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S/D HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S APRIL 9 PROGRAM AIRS
"EXTREME YACHTS & CLASSIC BOAT RESTORATION"

MAR. 28, 2014 -- A state-of-the-art look at high-end wood yacht and classic boat restoration will highlight the next monthly public Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society program on Wednesday, April 9, in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas, at 7 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

The program will visually visit one of Saugatuck's best-kept secrets, Macatawa Bay Boat Works, a local shop more familiar among well-to-do boat enthusiasts around the Great Lakes and New York's upstate Adirondack region than to most townspeople here. Owner Jonathan Reus, a young but lifelong aficionado of classic cars and boats, will discuss the Michigan history of his craft and show what's involved in building and restoring wood boats, including memorable Chris-Craft, Hackercraft, Garwood, Century and Riva originals. Among the ample photos to be presented are views of boats and boathouses of the company's upscale clients.

Founded in the late 1970s in Holland, after the Chris-Craft plant there closed, Macatawa Bay Boat Works began producing replicas and new designs that soon drew industry and boater attention, also sparking new interest in restoring the originals. Outgrowing its Holland plant, the company moved to its present location on Maple Street in Saugatuck in 1994. Reus, a native of Grand Rapids, took the helm ten years later and continues the firm's tradition and growth.

For more information about the Saugatuck/Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2014, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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Jonathan Reus discusses classic boat restoration at Historical Society program April 9.