

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS  
**HISTORY**  
CENTER

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VISIT TO SUMMER HOUSE LAVENDER FARM  
MARKS SDHC'S JULY 10 PUBLIC PROGRAM

JUNE 28, 2019 -- An educational "field trip" to Summer House Lavender Farm near Douglas highlights Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next free, public monthly program on Wednesday, July 10, starting at 7pm on-site at 2975 65th Street, just south of Wiley Rd (130th Ave.).

Owners Dan McGavin and Carol Brown will provide a guided tour through their one-acre enterprise, artfully landscaped to invite wandering along grass pathways through some 1200 lavender plants of selected varieties that bloom at different times in June and July. Amidst their beds of lavender are fountains, a zen garden, and the couple's personally designed home and shop.

Since initial planting in 2014, the Farm also has begun distilling lavender to produce oils and lavender water for the creation of aromatherapy products offered in their shop, including lavender-infused lotions, candles, soaps and sprays, many made by local craftspeople. During the program, Dan and Carol will discuss the history, care and growth habits of lavender, differences between English and French hybrids, how climate change and the recent polar vortex impacts lavender farming, how the plants are processed for oils, and more, including some culinary uses.

Residents of this area since 1995, both retired in 2013 -- Dan from 43 years of teaching rhetoric and literature at two universities, and Carol from more than 30 years of technical writing for various corporations. Seeking "an active retirement" they envisioned a small farm with a high-yield crop that could attract people visiting the area, which led to immersing themselves in the culture, farming and potentials of lavender, including its appeal as a garden ambiance for meditation, massage therapy, private events and weddings.

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's free monthly program series presents entertaining and informative insights into local history and community life. This month's program is sponsored by SDHC board member Renee Zita. For more information about the History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for the months ahead, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "DMcGavin")

Caption: Dan McGavin tends lavender plants at Summer House Lavender Farm, site of SDHC field trip program July 10.