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S/D HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY 14 PROGRAM TO SHOW  
NATURE PRESERVATION'S VALUE TO LOCAL CULTURE

MAY 2, 2014 -- Ways in which nature preservation benefits our community will be explored at the next monthly public Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society program on Wednesday, May 14, in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For SDHS members, the annual business meeting precedes the program at 7 p.m.

Presenter April Scholtz, Land Protection Director at the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, will share how local efforts to protect rare frogs and birds supports cultural preservation, and why these small creatures are bellwethers for our shoreline environment. The program is sponsored by SDHS boardmember Sharon Kelly and Patty Birkholz, West Michigan Director for The Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

Titled "When Preserving Nature Preserves Local Culture: The Saugatuck-Douglas Experience", the program also will examine natural features of our area, how they tie in with historic human use of the property and what impact that could have on their future.

"My interest in relating the natural and cultural history of the area reflects my organization's interest in conserving the duneland around Saugatuck and Douglas," Scholtz says. "West Michigan's dunes and shoreline are not only very important natural resources, but also a driving factor in our regional economy."

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan, she notes, has worked with community residents since the 1980s, when the Saugatuck Dunes State Park's Natural Area was identified and acquired by the state.

For more information about Land Conservancy of West Michigan, visit [www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org). For general information about the Saugatuck/Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2014, visit [www.sdhistoricalociety.org](http://www.sdhistoricalociety.org).

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April Scholtz points out critical features of Saugatuck lakeshore's Natural Area from "Crow's Nest" overlook during summer field trip.