Bosin, Gail Beaver, Joyce Oldham, Kim Grant, Cyndi Wolak, Karen Spezia, Carol Kaptrosky, Linda



Woolcott, Joyce Paton, Anne Covy, and Kathy Buchweitz. And a special thank you to Linda Orlow, who designed this year's calendar, and the very popular Douglas Lake wooden coasters (unfortunately, all sold out!), and Mindy Masterson, who created the lake depths design, and the children's dragonfly design. I could never accomplish a merchandise program without these folks ---- THANK YOU!

I am always looking for input on items to sell or design, and for more volunteers. You can reach me by email at merchandise@douglaslake.org or find me in the Directory. Also, please reach out to me if you have any difficulties or questions about the online store. See you all next summer!

- Kelly Davis, Merchandise Manager



Tis the Season!

by *Frank Beaver*

I think you can increase the joy of preparing for the year-end holidays without visiting a big box store and shuffling among hordes of shoppers. How about a family trip to one of the nearby area farm centers that offer homemade decorations and maybe even tasty treats like mulled cider, flavored donuts, and caramel-coated apples. Douglas Lake is surrounded by rich agricultural land just a short distance away from our cottages. When we've been able to spend the season here with family, Gail and I have found wreaths and fresh-cut Christmas trees close by. When we were here a few years ago we went to **BUR'S TREE FARM** at 4447 Riggsville Road, Cheboygan, MI 49721, phone 231-445-2020 - just west of the famed sweet corn barn. The cornfields are abutted by rows of Christmas trees of varying types and sizes for cutting yourself. Our grandson, Charlie, was visiting from England and was invited to go out in the Bur truck with the owner to find our tree. Half an hour later the two returned with the most beautiful tree, which they quickly secured on top of our car. We brought it back to our Douglas Lake cottage to decorate for Christmas. And when we prepared to return to our downstate home, the family

enjoyed stripping the tree of its holiday decor, moving it to our front yard, and outfitting it to become a winter scarecrow with a selection of neck scarves representing family alma maters.... lasting family holiday memories. The tree lot opens right before Thanksgiving, with hours Monday-Friday 11 am-5:30 pm, and Saturday/Sunday 9 am-5:30 pm.

Not far away from Bur's is **SPRAY'S LANDSCAPE, NURSERY, AND GARDEN CENTER**, at 1420 Court Street in Cheboygan, MI 49721, phone 231-627-3813. Spray's offers wreaths, garlands, and greenery pots for seasonal decor. They are open Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm, and Sat 9 am-3 pm until December 22nd. That's important because many seasonal farm centers close at the end of October. (For example, the delightful Uncle Frank's Apple Town on US-31 in Brutus, ended its season this year on October 29th.)

For a scenic ride through Northern Michigan's rolling countryside, check out **BLACK BARN FARM** at the end of Levering Road in Cross Village at 6241 N. State Road, Harbor Springs, MI 49740, phone 231-526-2486. (The mailing address is Harbor Springs.) The barn is on 20 acres of reclaimed farmland; the rural market specializes in garden produce, free-range

eggs, cider, pumpkins, holiday wreaths, and other locally produced products. Horse-drawn sleigh rides can be booked at 231-526-2486. On our first visit there we discovered that they also offer homemade pastas serving small or large gatherings. The lasagna is a favorite and can be pre-ordered for weekend pickup. For impromptu visits, Black Barn Farm is open Thursday and Friday 3 pm-6 pm, and Saturday 10 am-6 pm.



BILL'S FARM MARKET is located about 4 miles east of the US-31/Mitchell Road intersection in downtown Petoskey at 4450 E. Mitchell Road, Petoskey, MI 49770, phone 231-347-6735. Bill's stocks a cornucopia of holiday fare: bales of hay, colorful gourds, and dried ears of corn, are available in the fall, followed later by a wide-ranging assortment of wreaths from 14"-72" varied lengths of garland, mailbox huggers, swags, and centerpiece arrangements. Bill's also has fresh-cut Christmas trees (Blue Spruce, Balsam, and Fraser Fir) from his tree farm. Call 24 hours ahead (231-347-6735) for special orders, or visit Bill's online website at billsfarmmarket.com. Store hours are 9 am-5 pm, Monday-Saturday from early June until December 24th. Closed on Sundays.

Happy Holidays!



How Do Douglas Lake Water Levels Compare to Previous Years?

Scientists at the University of Michigan Biological Station measure rapid drop in water levels on Douglas Lake in 2023.

by *Chrissy Billau*, UMBS Communications Specialist

Over the past decade, Douglas Lake in northern Michigan has experienced variable water levels, much like the Great Lakes.

Experts at the University of Michigan Biological Station along Douglas Lake say that, overall, lake levels have been high for years but showed an “unusually rapid decline” during this summer’s hot, dry weather.

“Although our current low lake levels on Douglas Lake are not record lows, the rate of decline in lake levels this year was more rapid than usual,” said Dr. John Lenters, senior research specialist at UMBS who studies the effects of weather and climate on water resources, particularly the physical aspects of lakes such as water temperature, ice cover, evaporation and lake levels.

Scientists at UMBS have collected a variety of data on Douglas Lake levels for a century.

“The period of high waters might be over for now,” said Adam Schubel, resident biologist at UMBS, who takes measurements at the Stockard Lakeside Lab boat well.

The lake level is 712.25 feet above sea level, which is only about two inches below the average for the month of September, but it’s also the lowest water level researchers have seen since 2012.

Schubel said the level of Douglas Lake usually swings about 1.5 feet annually between the high and low.

On average, lake levels tend to show two peaks per year, once in late spring and another in mid-winter. The spring peak occurs mostly as a result of snowmelt, but also because of increasing rainfall during a time period when lake evaporation is still low. Similarly, the winter peak follows higher autumn precipitation and low evaporation. Both of these seasonal patterns are typical for the climate of northern Michigan.

For example, Douglas Lake measured 714.65 feet above sea level on May 7 of this year, around the time of the spring peak. On August 10, 2023, it had dropped over two feet to 712.43 feet.

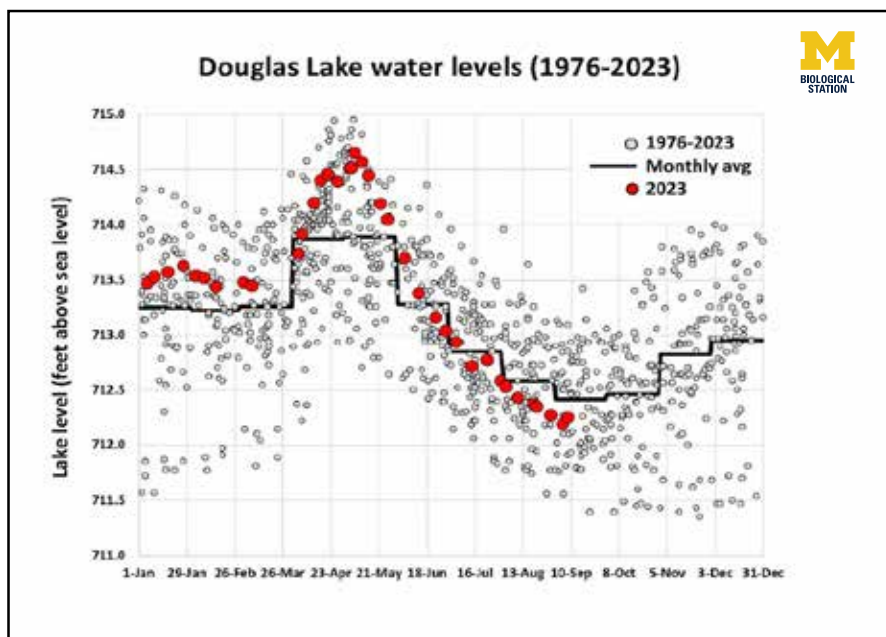
“We had a pretty high spring peak in 2023 due to lots of snowmelt and spring rain,” Lenters said.

According to National Weather Service data collected at the Pellston airport, the Douglas Lake area experienced above-normal precipitation in the spring, followed by below-normal precipitation after that — and below-normal precipitation overall for this year.

“This matches what we’re seeing in the lake level data — an above-normal rise in the spring and more-rapid-than-normal decline in the summer,” Lenters said.

Air temperature data show that Pellston had quite a few periods of above-normal temperatures too, including a few that bump up against or set new records.

The September record, since 1980, was 94 degrees on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. That was one degree above the previous record of 93 degrees recorded on September 5, 1999.



Temperatures also reached an unusually warm 80 degrees or higher for a few days in April. Ice out in South Fishtail Bay occurred on April 13, two days earlier than the average.

“The high temperatures in mid-April may have contributed to the slightly earlier ice-off we saw on Douglas Lake,” Lenters said, “and the warm temperatures since then likely led to higher-than-normal lake evaporation rates this summer, once the lake

got really warm. Together with the below-normal precipitation, these would both lead to the rapid drop in lake levels that we’ve seen in 2023.”

The lowest recorded lake level in the UMBS records is 710.79 feet above sea level in October of 1955. The highest recorded lake level was 714.95 feet recorded on May 6, 2018.

The recent record-high levels have caused significant erosion and essentially nibbled away at the nearshore habitat.

“As the lake levels have declined, they’ve exposed an exceptionally large beach area,” Schubel said. “We’ve seen a similar pattern on the Great Lakes in recent years, which has vastly increased shoreline beach habitat. That’s good news for organisms that favor those conditions, like Piping Plovers on the Great Lakes or Spotted Sandpipers on Douglas Lake.”

the Eben Ice Caves

by *Scott Davis*

For those of us who spend the winter at the lake, finding fun and interesting things to do during the colder months can be a bit of a challenge. But if you're willing to brave the cold, the Eben Ice Caves stand out as a hidden gem. Located near the small town of Eben Junction - not far from Marquette - these ice caves are a testament to the breathtaking forces of nature.

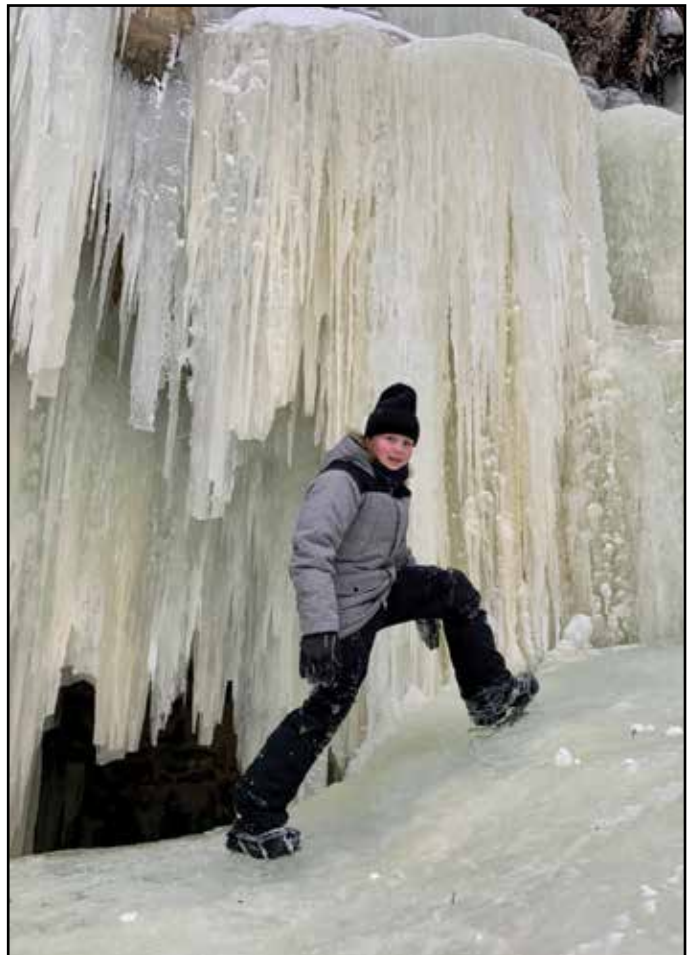
The Eben Ice Caves are formed when water from the nearby Rock River seeps through cracks in the sandstone cliffs and freezes during the frigid Upper Peninsula winters. As the water freezes, it produces stunning ice formations that create a labyrinth of caves, tunnels, and ice walls. These frozen sculptures are a testament to the beauty of nature, and provide adventurous visitors with a fantastic winter destination.

There is a hike in from the parking lot of about a mile – and a loop trail around the formations is maybe another mile and a half. Generally, the trail is well-packed, so unless you arrive right after a big snow, it's a reasonable hike. Keep in mind that access

to the caves can vary from year to year, depending on weather conditions, so it's a good idea to check with local authorities or park rangers for the latest information before your visit.

In the dreary days of winter, the Eben Ice Caves offer a unique and unforgettable winter adventure. With their stunning ice formations and serene natural beauty, they are a testament to the wonders of nature and a must-see destination for outdoor

enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. You can spend the night in Marquette and get a taste of the big city while you're at it. It makes for a fun weekend that can help to break up the sometimes dark and dreary northern Michigan winters.



UMBS Announces Results of 2023 BioBlitz

by *Chrissy Billau*, UMBS Communications Specialist



During a three-day period in late July, the University of Michigan Biological Station hosted its first BioBlitz in 16 years to assess biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Scientists from across the country and families who live along Douglas Lake worked together to tally the living things that call this part of northern Michigan home.

“From all of us at UMBS, thank you to each and every person around Douglas Lake and across the U.S. who participated in our exciting BioBlitz,” said Dr. Aimée Classen, director of the U-M Biological Station and a professor in the U-M Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. “You volunteered your time, boats, and expertise and turned our effort into a major success. The diversity of species is spectacular and beautiful.”

Targeting aquatic life and shoreline species in and around Douglas Lake, the researchers and private citizens logged a total of 509 species from Friday, July 21, to Sunday, July 23.

About 35% were plants, about 35% were insects and about 7% were fungi. Birds, mammals, amphibians, mollusks, diatoms, and fish comprised the other 23%.

Some of the most observed species were Siberian Water Milfoil (31 observations), Swamp Milkweed (15), Yellow Perch (8) and the Common Loon (14).

The work was done by 60 observers, and their numerous team members, who made a total of 1,644 observations.

They found everything from smallmouth bass, Caspian terns and algae to water lilies, snakes and bald eagles. Volunteers also logged beavers, beetles, mudpuppies, muskrats and dragonflies.

“We used the iNaturalist app to make the BioBlitz accessible and fun for everyone from curious beginners to expert scientists,” said Adam Schubel, resident biologist at UMBS. “It’s a free, fun and powerful data and learning tool used by naturalists at all levels that includes astounding image recognition software — making it easy to record observations even if you don’t know exactly what plant or fish you’ve found.”

Schubel credits Dr. Susan Fawcett, a research botanist at the University of California, Berkeley, and UMBS instructor, for leading and inspiring the iNaturalist participation.

“A Petoskey native and U-M alumna who now lives in East Jordan and Berkeley, California, Susan accumulated the most observations during the BioBlitz,” Schubel said.

UMBS is using the information gathered to build an online field guide in the fall that will serve as a community resource.

“The BioBlitz has been an awesome opportunity for the Biological Station to interact with our neighbors here on Douglas Lake and

also scientists from our researcher community here as well as the Zoological Collections Museum on Main Campus,” said Dr. Helen Habicht, research coordinator and lab manager at UMBS. UMBS partnered with the Douglas Lake Improvement Association, researchers at UMBS, the U-M Museum of Zoology and Herbarium and the State of Michigan EGLE for the event.

“The BioBlitz gave us the opportunity to bring experts from five divisions of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology — Plants, Insects, Mollusks, Fishes, and Amphibians and Reptiles — to help gather information about the diversity of plants and animals in Douglas Lake,” said Dr. Hernán López-Fernández, U-M associate professor, associate curator of fishes and associate chair for collections of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology museums.

“As environmental conditions on our planet change, it is critical to understand how those changes are affecting biodiversity, and that can only be done by continuously monitoring the presence and distribution of species through time. Collaborations between the Museums and UMBS, such as the BioBlitz, make this monitoring possible and gives us the opportunity to reach out to the community to showcase the diversity of life in their neighborhood.”

Scientists from nearly a dozen institutions across the country participated, including the University of Michigan, Bowling Green State University, Michigan State University, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Loyola University Chicago, Texas A&M, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, University of California Berkeley, University of Vermont, Virginia Commonwealth University and College of the Siskiyous.

Jud VanWyke, a Ph.D. student from Michigan State University, visited UMBS to participate in the first UMBS BioBlitz since 2007. He hitched a ride on a pontoon boat with a family that lives along Douglas Lake.

The children and their parents helped him hunt for fungi such as morel and truffles in a cold stream.

“It’s a community of people who care a little bit more about the environment,” VanWyke said. “People are willing to learn and get their hands dirty and understand what’s going on and what are the scientists doing. I think it’s really healthy for humans to try to understand all the other life that’s out there.”

Van Wyke took fungi samples to study their DNA.

“For us to better understand how things have evolved over time — when we’re talking about genomes — we compare genomes to each other and understand how things have sort of diverged from each other,” VanWyke said. “But we also need to document what is in the environment so we can understand if it is still there later in life or if we’ve impacted the environment in a way that changes the ecosystem.”

“This BioBlitz is a snapshot in time,” Habicht said. “We hope to start hosting one every three years or so, and the idea is that we’ll alternate between the lake and the terrestrial, or forest, systems.”

UMBS hosted an Open House at the scientific field station on Sunday, July 23, in celebration of the BioBlitz’s successful teamwork.

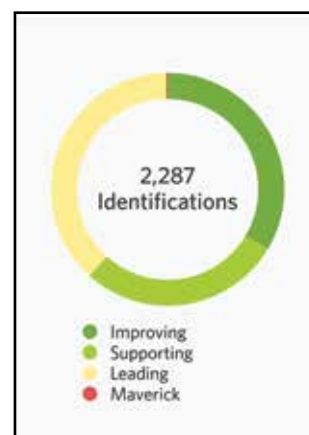
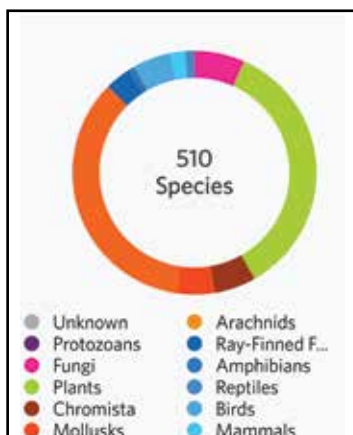
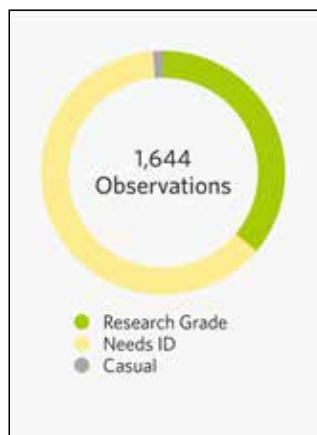
*“How lavish is nature building, pulling down,
creating, destroying, chasing every material particle
from form to form, ever changing, ever beautiful.”*
— John Muir

Researchers showed off organisms collected that weekend and from the UMBS collection.

“The Open House was wonderful,” Habicht said. “The atmosphere had so much great energy. We had young families coming in with their children as well as residents who are familiar faces because they regularly attend our Summer Lecture Series. They received tours of the whole campus and got to see labs and our piping plover rearing center. It was fun to see everybody interacting and talking science.”

View the breakdown of the BioBlitz results, species photos and observations on the UMBS BioBlitz project website. <https://lsa.umich.edu/umbs/news-events/all-news/search-news/umbs-announces-results-of-2023-bioblitz.html> Watch the video to experience the BioBlitz wonder and excitement. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKPnev5FF4E>

Screenshots of stats from: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/umbs-2023-bioblitz?tab=stats>



The French Explorers of North America and The Names They Left Behind

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Beginning with Jacques Cartier's arrival in 1534 and as the result of his further explorations into the interior of North America, the French established their early dominance over the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, as well as along the Great Mississippi River and its tributaries for over two centuries thereafter.

Earlier articles traced the explorations and travels of the French explorers, be they Jesuit missionaries, fur traders, businessmen, or administrators acting on behalf of the French crown, the Catholic Church, or the various fur trading operations ongoing during that period.

Although the French were not primarily focused on colonization, their efforts produced many familiar place names still associated with their extensive explorations and early settlements. A significant portion of the earlier place names were based upon descriptions of the physical characteristics encountered, such as the terrain, the geographical location, or even the plant life found in a given area. Examples of such names included:

LAKE SUPERIOR: the name used to designate the largest Great Lake was derived from its physical position above or to the north of Lake Huron, through which it had initially been reached by the early 17th century explorers.

LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS: the name given to a small group of 36 islands positioned along the Lake Huron shoreline about 30 miles from Mackinac Island. The name itself references the numerous "channels" flowing between and among those islands.

L'ARBRE CROCHE: which literally means "crooked" "tree", was in reference to a large, highly visible and misshapen tree within an extensive Odawa settlement stretching between Harbor Springs and Cross Village along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan.

SAULT STE. [SAINTE] MARIE [MICHIGAN]: a city built adjacent to "La Riviere de Sainte Marie", the river for which it was, in part, named. That river connected Lake Huron with Lake Superior, and its name was chosen as a reference to the feast day of "The Holy Heart of Mary." The original settlement was founded by Fathers Claude Dablon and Jacques Marquette in 1668. The other portion of the settlement's name ["Sault"] described a series of rapids downstream from the settlement, the term having been derived from the French words for "jump" or "leap."

THE AU SABLE RIVER: a direct translation of the French name given to a tributary river some 130 miles long that emptied into Lake Huron near Oscoda, Michigan. "Sable" is the French word for "sand" and, hence, they called it "La Riviere au Sable" or Sand River.

FOND DU LAC [WISCONSIN]: an area said to have been explored by Father Claude-Jean Allouez in the 1600s. The name, translated into English, would be "the bottom of the lake," which was a reference to the fact that it was situated at the furthestmost point on the southern end of Lake Winnebago.

EAU CLAIRE [WISCONSIN]: a city in an area initially explored in the late 1600s, its name literally translated as "clear" [claire] "water" [eau]. The French explorers coining that name did so after paddling through the rain-muddied waters of the Chippewa River and then entering the surprisingly pristine waters of the Eau Claire River.

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN [WISCONSIN]: a settlement located near the confluence of the Wisconsin and the Mississippi Rivers. The first portion of the name, in French, refers to a "meadow" or a "plain." The second part is a reference to the name of the local chieftain of that region, whose native name translated into French was "chien" [or "dog" in English]. Hence, the name of the present-day city would be translated as "Dog's Meadow." The date of its founding is said to be 6-17-1673, the date upon which Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet encamped there while on their journey to the Mississippi River.

DES PLAINES [ILLINOIS]: a city founded in the Des Plaines River valley. Explorers in the 1600s had named the river "La Riviere des Plaines", apparently because the trees along its banks reminded them of the European "plane" trees of their homeland.

DETROIT [MICHIGAN]: Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, who had earlier commanded a garrison stationed at the French Fort de Baudette on the Straits of Mackinac near St. Ignace, later moved his troops to the site of the present-day city of Detroit for reasons both strategic and political. The river upon which the city would later be built had been named "Le Detroit du Lac Erie" by early 17th century explorers due to the narrowness of the waterway that connected Lake Erie with Lake Huron, to the north. Although "d'etroit" has been interpreted as a reference to a "strait", its underlying meaning is based on the French word "etroit", meaning "narrow," a descriptor often used in reference to a roadway of narrower width. The tightness of the water passage near the fort was viewed as an advantage when it came to protecting access to the more northern Great Lakes from encroachments by potential settlers from the English colonies to the east.

TERRE HAUTE [INDIANA]: by the 1700s, French explorers and fur traders had begun to penetrate the interior regions surrounding the Great Lakes. One such location was Terre Haute, Indiana, established on the high ground bordering the Wabash River. "Terre Haute" literally translates as "high ground" or "high land", so named because of the bluffs bordering portions of that river.

These early examples represent place names created by the early French explorers of the Great Lakes region with reference to the physical terrain. Other French place names, however, were often based on the names of French saints or, later, on the names of the early explorers and administrators themselves.

Womenade 2023 Update

by *Kim Grant*

The DOUGLAS LAKE WOMENADE group had a busy summer celebrating its 20-year anniversary of helping individuals and families in need in the communities around the lake. Near-record attendance numbers at the summer gatherings lead to a lot of fun, and a successful fundraising season. It was great to see so many new faces this year!

The Womenade Board has been busy cultivating partnerships with various local entities to be able to connect with those in need. Most recently, donations to McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation, Pellston Schools, Social Services, Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan, and Together Lifting Children, have provided financial support for things like medications, transportation needs, medical supplies, gas cards, Walmart cards, groceries, and kids clothing and hygiene needs.

If you would like more information, and/or to be added to the Womenade e-mail list, contact Kim Grant at:

grant1kj@gmail.com.



IF LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE....
IF LIFE GIVES YOU PROBLEMS, SEEK WOMENADE!

Reading Buddies

Making a difference on our community.

by *Marilyn Kelemen*



Reading Buddies was the dream of 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 Pellston Elementary grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade. 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, DL 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 that 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 have distance between ourselves and 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 for 50 days this semester, and are rapidly progressing. Join the fun!!



SPOTLIGHT ON ZONE REPS

Zones 31, 32, and 102 have new Representatives on the DLIA Board. Zones 31 & 32 are White Birch Drive and Seabrook Lane: while Zone 102 includes Young Road and Quiet Lane.

Dorothy Prins – Zone 31 Representative

My husband, Cal, and I moved from Petoskey to Douglas Lake in September of 2020. We had spent many sunny days on our boat on Walloon Lake with our children, and when a friend mentioned that a house just down from their cottage on Douglas Lake might be going on the market, we reached out to the past owners. Cal and I had wanted a home on the lake, and feel very blessed that we found a year-round home on White Birch Drive. This allows us to work part-time in Harbor Springs, and spend the rest of our time on the lake. Our grown children and baby grandson are able to make frequent trips to the lake to enjoy boating, tubing, fishing, and ice-skating. While summer on the lake is so much fun, I also appreciate the quiet beauty that arrives each fall and the wildlife that makes its appearance on the ice mid-winter. It is a pleasure to be our Zone Rep.

Susan Hartwig – Zone 32 Representative

I began coming to the lake as a child in 1968 when my family purchased a property and began building our cottage on Maple Bay. Spending my summers on the lake gave me the opportunity to swim, sail, water ski, kayak, and hike during the summer, and downhill and cross-country ski in the winter. One of my favorite activities is kayaking down the Maple River - from its mouth in Maple Bay to Douglas Lake Road. My husband, David Senner, and I have a place behind my parent's cottage where we spend a couple of months in the summer, a week or so in the fall, and time at Christmas. Our daughter, Emma, also spent her childhood summers at the lake. The rest of the year we live in Minneapolis. I enjoy many of the same activities I did growing up, but I no longer downhill ski, and gardening has replaced water skiing during the summer. I look forward to serving as Zone Rep as a way to give back to the lake community.

John Young – Zone 102 Representative

I've been coming to Douglas Lake all my life, starting in 1960. My family has cabins on Stoney Point at the end of what is now Young Road, on property my grandparents, Leslie and Edna French, bought in 1916. I grew up swimming, fishing, sailing, and waterskiing on the lake, although now I like to spend a lot of time canoeing around the lake with my wife, Anna. I also enjoy hiking and cross-country skiing around the lake, as well as in the surrounding area. I live in Charlevoix, Michigan, but since my wife and I retired this year, we are spending about half our time at the lake. My father, Jack Young, was President of the DLIA in the early 1980s, and my mother, Betty Young, was Zone Rep before my cousin, Betsy Naumer, took over. Now that she is slowing down, she suggested I take over, as I know everyone in the zone pretty well, and with more time since retirement, I wanted to become more involved with the lake association like my parents did when they retired.

WELCOME NEW DLIA MEMBERS! Fall 2023

ZONE 21

Douglas & Margaret Robinson
10810 Northwoods Dr

Janet Zarbaugh
7051 Bryant Rd

ZONE 51

Amy Ryan & Rob Macaulay
8720 Silver Strand Rd

ZONE 71

Dan & Teri Wallace
9970 Silver Strand Rd

ZONE 91

Julie & Chris Bogas
9231 Silver Strand Rd

Roy & Liz Martin
9621 MacArthur Rd

Did You Know???

One recent evening, we heard the annoying “chirp” of a smoke alarm. After spending several minutes attempting to 1) discover the correct smoke alarm, 2) dismantle the battery, and 3) install the new battery, we thought we were done, only to hear once again the “chirp.” Once again, we went through the three steps, to no avail. At that point, it was suggested we call the fire department for assistance. Huh?? Yes indeed, dial 911 and let the operator know it isn't an emergency, but that you need assistance with a smoke alarm. Within less than a half-hour, three firefighters came to our rescue. They examined the smoke alarm and found it was almost ten years old, dismantled it, and said it was time for a new alarm. A second smoke alarm near the first alarm was also examined for the manufactured date and found to be newer. We were also told they would return to install the new smoke alarm. All this took place within approximately a half-hour. The moral of the story – the firefighters are there to help keep smoke alarms in working order and to keep homeowners safe and off ladders.

- Joan Hartwig

We Will Miss . . .



RUTH ALICE BUSKIRK SMITH – ZONE 31

Ruth Alice Buskirk Smith, age 95, died Monday, May 8, 2023, at the Chelsea Retirement Community, in Chelsea, Michigan. She was born on April 11, 1928, on the family farm in Vestaberg, Michigan, to Royal and Sarah Martin Buskirk, and was one of seven children – Neil, Naomi, Luke, Esther, Ruth, Joanna, and Philip.

Ruth went to a one-room school for the first eight years and graduated in 1946 from Pellston High School. The first year in high school she walked three miles both ways to Pellston. The second year, she was happy to ride their bus. After high school, she worked for one year, and then went on to Saginaw General Hospital and graduated in 1950 as a Registered Nurse.

Ruth worked as a Registered Nurse for 37 years, practicing in a variety of hospitals and clinics in Michigan, California, and Massachusetts. While working with families in Detroit, she began her life-long appreciation of the Salvation Army.

Ruth married Russell L. Smith on August 26, 1960, at Central Methodist Church, Detroit. In the summer of 1962, Ruth and Russell went on a six-week Bible Lands tour. This trip, and a 1997 Kenyan safari in Ruth's retirement years, were the highlights of her extensive travel, which included all fifty States and 26 countries.

Ruth and Russell spent summers at their cottage on Douglas Lake until 2010 when they moved to the Chelsea Retirement Center.

Survivors include her husband Russell, their children Andrew (Karen) of Clinton, New York, and Maria of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Surviving siblings are Joanna Babcock of Port Richey, Florida, and Philip Buskirk of Petoskey, Michigan, and a host of nephews and nieces. Ruth was a caring and adventurous person, a loving wife to Russell, and a mother to their children in 62 years of marriage.

A memorial service for Ruth was held in the Chapel at the Chelsea Retirement Community. A memorial to Ruth may be given to the Salvation Army or your favorite charity.

LYNN CLARKE – ZONE 101

Doris Emmelyn "Lynn" Clarke, 85, of Chicago, Illinois passed away on August 11, 2023. Lynn was born on November 21, 1937, in Atlanta, Georgia, to the late Emmett Bradley Collins and Dorothy Walton Yaun Collins. Lynn was the youngest female full professor of nursing at The University of Michigan, and dedicated her career to the field of nursing. She also played a pivotal role in training nurses to become physician assistants. Lynn's passion for education led her to complete her undergraduate and graduate studies at Duke University.

Lynn was a kind, loving, and generous person who touched the lives of many. She had a deep love for gardening, mentoring, volunteering, and traveling. Lynn also found joy in reading and was an avid fan of college basketball and football.

Lynn is survived by her beloved husband, Jim Clarke; her son, Jim Clarke; her daughter, Laura Clarke Guenther, and son-in-law, Carl Guenther; her grandchildren, August Clarke, Sarah Clarke, Bell Guenther, Owen Guenther, and Scarlett Guenther; her sister, Debbie Phillips; her brother, Dan Collins, and her sister-in-law, Blair Collins. Lynn was preceded in death by her father, Emmett Bradley Collins, her mother, Dorothy Walton Yaun Collins, and her brother, Emmett Bradley Collins.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Lynn's honor at the Norwood Park Historical Society in Chicago. Her ashes will be laid to rest at Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, at a later date.

Lynn Clarke will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched. Her legacy as a dedicated professor, mentor, and compassionate individual will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

NANCY JEAN RABITOY – ZONE 11

Nancy Rabito, born May 11, 1960, died suddenly one week after her 63rd birthday on May 18, 2023. After Nancy graduated from The University of Michigan, she started a job in Texas, where she met an Upper Peninsula man, named Gary Rabito. They moved back to Michigan in 1986, where they married, and after living in Westland and Southfield, MI, they permanently moved to her grandmother's cottage on Douglas Lake in 2004. She had spent all her childhood summers here, so was thrilled to be a full-time resident.

Nancy was multi-talented and wore many hats over her short lifetime. She held many jobs, including a computer business, a jewelry business, and a boat rental business. Her photos, ceramics, and jewelry were stunning; and her home was notable for the beautiful flowers she grew, and for the many hummingbirds that flocked to the feeders on the front window.

Nancy is survived by her husband Gary, her beloved little dog, Lyndsy, brother Mark, and sister-in-law Patricia.

HUGH EMERSON JARVIS – ZONE 51

Hugh Emerson Jarvis, 85, of Harrison Township, passed on Feb. 24, 2023, after battling lung issues caused by COVID. Hugh was born on June 24, 1937, to Harold Samuel Jarvis and Vivian (Rhea) Jarvis in Detroit, Michigan.

He graduated from Cooley High School in 1955 and worked as a cadet for two years with the Detroit Police Department before enrolling at what is now Ferris State University. He later transferred to Michigan State University and received his bachelor's degree in history in 1960 and a master's degree in social science in 1964.

Hugh began his teaching career with East Detroit Public Schools at Grant Junior High, later transferring to Kelly Junior High in 1966. In 1967, he was appointed president of the East Detroit Federation of Teachers. From 1969-1970, Hugh was the staff representative for the American Federation of Teachers. He was president of the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel, now known as AFT Michigan, from 1981 to 1996. Former Michigan Governor James Blanchard appointed Hugh to the Northern Michigan Board of Control where he served from 1985-1993, chairing the board from 1989-91.

He was a member of the Democratic Party serving as a state party officer and a delegate to the national conventions in 1988 and 1992. He also served on both the Executive Council of the Michigan State AFL-CIO and the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO.

He was best known as a devoted partner, great brother, caring and supportive uncle, friend to all who met him, teacher, powerful labor leader, and a role model for activism and commitment to the greater good. His humility, charisma, and courage inspired all those around him to do better. He was fun-loving and caring. Hugh was an avid pheasant hunter, fisherman, and sports fan spending much of his retirement at his Douglas Lake cottage or going to MSU football games, never missing a Spartan-Wolverine game in more than 60 consecutive years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Ray Jarvis; sister-in-law, Barbara Howlett Jarvis (Dale); and nephew, Clayton Jarvis. Hugh is survived by his partner of 27 years, Alice Andrews; his brother, Dale Jarvis; five nieces; three nephews; three great-nieces; and two great-nephews.

To honor Hugh's legacy, contributions may be made to his union's Reclaim the Promise Fund at AFT Michigan, 2661 East Jefferson Ave, Detroit, MI 48207. The fund will assist locals and remind them of Hugh's tremendous work.

EILEEN B. RANKIN – ZONE 81

Eileen Rankin, 95, died on April 30 in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. She was born in Columbus, OH in 1927 to Edward Buckley and Catherine Stiles Buckley.

She had two older sisters, Jean and Doris, and a younger brother, Eddie.

Eileen met her future husband, Robert Rankin, in high school, and they were married in 1948. They both attended Ohio State University. After graduating, they moved to Morgantown, West Virginia, where Bob taught Psychology at WVU and Eileen received a Master's degree in Library Science and worked at the university library. Their daughter, Kathleen, was born in West Virginia, and in 1968 the family moved to Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Eileen was a librarian at the public library, and after leaving that position served as a member of the Library Board. In that capacity, she was proud to have participated

in the process of expanding and renovating the library. Later in her working career, she was a secretary at Core Laboratories. She also did volunteer work.

Despite living some distance away, Eileen maintained close ties to her extended family and made frequent trips to visit her siblings and other relatives. She thoroughly enjoyed becoming a grandmother to her grandson, Griffin, and was fond of the series of "grand-dogs" who joined the family over the years.

Eileen and Bob (who always called her "Eenie") enjoyed traveling in the US and Canada, and spent many summers welcoming family and friends to their cottage on Douglas Lake in northern Michigan. She enjoyed reading, gardening, sewing, knitting, cross-stitching, calligraphy, and did genealogical research for many years.

Eileen was predeceased by her parents, her husband of 69 years, her sisters Jean Wheeler and Doris Bender, her brother-in-law Lloyd Wheeler, and her nephews Craig Buckley and Charles Wheeler. She is survived by her daughter, son-in-law Alan Grams, grandson Griffin, her brother Edward Buckley, Jr. (Patty), 2 nieces and 4 nephews, and their families.



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 2024 Newsletter

Deadline for submissions: April 2, 2024

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



DLIA online store will be open
through December 15, 2023.

DouglasLake.org or click here:

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

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

merchandise@douglaslake.org

Enjoy your Douglas Lake Merchandise!