



SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORY MUSEUM

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S/D HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S AUG. 27 "TUESDAY TALK"
DIVES INTO GOSHORN LAKE MYTHS AND HISTORY

AUG. 16, 2013 -- The waters of Goshorn Lake will be plumbed at this year's final Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society "Tuesday Talk" on August 27 in the History Center at The Old School House, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m.; admission is free and public attendance is invited.

Presenter Kit Lane, local historian and author-editor of *Goshorn Lake Remembered* published in 2000 by Pavilion Press, will share her fascination with this area's "hidden treasure" in pictures and tales.

"Goshorn Lake is a small inland lake north of Saugatuck very near Exit 41 on I-196," Lane explains, "but many people, even among those well familiar with Saugatuck and Douglas, have never seen it and aren't quite sure where it is. It's literally walking distance but not visible from 63rd Street," she adds, "and there's only one small public access that's nearly hidden and hard to find."

Goshorn extends arms in three directions and is very deep, she continues, which has spawned rumors that it's connected to Lake Michigan by a channel beneath the dunes, or perhaps even bottomless.

In the 1860s, Goshorn Lake was considered such an obstacle between Holland and Saugatuck, and the sand bank along its west side was so unstable, that the township governments built a floating bridge to shorten the road to Holland. The bridge gradually became waterlogged and was declared unsafe in 1903. One section was removed to limit use to foot traffic, but that was lost when it broke its mooring in a storm in 1909.

From the 1940s until about 1980, privately owned Pottawatomie Beach at one end of the lake was open to the public for a daily fee. Now the shoreline is a peaceful, scenic refuge for those fortunate to live or vacation there.

This Tuesday Talk is sponsored jointly by S/DHS members Howard and Paula Schultz and Osman's Flowers and Firs, a small family enterprise that farms as a hobby but regularly offers vegetable plants, potted flowers and dried floral arrangements at local farmers' markets.

For more information about the Historical Society, its Museum and its Old School House History Center, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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Small postcard picture from about 1905 recalls the old floating bridge across Goshorn Lake, and steep sand dune along the west end of the water.