

Summer Newsletter

June-July 2022

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center preserves local history and inspires learning to inform and improve our community.

Summer is the best time to be at the Lakeshore and this year is no exception. Beaches, towns, and of course the highways are as busy as ever, with visitors old and new also stopping in at the History Center in Douglas and the History Museum at Mount Baldhead Park.

The traditional summer kickoff party for members returned this year, held outdoors at the History Center Back-in-Time garden in Douglas on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Pride month celebrations brought two special events to the History Center at the beginning and the end of the month. **Century of Progress** continues to inform and inspire on 100 years of LGBTQ history in our community.

The SDHC's latest exhibit at the History Museum, **The Lure of Mount Baldhead** opened with a Lifetime Members preview on July 1st.

Finally, Tuesday Talks are back in full swing, again held outdoors, so bring a chair and we'll see you when the school bell strikes 11!

Eric Gollanek
Executive Director

[Click here for the Summer 2022 calendar of events](#)



Lure of Mount Baldhead Exhibit at the History Museum

The new exhibit opened July 2nd at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum. The Museum, housed in the historic 1904 Saugatuck Pump House, is marking its 27th year of award-winning history exhibits and programming.

Attendance over the last month shows its popularity. Museum volunteers have greeted as many as 100 visitors a day on weekends, a return to pre-COVID numbers!

Read more later in this newsletter...

Membership Renewals at the History Center

If you have not yet replied, it's not too late to renew online today! You can also call the main office number at 269-857-5751 for personal assistance.

[Click here to renew your membership!](#)

Membership renewals went out in the mail at the beginning of April. We have received excellent response from almost 300 new or renewing members and lifetime members. Thank you to you all for your support!



New Public Sculpture at the History Center in Douglas

The SDFAI launched an ambitious effort this spring to bring public sculpture to the tri-community area of Douglas, Saugatuck, and Fennville. The SDHC is thrilled to announce that the Douglas sculpture will have a permanent home at the front of the History Center in Douglas on Center Street.

The artwork by renowned Anishinaabe sculptor Jason Quigno will be installed beginning the week of July 25th with a public celebration to be held on Thursday, July 28th.

City of Douglas Installs
New Outdoor Sculpture
at Saugatuck Douglas History Center



Seven Grandfathers

Public Reception & Dedication July 28 at 6pm

Please join the City of Douglas and the Saugatuck Douglas History Center on July 28 at 6:00pm for an unveiling and dedication of **Seven Grandfathers**.

It is a chance to meet the sculptor, view the work and explore the meaning behind the teachings of the Anishinaabe ancestors, the first people that lived here in Douglas.

Please contact Maryjo Lemanski at 269.303.2276 if you are interested in supporting the newest addition to the Douglas public art collection.



Jason Quigno,
Artist

8'H x 1'W x 1'D

Indiana Limestone
Black Granite
Base



The Douglas effort is a collaboration between the SDHC, SDFAI, and the City of Douglas. The artwork will be owned by the City of Douglas as part of their public art collections with the SDHC providing a permanent site for the sculpture.

Photo caption: SDHC and City of Douglas



partners with artist Jason Quigno on site in June.

Fundraising and sponsorship opportunities are ongoing through the SDFAI and City of Douglas. Please contact Maryjo Lemanski for information on how to support this project at 269.303.2276.



Root Camp success in evening format!



Root Camp ran from June 20-23 from 6:00-8:30 PM at the History Center. This is the 8th year of the program developed and run by **Kim Martinson** and **Ruth Johnson**. We served 12 happy campers.

Thank you to the support of intern **Olivia Foster** who assisted with the program as well as SDHC member **Mike Pcolinski** who taught the science portion of the camp.



Science in the garden with veteran educator, chemist, and SDHC member, Mike Pcolinski



Animals on Summer Solstice with the Outdoor Discovery Center

2022 Pride Month Events

Michigan's first Pride Parade turns 50 this year

The SDHC presented a special program, ***Come out! In Detroit '72*** by illustrator Isabel Clare Paul and historian Dr. Tim Retzloff on Thursday, June 30. The program rounded out Pride month festivities at the History Center with a close look at Michigan's LGBTQ activism and celebration a half century ago. Retzloff and Paul presented on the first "Christopher Street Detroit '72" Pride parade in the state. Marking the event's 50th anniversary, copies of the comic book history were distributed, supported by a grant from Michigan Humanities.

Free copies of the comic book history of LGBTQ Pride '72 in Detroit are available at the History Center in Douglas.



Illustrator Isabel Clare Paul and historian Dr. Tim Retzloff

Thank you to Gary Kott and Jonathan Schreur for their generous support in making this program possible!



Douglas Community Pride

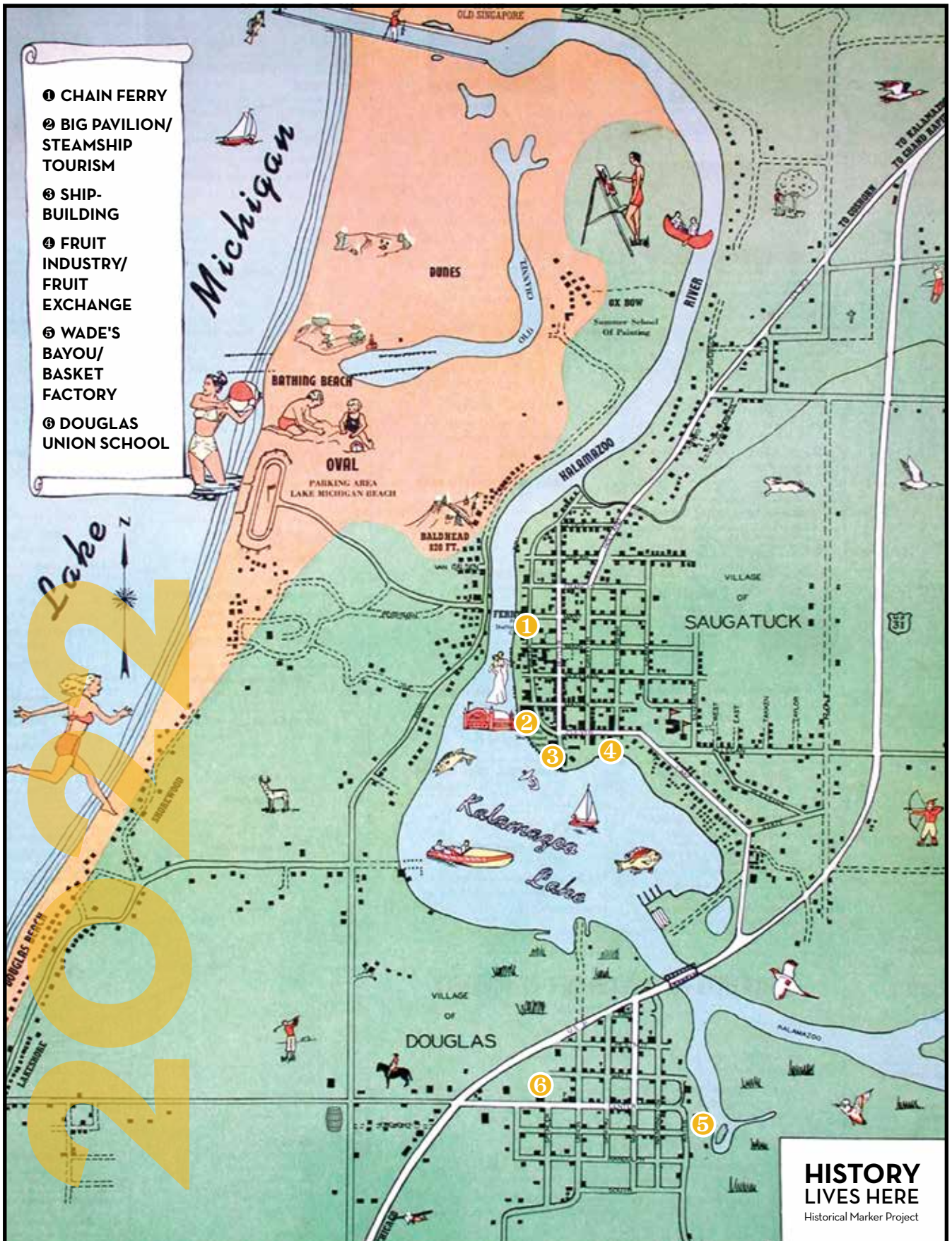
The History Center welcomed 75 guests to the Friday evening program of Douglas Community Pride on Friday, June 3rd.

Presenter Greg Baird spoke in the garden on LGBTQ allyship and the galleries were open allowing visitors to see exhibits as well as socialize.

Special acknowledgement goes to Douglas Community Pride for the event: Randy Walker and Liz Engle helped organize the event as well as coordinating LGBTQ recognition at the event, delivered by VIP MC Dixie Longate!

History Lives Here Markers Project Breaks Ground!

- ❶ CHAIN FERRY
- ❷ BIG PAVILION/
STEAMSHIP
TOURISM
- ❸ SHIP-
BUILDING
- ❹ FRUIT
INDUSTRY/
FRUIT
EXCHANGE
- ❺ WADE'S
BAYOU/
BASKET
FACTORY
- ❻ DOUGLAS
UNION SCHOOL



**HISTORY
LIVES HERE**
Historical Marker Project

In June, the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center completed its newest project, the *History Lives Here: Historical Markers Project*, to celebrate history where it happened across our communities.

This is planned as the first phase of a multiyear, ongoing SDHC project to share local history in our Lakeshore community. Volunteers **Julie Bizzis, Bill Hess, Elizabeth Jones, Ken Kutzel, and Bill Underdown** worked through site selection, agreements with the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas, program sponsorship, and historical interpretation. The volunteer team was supported by project historian **Anna Minnebo**, 2020 SDHC intern and SUNY-Cooperstown Museum Studies graduate.



Supported by a V-shaped steel structure fabricated locally by **Jeff Shashaguay**, the interpretive markers stand 7' tall by 2' wide. Full color interpretive panels (2' by 4') designed by veteran SDHC designer **Sally Winthers** use historic photos and text developed by the team to bring history to life for visitors and long-time residents alike. **Tim Erlandson** provided site preparation and concrete work to support the markers.

[Click here to see all of the markers and their locations](#)

Thank you to the generous sponsors who have fully underwritten this project: Elizabeth Jones and Karen Todd, Dawn Schumann, Bill Underdown, Steve Hutchins, Matt and Cindy Peterson, Bill Hess and Mike Mattern, Cathy North and Marcy Weston, Jen Roe, Beth Stefanchik, and Michael Alto and Rob Naumann.

Tuesday Talks in the Garden



The scene at SDHC member Chris Clark's Tuesday Talk on the history of hiking, held July 12th. Tuesday Talks will continue in the garden, weather permitting, all summer!

Tuesday Talks are back with audiences of over fifty people attending weekly programs.

The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. To assure comfortable outdoor seating, attendees are encouraged to bring their own camp chairs if possible.

[Click here to see a full list of Tuesday Talk programs](#)

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORY
CENTER

Your 2022 Tuesday Talk Lineup!

July 5, 11am – Tuesday Talk

Michigan's Indigenous People during the Woodland Period with the Outdoor Discovery Center.

July 12, 11am – Tuesday Talk

Deer Trails to Virtual Work: A Hike through Intersections of History with Chris Clark. Sponsored by Dave Bohn and Brad Hopkins.

July 19, 11am – Tuesday Talk

Riding Across the Sands of Time: Dune Rides along the West Coast of Michigan with M. Christine Byron and Thomas R. Wilson. Sponsored by Don and Laurie Bradley.

July 26, 11am – Tuesday Talk

Kolonie at 175 years: Fresh Perspectives on the Founding of Zeeland with Katelyn VerMerris, director of the Zeeland Historical Society. Sponsored by Jane Osman for Osman Flowers and Firs.

August 2, 11am – Tuesday Talk

Midwestern Givernys: The Saugatuck Colony in Context by Dr. Wendy Greenhouse, independent art historian. Sponsored in memory of Fran Myers.

August 9, 11am – Tuesday Talk

A History of the Fruit Industry at the Lakeshore with Anna Minnebo, project historian on the SDHC's Historic Markers Project.

August 16, 11am – Tuesday Talk

Birds of Prey presented by the Outdoor Discovery Center. Sponsored by Randy DiRosa.

August 23, 11am – Tuesday Talk

Carl Hoerman's legacy in Saugatuck and beyond, by SDHC Director Dr. Eric Gollanek. Sponsored by Bill Hess and Mike Mattern.

August 30, 11am – Tuesday Talk

Program to be announced – check back soon!

In Memoriam

Sherlynn Coupe, member

(August 19, 1940 -June 6, 2022)

[Link to obituary](#)

Board of Director Updates from President Steve Hutchins

Reporting from the Board: Two History Center Board of Directors members have recently stepped down and one new member has been added.

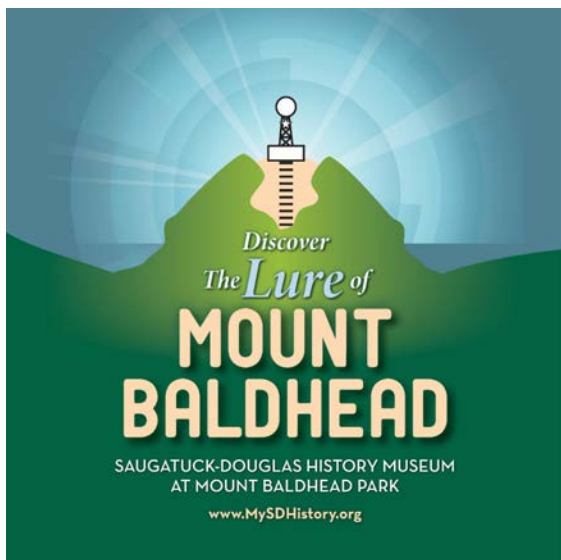
- Ken Kutzel has left the Board after 6 years of service. In addition to his Board membership, Ken curated the greatly expanded SDHC art collection and several popular art exhibits at the Old School House galleries. He was also the Chairman of the Collections Committee.
- Julie Bizzis served on the Board for three years. She was a leader of the History Hop, Demerest Fishing Shanty, and the recent History Lives Here: Historical Marker projects.

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center is grateful for the important contribution to our heritage that these two members made.



Our newest Board member, who will fill out Ken's term, is Vern Slusar. Vern and his wife Linda have been valuable volunteers in the SDHC Archives for the past three years.

The Lure of Mount Baldhead -- Museum Exhibit Now Open



The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center proudly announces the opening of a new exhibit this summer entitled ***The Lure of Mount Baldhead***. The exhibit is designed to provide a better understanding about Mount Baldhead as a geographic and historic place as well as highlight some of the reasons this iconic sand dune has been attracting people for centuries.

Visitors to the new exhibit learn about the geological formation of a sand dune and the unique climate and geographic conditions that made Mount Baldhead possible. The exhibit will explore how Mount Baldhead has played a

role in people's lives from prehistory to the present, and why the dune continues to be a significant attraction to residents and visitors in Saugatuck-Douglas today.

In addition to the exhibit, the site features a riverside garden and terrace as well as a small gift shop that offers a variety of SDHC publications, maps, t-shirts, postcards and other souvenirs relevant to our local history.

The exhibit is open Thursday-Sunday from 12-4 PM with additional days to be added based on volunteer availability. If you are interested in volunteering as a museum docent, please contact Annie Hayes at ann.hayes11@gmail.com for more information.



Gallery with the Mount Baldhead observation tower and view of exhibit.



Historic postcard image of the observation tower atop Mount Baldhead.

Thank You Exhibit Sponsors!

Museum sponsorships for the *Lure of*



Mount Baldhead exhibit helped underwrite the expenses of the new exhibit. Total support raised for the exhibit totaled \$22,900!

The ACCF Legacy Grant Program provided \$5,800 to support exhibit production.

Platinum Sponsors

Steve Hutchins, John Kerr and Bill Kelleher, Mark Randall and Chris Saldivar, Vincent Estate, and Renee Zita

Gold Sponsors

Jeff Antaya and Peter Rosenfeld, Bill Hess and Mike Mattern, Karen and Herb Tews, and Sam Cummings

Silver Sponsors

Robert and Kimberly Kegley, Ann Longerot, and the Vorys Estate

Bronze Sponsors

Dr. Steve Debbink and Greg Plowe, Dede Dupre and Rob Golub, Michael and Betsy Foster, Kristina Hindert and Buzz Burrell, Peg and John Sanford, Arthur Ashley and Darin Reilling

Additional donor: Charles Schreiner



Lifetime Member Museum Preview Party on July 1

This event saw 50 Lifetime members and guests attending the exhibit preview party at the History Museum at Mount Baldhead Park. Special thank you to the volunteers who helped make the event a success: **Steve Hutchins, Mike Mok, John Kerr, Bill Kelleher, Annie Hayes, Sally Winthers and Capalene Howse.**

SDHC Family History Group

Come and join the Family History Group on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 3:30pm for a discussion about researching your family history. No meeting in August but reach out for upcoming dates.

If you are not on our mailing list, please send a request to sdhsfamilyhistory@gmail.com and a link will be sent to you for the meetings. Hope you can join us. John Mayer and Judi Thomas

2022 Membership News

The Board of Directors approved a simplified membership structure in 2021.

- Individual \$40
- Household \$60
- Business Partner \$250
- Lifetime Member \$1,000

Membership runs through March 31 each year. Renewal information will be mailed in April.

Become a lifetime member! No annual renewals and special invites to Lifetime member only events!

**Click here to renew or
make a donation with
PayPal today!**

About the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society was founded in 1986 by a group of charter members interested in preserving and sharing the unique history of Saugatuck, Douglas and the surrounding area. In 2016, the Society was renamed the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to celebrate its growth and to recognize the development of the History Museum at Mt Baldhead Park and



History Center-Douglas sites.

We are a vibrant non-profit 501(c)3 history organization with nearly 700 members residing in nearby communities and across the country.

Members are the lifeblood our volunteer organization.

To renew or join as a member, [visit our website](#) for more information.

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum at Mount Baldhead Park is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building.

The History Center--Downtown Douglas and Francis Surfboat Exhibit are located at 130 Center Street in Douglas.

The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open daily.

The History Center Archives are available for research by appointment. For more information, e-mail the archives directly at archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org

History Center main phone: 269-857-5751
Archives direct phone: 269-857-7901



The SDHC is supported with a grant from **Michigan Humanities** and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan.

The SDHC also receives operational support from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center
www.mySDhistory.org

Follow us on social media for photos and real-time updates

