Again this year, the Society Newsletters are being underwritten by a generous donation from Frances Vorys, a Society Life member.

Still haven't renewed your Society membership for 2013?? Don't miss out on a great year of events and much more! RENEW NOW! Click HERE

You're Invited

2103 Exhibition Special Members Preview Saturday, May 25
5:30 - 7:30
Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum
735 Park Street, Saugatuck
at the foot of the steps to Mt. Baldhead

Dining Around The Village Table

Celebration of the Arts Home Tour
Sunday, June 30, 2013 | 1 to 5pm
Tickets $40 per person
Hosted by B.J. Silverstone
2450 Lakeshore Drive, Fennville

You won't want to miss this one! Come stroll the home, gardens and grounds of B.J. Silverstone's eclectic Fennville home, nestled in a wooded 5 acres on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan at 2450 Lakeshore Drive, a bit north of M-89. The house, hers since the 1960s, has been extended over the years to include a two story studio, rambling rooms and decks, with a rustic interior decorated in barnwood, stone
"The Mount Baldhead Show"
Reception & Preview

"The Mount Baldhead Show -- an artistically diverse exhibition interpreting its landmark namesake through the talents of SD Middle School eighth-graders invites Society members to a private reception and preview on Wednesday, May 15 from 6 to 8 pm at the Old School House History Center.

The show features exhibits created by 78 students of English teacher Christina Lewis, exploring their impressions of Mt. Baldhead and its history in artworks that include paintings, sketches, models, mobiles, dioramas and videos.

Accompanying the exhibits are "observation poetry" (based on visits to Baldhead), "presentation poetry" (reflections on a classroom presentation and stories by local historian/author Kit Lane) and "picture poetry" (perceptions prompted by historical photos from the Historical Society archives).

The exhibition will be open for free public viewing from Thursday, May 16 until Monday, June 10, 11am-4pm daily at the Old School House.

Colorfully costumed docents will greet and direct guests, while a variety of appetizers and sweets will be served, along with wine, beer and spirits including new Red Streak Hard Cider donated by Fennville's recently established Virtue Cider.

In the studio, two cabaret shows (2pm and 3:30pm) will present music, magic and drama performed by area theatre guild members, with B.J. herself as Master of Ceremonies.

Roaming the grounds you'll come across a badminton court, wildflower garden with a gazebo and frog pond, plus a 100-year-old log cabin "playhouse" and guest room, with some of its original furnishings. You'll also encounter twelve plein-air artists at work, and have an opportunity to bid for their works in an auction at 4:30, with the proceeds donated to the Historical Society. At the bluff's edge, enjoy a deck view of the lake and beach below. An electric taxi will be available for those needing help moving around the property.

Along the bluff adjacent to the Silverstone property, the home/studio complex of the late artist Bill Olendorf will be open to party guests, exhibiting a selection of his last paintings. On the central deck of the complex, a six-piece student jazz band from South Haven High School will provide a musical ambiance for the event.

With all food and beverages donated by event hosts, guest charges will support the Historical Society's volunteer-based programs and activities including exhibitions at its Pump House Museum in Saugatuck and its Old School House History Center / "Back-In-Time Garden Pathway" in Douglas.

For information and reservations, phone 269.857.5751 or e-mail info@sdhistoricalsociety.org.
Saugatuck’s Sharon Kelly has been elected president of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, succeeding outgoing president Marsha Kontio. Kelly is an attorney who by her own description has "managed to figure out how to live in Saugatuck and practice in Ann Arbor". Owning a home here for about 10 years, she has been a full-time resident for the past two, becoming increasingly active in the community. She was elected to the SDHS Board in 2012, and wrote the successful $12,000 grant awarded to the Society by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs this year (2013). She also is a member of the City of Saugatuck Planning Commission.

Having graduated magna cum laude from Nazareth College, she received her Masters Degree in Russian History from the University of Michigan and obtained her law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law where she graduated summa cum laude. Her practice focuses on divorce matters, particularly those cases involving complicated economic situations.

Tuesday Talks are arranged by the SDHS Program Group. Direct questions and or suggestions for 2014 to Jim Schmiechen at James.Schmiechen@gmail.com

**July 2:** Mike Sweeney, Michigan’s Hottest Town. Procol Harem, Alice Cooper, and others invade Saugatuck. **Sponsored by Janie & Jim Flemming**

**July 9:** Elizabeth Chodos, Ox-Bow: Living In Sand For Over 100 Years. **Monty Collins & Jerry Dark**

**July 16:** Kimberly Hall, Climate Change and West Michigan.

**July 23:** April Scholtz, The Secret life of the Blanding Frog and Other Duneland Nature Stories

**July 30:** Ken Kutzel & Dave Ball, Saugatuck and Douglas Art Discoveries & the Art of Restoration. **Sponsored by Larry & Shirley Akins and Floyd Fleming**

**August 6:** The State Park Hiker's, To the Dunes: Photos Stories from A State Park Hiking Group. **Sponsored by Sharon Kelly and Janie & Jim Flemming**
Sally Withers has received the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society's top-honor Charles J. Lorenz Award of Achievement for 2013, and Cynthia Sorensen has won the Society's Volunteer Of The Year Award. Both are Saugatuck residents.

The Lorenz Award was established by the Society in 1997 to honor the memory of Charles Lorenz, who gave generously of his time, talent, money and energy in the formation and development of this organization. Winners are selected each year by a special Society committee, recognizing distinguished leadership in fulfilling the Historical Society's mission to "help the community understand its past and use its history to shape its future and preserve its quality of life".

Winthers, a former Society Board Secretary, was cited for her wide-ranging and freely given assistance in many Society activities, including: designer of both the 2012 edition and the soon to be published 2013 Historical Chronicle "newspapers"; member of the "Save the Barrel" committee; designer of the Society's Around the Village Table award-winning cookbook; a long-time member of the Museum Design Team; producer of the school locker display and graphics in the "Back-in-Time" school room exhibit at the Old School House History Center; 2010 Ox-Bow Heritage Festival Co-Chair and Design Chair for 2011 Douglas Heritage Festival; designer and producer of the last two Membership Directories; designer of posters and logos designer for many SDHS projects and programs.

The Volunteer Of The Year Award honors outstanding August 13: Mary Jo Lemanski, Looking at Dune Formation as Abstract Art. Sponsored by Beachway Resort, Doug & Debbie West, and Robin Bauer, Realtor, Shoreline Realtors
August 20: Jack Sheridan, Beach Stories: Low Water, High Water and Beach Life. Sponsored by Star of Saugatuck and Terry Burns
August 27: Kit Lane, Goshorn Lake. Is it really bottomless? Sponsored by Osman Flowers & Firs and Howard & Paula Schultz

If you would like to sponsor one of the Tuesday Talks, please REPLY to this email. Sponsorships are $150.

Introducing the 2013 Young Scholars
service to the Society. Candidates are nominated by standing committee chairs, with current Board members excluded from eligibility, and winners are selected by majority vote of the Board.

Sorensen's selection for this award recognizes her many years of active participation as a Historical Society volunteer, always willing to stuff envelopes, mail out newsletters, make cookies, and in general be of help to anyone who is in need. More recently she has worked with the archives team of Mary Voss and Ken Kutzel and devotes Mondays to the good of the Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society. For several years her name has come to the forefront as a candidate recipient and this was her year to be honored.

---

**2013 Society Monthly Programs**

*At the Old School House History Center except December*

**June 12:** Our Local Farmland Forecast: A 2013 Crop Report and Some Ideas for Your Table by David Geen of Hungry Village Tours who talks us through the country with local growers about farm conditions and what to expect at this fall’s markets.

**July 10:** Low-Key Genius: O.C. Simonds and his Pier Cove Simonds was one of America's most

This year's "Young Scholars" (L to R) are Troy Prill, Casey Walle, Kelsie King and Christopher Aldridge, accompanied by intern program coordinator Bill Underdown. Intern Jessie Meengs was absent during photography.

The 2013 Young Scholar Interns have arrived for the summer at the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society. Interns include Troy Prill, Jessie Meengs, Chris Aldridge, Casey Walle and Kelsie King.

Each intern is going to focus on their area of expertise this summer as well as keep the Old School House open from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7 days a week beginning after Memorial Day.

Troy Prill is the business and finance intern. He is a senior at Central Michigan University where he is studying finance. He will be working on a business plan and budgeting.

Jessie Meengs is a recreation, parks and leisure major at CMU. She is beginning her senior year as well. She will be the coordinator between the Saugatuck Center for the Arts and the SDHS.

Chris Aldrige is a 2012 graduate of Central Michigan University where he majored in journalism. He joins the SDHS after interning at The Flint Journal. He will be working to promote summer events and the SDHS.

Casey Walle is a senior anthropology major at Western Michigan University. She will be working on archiving as well as help with the distribution of SDHS newspapers.

Kelsie King is a senior at CMU studying public relations. She will be the ArtsAlive! coordinator and focus on the planning and execution of the White Run with a Splash of Rainbow.

Mentor and internship coordinator Bill Underdown will oversee each intern and act as a coach throughout the summer.

*submitted by Kelsie King*
important landscapers - and had an enormous impact on our West Michigan. Meet the author, Barbara Gieger. Wine & cheese social time.

**August 14:** Eat Your Way to the Top Annual Picnic at the History Center. Celebrating the Garden's Mt. Baldhead Viewing Station. Note early starting time: 6:00

**September 11:** Now and Then: Great Lakes - Hot Topics Long time Great Lakes observer Patty Birkholz brings past and present views of our greatest local asset - the water. Swimmingly delicious deserts.

**October 9:** Tales from the Crypt: Visitors from the Ghostown of Plummerville (Ganges Township) Led by Kit Lane and Marsha Kontio, a virtual tour by the Cemetery Actors Group. Refreshments to Die For.

**November 13:** Painting: the Town: Landscape, the Artist, and People by Ken Kutzel who brings stories from the Society's art collection.

**December 1:** Annual Society Holiday Dinner 6:00 pm. At the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. Kick off the Holiday Season. Good cheer, Great Food, Good Friends.

If you would like to sponsor one of the Monthly Programs, please **REPLY** to this email. Sponsorships are $150.

---

**Thanks to the Society members who donated to the Old School House's Daffodil Trail this Spring**

---

**Nature and Historic Walks**

The docents of the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area (SHNA), sponsored by the city of Saugatuck, are offering a series of hikes and talks about the Historic and Natural History of the area in and around the SHNA for the 2013 season. Unless otherwise noted, the walks begin at the North End of the Oval Beach parking lot.

**June 2 Sun Eve, 7:15 p.m. Exploring the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area (SHNA).** Leader: April Scholtz from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

**June 9 Sun, 9:15 a.m. Birds of the SHNA.** Leader: Local bird expert, Rick Brigham

**June 27 Thurs eve., 7:15 p.m. Exploring the Old Harbor from the South side of the SHNA.** Meet at Mt. Baldhead Leader: Kay Smalley

**July 11 Thurs 7:15 p.m. Geology and Ecology of the SHNA.** Leaders: Brian Yurk and Suzanne DeVries-Zimmerman from Hope College

**July 25 Thurs eve: 6:45 p.m. View from Crow’s Nest - Vistas of the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area.** Meet at Mt. Baldhead, Leader: Frank Lamb

**Aug 22 Thurs eve: 6:30 p.m. Historic View of Saugatuck from Mt. Baldhead.** Meet at Mt. Baldhead, Leader: Jack Sheridan

**Sept 15 Sun eve: 6:30 p.m. Exploring the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area.** Leader: April Scholtz from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.
Welcome from Jack Sheridan and Chris Yoder leaders of the Society Family History Group. Our meeting schedule is the first and third Thursday of every month. Upcoming meetings are:

Thursday May 16
Thursday June 6
Thursday June 20

The time and place are always 3:30 in the Old School House

Please join us to see what we are all about and most importantly, share "lessons learned" about the many tools available for family research.

The last three months I have told you about my Ancestry.com DNA analysis. I am getting a steady feedback of 40-50 possible matches each week. No

The Saugatuck Douglas Garden Club is pleased to announce its annual plant sale on Saturday May 18 from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Old School House. We are very excited to have our sale at the Old School House this year and hope that you will come and support us.

Proceeds from this sale benefit our scholarship program which is given to a high school senior from Saugatuck High School and/or Fennville High School who meet our requirements of majoring in the Horticultural Sciences in college. The garden club also contributes to Christian Neighbors, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grace Health Facility, the Old School House gardens and annual flower beautifications in the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. We are also Horticultural Consultants for the city of Saugatuck.

The sale will include beautiful hanging baskets, flats of annuals, many geraniums and perennials. In fact, the perennials come from our own members yards so they are tried and true. We will also have our members there to answer your gardening questions.

So mark your calendars for Saturday, May 18 and join us for a fun day. submitted by Jane Dreyer, 616-928-1000 janem.dreyer@gmail.com
Why am I so enthused about family history? Here is a quick summation:

- Satisfy my innate curiosity – what went on here?
- Knowing this history was somehow an extension of my self
- It enables me to pass on something very lasting to my family
- I love puzzles and family history is a gigantic one
- Learning my family history sharpened my knowledge of U. S. history
- I enjoy having my diligence and patience challenged

Think about it and remember if you want to learn more about your family history, but have not known where and how to begin, our SDHS Family History group wants to help you.

An easy starting point is to record what you know about your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents and send it along for a review by our volunteers to SDHS Family History Box 617 Douglas, Michigan 49406, or email a copy to either cyoder@tds.net or jack.sheridan@gmail.com. Give us time for an initial assessment. We will soon be back to you with readily found data and with suggestions on the next steps to take. Future further help is always available from the Family History group. The only requirement is membership in the SDHS.

Your family history does not have to have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area.

Still wondering?
Questions/comments/advice/needs: Contact me at: jack.sheridan@gmail.com or 269 857-7144. Chris cyoder@tds.net is back from Arizona so his great help is readily available.

---

**Historic Weed House Update**

I ran across an article in your online newsletter that the old Weed House on Lake Shore Drive is in danger of demolition. It was dated, September 2012. Has it been demolished yet? I can only say that letting such a historic building be destroyed instead of restored is a crime against history and humanity. The house may be one of the largest remaining examples of "western history" in all of America. It was a stop on the underground railroad as slaves escaped to Canada.

Some say the house was haunted by old Mrs. Weed. While I do not believe in ghosts, my family and I can account for a series of unexplainable occurrence. She will not take kindly to those who destroy her ancestral home, I fear. (Just kidding --- I think).

I tried to preserve and restore it, as best I could. I was always amazed that the disregard the local community have for historic preservation. I hope it still exists --- and somehow can be saved.

submitted by Larry P. Horist lph@thomasandjoyce.com

**Response from Jim Schmiechen**

Larry, thanks for your message regarding the Weed House. I (we) share your concern. I have taken several people to it and have had indirect recent contact with the owner (she will give it away for removal).

I was lucky to find someone to take the old Gerber house
Beaches Before

There is no historical record of a Kalamazoo River bathing beach close to town. Not even a photo record of swimming for fun off local docks. Hmm. I can guess a few probable reasons. The river bottom was muddy and the water was a convenient place to dump stuff. The first village water system was built in the early 1900s. An ample supply of fresh water naturally required a sewer system to dispose of the wastewater. Most homes had their own septic tank [my Grandmother had one next to the house on Culver Street] but there were no drainfields, so some of the excess found it’s way to the river. I have memories of that certain smell of the river in the 1940s and 1950s - enough said.

The present day Oval Beach road was constructed in 1936. Prior to that the best way to reach Lake Michigan was by boat down the river. Prior to the 1906 new channel the bathing beach was located right where it is today. After the new cut was made and until the Oval Beach completed in 1936, the bathing beach was on Lake Michigan next to the new piers or back up the river in an area known as the “Basin”. Surprisingly the nasty stuff from up river had dissipated enough to make swimming possible.

The water taxi business was good in those days as evidenced by many photos of the taxis [see example above ca 1915]. The taxis were 30-40 feet in length and carried a couple dozen passengers round trip for two bits each. They left from various docks on the shore of Kalamazoo Lake. The service made for a great excursion and swim on a nice summer day.

Next month we head back up river.

What's Up With The Barrel

Perhaps you've been wondering about the status of the Root Beer Barrel project. Even though it appears that this endeavor is taking longer than the building of the replacement for the Twin Towers, rest assured that the dismantled barrel is resting safely in a barn south of Douglas.

The resilient barrel salvaging committee is presently working with the City of Douglas and other essential parties to secure a permanent relocation on the Blue Star Highway. Two possibilities are being considered. Stay tuned!

Memorial staves are still available for $150 each. Please REPLY to this email if you are interested and we will be in touch.

submitted by Vic Bella

I will put notice to this effect in the Society newsletter as an up-date. We know how much effort and restoration you accomplished at the Weed House and hope it does not all go to waste. Jim Schmiechen

Next month we head back up river.

here in Douglas and move it and restore it and have had one party interested in same with the Weed House.

Click on the picture for a higher resolution copy.
Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the new members who have joined the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society since the last newsletter - an impressive list.

Jerry & Ann Longerot, Fennville, MI
Joni Cook, Saugatuck, MI
Suzie Blair, South Haven, MI
Lawrence Gammons & Carl Jennings, Douglas, MI
Barry & Susan McKey, Grand Rapids, MI

And members who renewed their membership as Life Members.

Bud Baty & Max Matteson
Ken Carls
Jim & Kat Cook
Stacy Honson & Dick Bont

Have Your Ticket Yet?

Historic Tree Taken Down

In a 2009 issue of the SDHS newsletter, we told the story of a tree which had been growing at curbside on Water Street in Saugatuck for over 100 years. About 1907, Dan Willard Mather, dug up a sapling on the side of Mount Baldy, came down the hill and rowed back across the river to plant it in front of what had been his grandfather's feed store (now the Boardwalk Cafe at 311 Water St.). Dan W. was the father of SDHS lifetime member Stanley Mather, a WWII veteran living in St, Joseph, MI.

Recent damage revealed a hollow internal core, and the tree has now been taken down. Click HERE for our earlier story.

Daffodils Come Out In Area Cemeteries

submitted by Chris Yoder
An outgrowth of a Historical Society Program three years ago, the Saugatuck-Douglas Armed Forces Day Luncheon is an opportunity to come together as a community to honor our servicemen and women, past and present.

The luncheon will be held Saturday May 18 from 11:30 to 1 at the Douglas Community Church on Wiley Road. Veterans eat free (but must get a ticket). Get your tickets at either Vicki's Restaurant in Douglas or the Pump House Gym in Saugatuck.

The theme this year is WWII and Jim Schmiechen will present a special program on "The Dope", the Douglas Newsletter sent to our boys and girls in uniform around the world. Please come and bring a friend. -contributed by Chris Yoder

Prior year bulbs bloom at Taylor Cemetery

Last fall would have been the third time for our volunteer bulb planters in their "D4" efforts (a "Dozen Daffodils for the Dearly Departed"). We had been selecting folks in the Douglas, Riverside and Taylor Cemetery who either had no family, or whose family has left the area, and planted daffodils obtained by either donation or inexpensively in bulk at Sam's Club. Unfortunately, no bulbs were to be found from our usual sources, so nothing was added to the three cemeteries before the winter arrived.

Springtime did not disappoint, however, as we saw bulbs placed two or even three falls ago, lift up their heads in bright array. We shall give it another try this fall.

submitted by Chris Yoder

Edith Winter & Dorothy Otto

During the past month to local and long time members of the Society passed away. For more details on Edith Winter, click HERE and for Dorothy Otto, click HERE.
SAUGATUCK SUMMER ART SCHOOL

The letter and article below were provided by Norm Deam. Credit is given to the blog of Miss Moss from South Africa, Wallace Kirkland and Life Magazine.

These are great photos by Wallace Kirkland (a good friend of my family) at Ox-Bow in 1948, the summer before my senior year in high school.

They really portray the idyllic atmosphere of painting at a time and location that brings back fond memories. Please read the forward about "looks like a dream to me" and "man were these girls in the 40s awesome".

One of those dishes was my sister Mar Deam (Severt) who is in the first and second (Left) rows of photos in the 2-piece outfit with her hair tied up in a pony-tail. She's in a few others, I think: row 4 L (hair down, blue jeans), 6 L (same), 8 R (I think that's instructor Rudy Pen with his foot up on the bench that Mar's on, and our cousin Carol Soderberg (Rosenak) standing alongside. Carol is also on the right in the 3rd row of pictures, and maybe others.) I think Mar is on the lake dune in white shorts painting left of the model (rows 16 & 17), and maybe that's my brother Ed in 17 beyond the canvas of a male painter in the left foreground.

That painter in a flowery dress sitting on a log in 6 R may be Frances Badger, long-time store-operator (painting supplies in the Waldorff-Castoria on the Lagoon, and mother of Phil Bornarth, instructor). On the right in row 19 with 2 people in front of a car, I think that's Hank, long time OB handyman and sometime class model who swore so much when he worked at the Lighthouse that my mother would take us kids t Lake MI. I remember the face but not the name of the woman who's showing him his portrait. In the background of the previous photo, you can see the remains of the "Crow's Nest" (a log cabin built by Tom Tallmadge) sliding down its hill. Also in the last photo in the old truck that was on left out on the OB grounds for years, that may be John Geister beaus of both Mar and Carol (in a mid-summer swap that I won't go into). I don't remember that model Doris Fisher with cigarette on the running board. I must have been too busy rowing the Ferry boat to town.

I'm sending this to a bunch of people to get additional info from my generation, and to show younger ones an atmosphere that should not be forgotten. Ox-Bow (then with my father as president) still retains a great sense of identity.

Who put these shots together?

Who is "Miss Moss"? Anybody know?

Norm Deam

post script Toni Jones, from South Africa, was President of the School of the Art Institute Chicago for maybe 10 years. I'll forward his email. Suzie Gilbey, the sister of Kay Smalley thinks the woman displaying the portrait to Hank was Gussie, whose real name might have been Augusta Ann Swaywite. Gussie sounds right.

Miss Moss
when i was compiling yesterday’s post about art appreciation i came upon these photos taken by Wallace Kirkland for Life magazine, the photo essay shows scenes from a summer art school in 1948, and after a bit of googling i discovered that the school in question still exists! OxBow is situated in the Saugatuck area of Michigan, and was established over a century ago.

Founded by Frederick Fursman and Walter Marshall Clute, artists from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, OxBow was to serve as a respite for artists from the industrializing havoc of Chicago. Today, OxBow’s longevity is due to the strength of this mission and the artists who have held true to it.

it all looks like a dream to me – hanging out, drawing and screenprinting and making ceramics and taking boats across the lake to do plein air painting… a dream! and man were these girls in the 40s awesome. i love their rolled up jeans and casual white shirts. saugatuck summer art school looks pretty damn cool.
ABOUT THE SOCIETY

To become a member or renew your membership select from the following categories:

- Individual $30
- Household $50
- Premium $250
- Corporate $500
- Life $1,000
- Senior (65+) $20
- Senior Household $35
- Student $5

Send check payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society to: PO Box 617, Douglas, Michigan 49406. You can also click HERE for a Society Membership Application.

Send items for the newsletter to: Fred Schmidt, PO Box 617, Douglas MI 49406 or email info@sdhistoricalsociety.org

HISTORY MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society History Museum is located in the historic Pump House at the foot of Mt. Baldhead on the west bank of the Kalamazoo River. The Museum's 2013 exhibit is titled:
The Museum will be open to the public daily from noon to 4 pm starting Sunday, May 26. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Museum and recent past exhibits.

The Old School House History Center and Lifeboat Display at 130 Center Street in Douglas is open to visitors daily from 11 am to 4 pm starting Saturday, June 1.

The Society's Technology Center is located in the lower level of the Old School House History Center at 130 Center Street in downtown Douglas.

Society Phone: 269 857-5751  
Museum Phone: 269 857-7900  
Tech Center Phone 269 857-7901  
[www.sdhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sdhistoricalsociety.org)