



MEETING DATES

Wednesday, October 13 at 7 p.m. at the Woman's Club auditorium, members of the Ship Disaster Discovery Group will tell us about some of their recent work.

Wednesday, November 10 at 7 p.m. at the Woman's Club auditorium, "Built Along the Shores of Macatawa; A History of Boat Building in Holland" with Geoffrey Reynolds.

October 31 : Volunteer Party: 5 to 7 at Museum

December 5: Another great Society "Holiday Party" at Coral Gables, Water Street. Food, Music, Cash Bar.

On the Web: did you miss the Historic Homes tour? See go to www.sdhistory.com for photos and text for 6 of the 7 tour sites from September 18-19.

Ship Disaster

In November of 1845, the crew of steamship *Milwaukee* mutinied and killed its captain while the ship floundered in a storm off the Saugatuck shore. The ship broke apart, spilling its cargo of flour. Bags of the flour floated to shore and were snatched by locals who were suffering during an extremely cold winter. Although the seamen were lost, many believe that the flour saved many shoreline residents shore from starvation.

On Wednesday October 13 Society members will have an opportunity to hear the story and meet the Ship Disaster Discovery Group who will tell the story and explain some of the group's recent efforts to discover and preserve sunken vessels in Lake Michigan. This part of Lake Michigan is a treasure trove of nautical legends. Just off the Kalamazoo River mouth are wrecks such as the Chicora, Ackley, and Milwaukee.

See you on October 13th—the Society meets at the Woman's Club at 7 p.m.!

3rd Annual Heritage Festival a Huge Success

Once again, Saugatuck-Douglas was transformed into a museum of living history. Visitors from all over the state and the Midwest lined up in the warm September sunshine to soak up another dose of our fascinating history. Nearly 400 people toured seven homes and cottages on Saturday and Sunday September 18th and 19th during the Historical Society's 3rd Annual Heritage Festival. Many others enjoyed, as well, a splendid band concert on Friday evening in the charming setting of Wicks park—and the very moving "River Fire" ceremony at Wade's Bayou Park on Saturday evening. [N.B.: We hope to include the text from Mike Sweeney's moving River Fire narrative in next month's *Newsletter*.]



SDHS President and volunteer Marsh Kontio hosts guests as they visit Tonawanda, designed by Florence "Dannie" Hunn in 1927, on the 2004 Historic Homes Tour.

[Photo: Peg Sanford]

The Saugatuck Center for the Arts served as Festival headquarters—and provided excellent background for the Festival's theme, "The Arts & Crafts Movement, 1900-1930," with a splendid exhibition of art, furniture and decorative arts of the period, accompanied by an informative lecture by design historian Nancy Goodman of Kendall College of Art and Design. Professor Goodman spoke in the SCA theatre before an enthusiastic audience of over 100 people. | CONT'D. ON NEXT PAGE

HERITAGE FESTIVAL CONT'D. | More than 70 volunteers served as tour guides and ticket managers and insured the success of the brilliantly organized event—and, by all accounts, had a good time doing so. Public interest was high, and we surpassed last year's attendance. The Festival coordinator was Preservation Committee Co-Chair and master organizer, Dottie Lyon, working with committee heads Mark Neidlinger, who chaired the Homes Tour; Ken Carls, who designed publicity and coordinated the SCA events; Dawn Schumann for the River Fire; Jeff Wilcox, the band concert; Jim Schmiechen, the Ox-Bow Tallmadge Cottage tours; and the post-festival volunteer party was once again generously underwritten by Kevin Kane.



Volunteers (l to r) Bill Johnson, Ralph Siddell, Mark Neidlinger, Jim Schmiechen, Dottie Lyon, and Merle Malmquist, meeting at M&M's Blue Star Café to tally up ticket sales.



Visitors emerge after a tour of historic Tallmadge Cottage, designed by Thomas Eddy Tallmadge in 1922.

[Photos: Peg Sanford]

The Festival established two new milestones, both of which were big hits: one, the Society partnered with the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, Kendall College of Art and Design, and Ox-Bow—in presenting the exhibition and lecture at the SCA. Thanks to guest lecturer, Nancy

Goodman. Thanks to the Saugatuck-Douglas Art Club for managing the Clothesline Art Show at Beery Field. And a special thanks to Ox-Bow for opening historic Tallmadge Cottage to visitors.

The second milestone was establishing a theme for the weekend events—this year the Arts & Crafts movement, its architecture, art, and decorative arts. Many visitors praised the “theme” aspect of the Homes Tour and commented that they appreciated the opportunity to learn more about a particular style and period of architecture and design.

We are especially grateful to the owners of the historic homes who were willing to open their homes for the 2004 tour: Bill Porter and Cynthia McKean, Steve Masterson and Tim Spooner, Nancy Budd, Arnold Shafer, Jeff Mellander and Mike Deem, and Lakeshore Chapel. The 2005 Heritage Festival is tentatively set for the second weekend in September.

Our First Director

The Board of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society is pleased to announce the appointment of the Society's first paid staff member. Kristin Gebben assumed the new half-time position of Director of Development, Planning, and External Affairs on October 1. Society President Marsha Kontio comments that “this newest endeavor on the part of the Society has been a long time in coming but well worth the wait. Kristin brings new enthusiasm and energy to our already award-winning programs.”

“I am looking forward to working with members of the Historical Society and the community at large. It is an exciting opportunity to be a part of something that is making history by preserving history,” Gebben said. “My energy will focus on expanding fundraising, developing new partnership opportunities with other community organizations, and working on internal and external public relations.”

Gebben, a resident of Saugatuck for the past four years, holds a B. A. from Central College of Iowa. She has worked in sales and marketing in the private sector, as well as for The Art Institute of Seattle. She has most recently served as Director of Saugatuck's Water Street Gallery.

Help welcome Kristin and join us at the next Society meeting on October 13th.

Fall Walking Tours

We want to remind our members and friends that while the Museum will soon close for the season, a number of walking tour opportunities will still be available for those who want to enjoy being out in some of our crisp fall weather and soak up a little local history, culture, and geography at the same time. The Douglas walking tour map can be found in the tour map mailbox in front of the Douglas Village Hall, while the Saugatuck tour map can be picked up at the Information Booth on the corner of Culver and Butler or at the Museum. The Art 'Round Town tour map is available at www.artaroundtown.com. Also available at the Museum is the Allegan Trail tour map—and for a short walk, we recommend the lovely Museum garden walk with its history and geography “learning stations.” For a guided tour, visit the schedule on our web site—www.sdhistory.com.

From the President

We can be thankful for the terrific weather for the Heritage Festival and Home Tour — for the third year running. I hope everyone had a chance to see all of the beautiful Arts & Crafts homes. A huge thank you to the homeowners who so graciously allowed all of us to visit.

The program at our October meeting will be the Shipwreck Disaster Recovery Group, sharing their exciting experiences with us. Again, the meeting on the 13th will be at the Saugatuck Woman's Club at 7:00 pm. Even if the newspapers say the meeting is at any other time, I will be there by 7:00 pm.

The Society needs help in the following areas:

- Program Chairperson
- Recording Secretary
- Oral History Chairperson
- Fundraising committee
- Coordinator: 2005 historic homes tour

Give me a call if you can help in these or other areas. Loren and I are leaving for Egypt on September 20th to see the Sphinx—and will be back soon after October 9.

Also, looking ahead, the annual Holiday Party will be held once again at Coral Gables on December 5th—PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL IF YOU CAN HELP! 857-5123, call after October 9.

Marsha Kontio

Raising the Roof . . . Again!

The Society's 1999 award-winning book, *Raising the Roof. A History of the Buildings and Architecture of the Saugatuck and Douglas Area*, has been out of print for since 2002 and is now being prepared for a second edition. The heavily illustrated 141-page volume will be expanded—reflecting a considerable wealth of information that is the result of new research during the 5 years since its original publication.

If you have corrections, new information (including photographs) on the history of area buildings, please contact author James Schmiechen at PO Box 691, Douglas, MI 49406 or James.Schmiechen@cmich.edu.

MUSEUM NOTES

Your museum's 2004 exhibition “Tales of the Villages—A Saugatuck Storybook” has been enjoyed by thousands of visitors, not the least being the many kids who have contributed their own art work to the telling and retelling of Saugatuck and Douglas stories.

The highlight of the exhibit is the giant “Tales of the Villages Map” —and the smaller printed version of it has been this season's most popular sale item. Also popular, the ‘discovery’ tables, stacked with scrapbooks for each of the exhibit's thirteen “tales,” have engaged many visitors.

Thanks to the Museum Committee and its expert design team and all the volunteer hosts for proof once again that our history is an important part of our lives--and an increasingly popular cultural (and economic) attraction.

The exhibition closes on October 31.

Volunteer “Thank You” Party Set for October 31

Let's celebrate! Sunday October 31 is the last day for public viewing of the 2004 exhibition—and as tradition holds, at 5 o'clock the food and drink is hauled out and the party begins—celebrating the work of the over 100 volunteers who plan, write, design, and manage the Museum. According to hosts Jane Underwood and the Museum Committee, several surprises are being planned. SEE YOU THERE.

About the Society

Meetings are usually the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., but time and place may vary.

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

Individual	\$25
Household	\$45
Senior (65+)	\$18
Senior Household	\$30
Student	\$5
Sustaining	\$75
Corporate	\$150
Life, Individual	\$300
Life, Household	\$500

and send a check made payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society to:

PO Box 617
Douglas, Michigan 49406.

Send items for the newsletter to:

Kit Lane
PO Box 250
Douglas MI 49406

Visit our website: www.sdhistory.com

Museum and Tech Center

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Museum is located in the historic Pump House at the foot of Mt. Baldhead on the west bank of the Kalamazoo River, a pleasant walk from the west shore chain ferry landing.

The exhibition season runs from Memorial Day through October. The Museum is open daily from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. during June, July, and August; and Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during September and October.

The Society's Technology Center is located on the lower level of historic Dutcher Lodge.

The Tech Center is open Mondays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to noon; Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to noon.

MUSEUM PHONE:	269 857-7900
TECH CENTER PHONE:	269 857-7901

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