

# LMSA NEWSLETTER 2021

Lake Michigan  
Shore Association  
Serving the shoreline  
since 1962

*The most beautiful place to live is where we call home.  
Our mission is to protect and preserve our shore for future generations.*

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## Message from the President

During the past twelve months since our last newsletter, we have faced two “once in a lifetime” events....the Covid-19 crisis and the repaving of Lakeshore Drive. Much has been written about Covid and how it has devastated many people’s lives. I consider myself very fortunate, since no one in my immediate family caught the disease. In addition, for those people I know who did catch the disease the symptoms were not too serious and they recovered fairly quickly. I hope that your experience with the disease was similar to mine.

The reconstruction of Lakeshore Drive caused extensive disruption to people’s lives dealing with the noise, dust, blockage of traffic, hitting natural gas lines, and power outages to some. The aggravation to some folks was minor and to others it was quite major. We are told by the Allegan County Road Commission that the changes in elevations to the roadway were done to reduce the number of blind spots and to greatly improve water drainage. I guess only time will tell, particularly for the water issues. With our area’s drought conditions it may be a while before we get significant rains.

Despite the efforts dating back to 2016 by the LMSA Board to lobby for a narrower roadway in the 20 to 22 feet range, the ACRC handled the reconstruction of LSD in the way they always intended. So now that the construction has been completed, what should we do? I can only share with you what my wife and I have experienced. Initially the ACRC was not going to remove any trees from our frontage. During construction four very large, old maples were marked and they came down the next day. Quite upsetting, but those maples did have significant dead wood in them and they really did deserve to be taken down. So, all of the folks fronting on LSD are faced with the same decision. Do we make the best of a bad situation? My wife and I decided to do just that. We re-imagined the landscaping along the road and have already planted three ornamental pears, four dogwoods, five hydrangeas, and twenty-five flats of myrtle. I believe that ultimately our LSD frontage will be better off with the four old maples removed.

With Covid-19, I am hoping that everyone gets vaccinated and we can move on to a more normal lifestyle. With the reconstruction of Lakeshore Drive, I am hoping that property owners take a fresh look at their frontage and plant some new trees and bushes. Take this opportunity to make the best of a bad situation.

*Charles Landefeld  
LMSA President*



## Lakeshore Drive Washout (north of M-89)

Good news! The Allegan County Road Commission (ACRC) completed repairs to the damaged roadway in early May. The roadway is now fully open for 2-way traffic with no weight restriction. Full access to emergency services has been restored for homeowners north of the prior erosion/sink-hole issue.

The ACRC continues to pursue a long-term solution with an alternative “Back-Road” proposal. The proposal calls for a roadway running South from Wiley Road along the Quarter Mile line which would Dead-End just North of the 2008 culvert washout (2783 Lakeshore Drive). This would provide northbound access to all the home owners located north of 2782 LSD. ACRC is currently awaiting results of their application for a Coastal Zone Management grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy with response expected in August. If approved, ACRC plans to use the grant to acquire the information needed for submittal of a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant from FEMA with hopes to fund the construction. LMSA will continue working closely with ACRC to assist in development of this plan.

*Rich Forbes & Dan Keller  
LMSA Board*



## Great Lakes Water Levels Lake Levels Down from Historic Highs

Good news! Although still dangerously high Lakes Michigan/Huron water levels are down from last year at this date by 20”. As we are still in the Spring normal seasonal rise the exact amount will likely change an inch or two by the time water temperatures reach a point when condensation is no longer a variable. Mid July the Lakes will reach level equilibrium and then have a seasonal draw down through February.

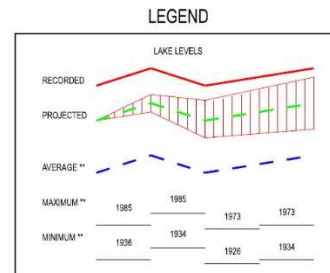
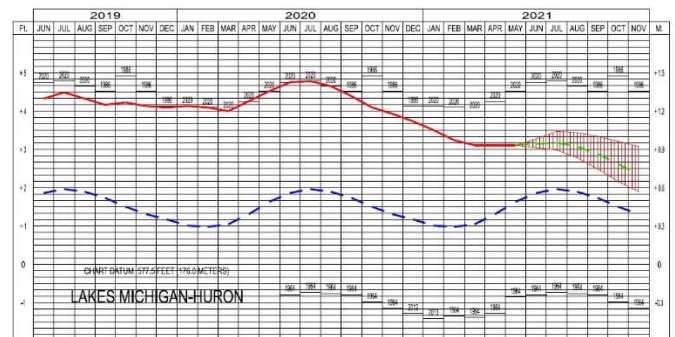
**As of June 11, 2021, Lakes Michigan/Huron are still 14” above the historic June average and 46” over the historic low in 1964.**

The significant decline from last year is attributed to a dry and moderate fall and winter. Additionally, the cool dry spring has also allowed for a minimal seasonal rise. Let’s hope for a hot dry summer with above average warm water as we head into the Michigan/Huron evaporation draw-down in fall and early winter.

You may check on all the detail and projections by looking at the Army Corps of Engineer’s weekly update web page on water levels. The site can be found at <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil>

You are encouraged to check weekly every Friday to see where the levels are on a real-time basis.

Here is the current 6 month forecast from ACOE:



*Don Olenorf  
LMSA Board*

## Lakeshore Drive Update "We Made It"

Of the few things that are certain in this world; one is that *time moves on*, and the second is that *change is inevitable*. I think it's safe to say that both certainly apply when talking about the recent renovation of Lakeshore Drive (LSD).

Our lakeshore community has anticipated changes and improvements to Lakeshore Drive for many years. As Lake Michigan Shore Association's first (and current) Road Committee Chair, I began working with the community and Allegan County Road Commission (ACRC) over five years ago.

Over that 5 year period there have been many meetings (Zoom and in-person), numerous presentations, discussions, compromises, many big disappointments, and yes ... some victories and accomplishments.

Who could have anticipated it would be such a long and crazy journey.....?

Who remembers:

- Initial delays of two years due to budget reassignments
- More recent delays in construction due to compromised gas mains
- Zoom public hearing with ACRC Commissioners during which 63 local residents participated and most spoke
- Several in-person meetings between LSMA board members and ACRC
- Last minute changes of opinions and positions of both LSMA and ACRC
- Attendance of residents at Township Trustee meetings
- Never-ending debates over *two ten-foot* or *two eleven-foot lanes*; and paved road shoulders or not
- ACRC's claim they could clear the entire 66' right-of-way eventually reduced to an overall clearing of 40'
- Thinking all decisions had been agreed to, only to see the road clearing excavated with an unexpected additional three feet per side
- The leveling of LSD by three feet (up and down) in some areas resulting in one-lane passages and driveway discrepancies

- Passing your neighbor as they wave from 3 feet above
- DUST, dust, and more dust

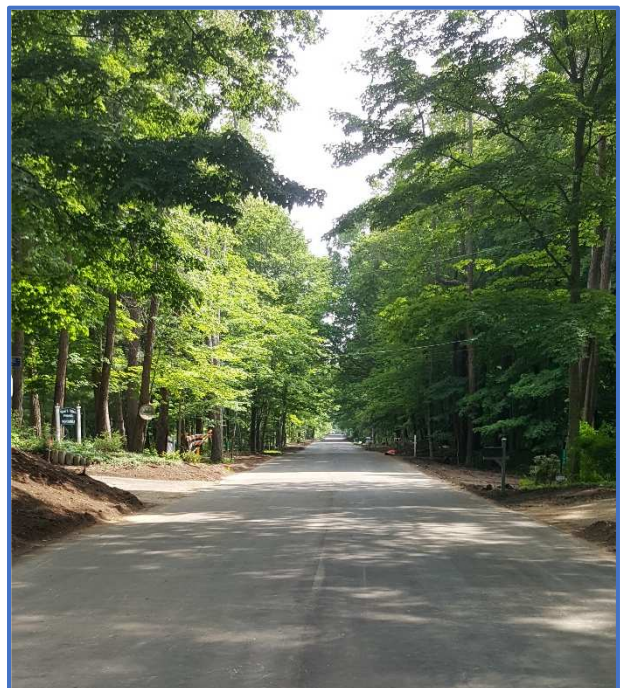
Today, as you read this newsletter, we are looking at a near completely reconstructed 28-foot wide LSD – with two 10-foot driving lanes and two 4-foot paved shoulders for non-vehicular traffic.

Though paving is complete, the work is not. The LMSA Board will continue to work with ACRC and state police on signage and enforcement of speeding issues. Several unique ideas have already been presented and are being considered. We will keep Lakeshore Drive residents up to date on all further developments.

Personally, I would like to thank all the residents (and fellow LSMA members) who have dedicated their time to – and openly contributed opinions towards this effort. Final decisions by ACRC aside, the campaign to improve LSD shows how a diversified community of opinions and residents can come together as one voice, face the local and sometimes political establishment, and remain friends and good neighbors. We all know this is a special community, and I am proud to be part of it.

We made it. Hopefully the new Lakeshore Drive will continue to serve our communities' future as well as in the past, but more safely and with more convenience.

*Duane Brown  
LMSA Board  
Road Committee Chair*



## **LMSA Annual Meeting**

**July 17, 2021 - 9:00 AM  
Glenn Community Center**

Attendance at the meeting is limited to only those members who have been vaccinated. For those members who have either not been vaccinated or who cannot attend in person, the meeting will be accessible via Zoom.

## **Pier Cove Park Grant Submitted**

On April, Ganges Township submitted a grant application for a \$355,000 park renovation effort to the DNR Trust Fund Grant Program. Friends of Pier Cove Park has been working with Ganges Township and Bob Grese, Professor Emeritus of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan, to develop the project scope and application.

We are grateful to have Bob involved with this project. He served as director of the Botanical Gardens and Arboretum at UofM and focused his teaching and research on ecologically-based landscape design and management that respects the cultural and natural history of a region. He also focuses on the role landscapes can play in re-connecting children and families with nature and is an authority on the works of O.C. Simonds and Jens Jensen – two early pioneers of landscape architecture.

The proposed renovation will enhance the overall accessibility and scenic value of Pier Cove while honoring the rich history and natural beauty of this unique lakeshore area. Renovating the current parking, fencing, signage, and steps will benefit safety, accessibility, and improve the park's overall attractiveness. A new walkway and gathering space will add barrier-free (handicapped) access to parking, restrooms, and a new overlook on Lake Michigan. Work will help restore a more natural and rustic environment and repair damage from shoreline erosion using native plantings and wildflowers.

If awarded the grant, Ganges Township will work with design professionals to develop more specific plans for building these improvements. It will be December 2021 before they find out if the grant will be awarded. If awarded, work could occur in 2022.

The project requires a total match of \$89,000 of which Ganges Township will provide up to \$65,500. The remaining \$23,500 will be provided by private fundraising, volunteer efforts, and community partnerships. Friends of Pier Cove Park has set a goal of raising \$15,000 in cash donations through our GoFundMe and community outreach. We recently received a \$2,500 donation from the Lake Michigan Shore Association for trees and shrubs! We would like to thank the LMSA for their generous donation and contribution to enhancing the natural beauty of Pier Cove.



Lastly, we are excited to announce a fun collaboration with Waypost Brewery and Tyler Voorhees Art. Waypost has released Pier Cove Pale Ale with label design and posters by Tyler and Ashley Voorhees. A portion of the beer and poster sales will go to park maintenance and restoration.

*Dana Burd  
Friends of Pier Cove Park*

## **In Loving Memory**

LMSA would like to remember and honor the following members who passed away since our newsletter last year.

**Ed Fencil**

July 13, 1927 – December 9, 2020

**Rudy L. Broekhuis**

July 10, 1953 – February 24, 2021

## Lakeshore Drive and Tree Preservation

The widening and changes to Lakeshore Drive (LSD) have made a major impact on our tree line along the roadway. At this point, we know that scores of trees were cut down with estimates up to a few hundred removals along the Drive from M-89 to Plummerville. While many of the trees were in decline, especially the Maples, there is no question that many were worth protecting. Sadly, the extensive road work required them all to be removed if they were in the scope of work. Now we are faced with decisions as a community about beautification adjacent to the new and wider roadway. In some cases, nature will allow for a new leafy canopy to establish itself. In other instances, some homeowners may consider privately planting suitable species of trees and shrubs in order to enhance their property.

The Lake Michigan Shore Association established a Tree Preservation Committee two years ago in anticipation of the decline of our roadside trees and probable removals due to future repaving. Then we partnered with the Davey Resource Group and The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy for a Tree Survey within the affected roadwork areas. The Tree Survey work is on our LMSA webpage for members to review. We trust you will find it informative. The effort was partially reimbursed by the State of Michigan through a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grant.

The LMSA Tree Preservation Committee is now looking for input and help in developing a new beautification agenda for LSD and within our Association boundaries. **We want to move this forward as a legacy effort.** We are hoping to have at least six resident members make recommendations and craft an action plan for further consideration. Presently we have as Committee Members Duane Brown, Andy Murch, and Don Olendorf, who are current LMSA Board Members. Please contact Don at (269) 208-9286 if you have an interest in participating and a passion for trees.

We will also be reaching out to the Davey Resource Group once again for advisement and hope to engage area landscapers as consultants as well. In the interim, your Board of Directors provided financial support of \$2,500 to the Friends of Pier Cove Park effort to replant trees and shrubs along the roadside. Additionally, we will have a conversation with the County about replanting species along the road at West Side County Park.

Should you wish to replant trees or shrubs privately you are encouraged to first check with the County Road Commission to make sure you are not interfering with their right-of-way (ROW). Then you are advised to

contact any reputable landscaper for revegetating. The rule of thumb is that absent an irrigation plan trees should not be planted from June through September. However, upon the advice of an expert and if you have water the summertime may suffice. Looking forward to Fall and next Spring the Committee will be looking at a more comprehensive effort to replant along the roadway. Our key Arborist contact at Davey reports that based on the beauty of our area additional grant money may be a possibility. Rest assured that we will pursue outside funding if available and appropriate. The species that experts have counseled us to consider planting along the Drive moving forward are Black Cherry, Quaking Aspen, Red Oak, Tulip Poplar, and Sycamore

<https://www.davey.com/davey-resource-group>

*Don Olendorf  
LMSA Board*

### **Annual Meeting Guest Speaker Mr. Lee Mueller, Davey Resource Group “Proactive Stewardship of Our Lakeshore Trees”**



Lee Mueller, is a market manager with Davey Resource Group, responsible for opening new offices, managing key client relationships, and developing new business opportunities. He has served on staff or board for a variety of professional and non-profit organizations dedicated to forestry, arboriculture, and parks and recreation. Before Davey, Lee was instrumental in building an urban forestry outreach and volunteer program in Grand Rapids, Michigan and managed large-scale volunteer projects in Detroit, Michigan. He is a Certified Arborist, Certified Forester, and Michigan Registered Forester, with a B.S. and M.S. in forestry from Michigan State University. He is a past chair of the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council and the Grand Rapids Parks Advisory Board, and serves on the Grand Rapids Urban Forestry Committee, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks board, and in leadership with the Michigan Society of American Foresters.

## Meet Your Board of Directors

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Frank Alfieri	2022
Duane Brown	2021
Clark Carmichael, Membership	2023
Richard Donovan	2023
Rich Forbes	2021
Dan Keller	2021
Charles Landefeld, President	2021
Andy Murch, Treasurer	2022
Kat Needham, Secretary	2022
Don Olendorf	2022
Mary Puglise	2022
Ed Welk	2023

## Blue Star Trail Update

Although progress on the Blue Star Trail (BST) was somewhat slowed over the past year by the pandemic, we witnessed a strong resurgence of enthusiasm for walking, biking and other outdoor activities. In the last few months, we have seen real progress towards building the BST:

In the north – Just before the pandemic hit, the City of Saugatuck, City of the Village of Douglas, and Saugatuck Township, together with Friends of the Blue Star Trail (FOTBST), formed a Tri-Community Committee (TCC) charged with developing and executing a plan to complete the northern section of trail. The TCC has been meeting on a regular basis. After a rigorous selection process, the TCC retained the engineering firm C2AE of Grand Rapids to advise it regarding the best route and design for the Trail, as well as to help prepare the important grant applications to MDOT and DNR. In connection with that hiring, the three governments entered into an interlocal agreement to pursue this first phase of the Trail section, and an agreement with FOTBST for it to pay the engineering fees. Members of the TCC and C2AE recently conducted a site visit along the route to identify concerns and options. The TCC expects to hold a public hearing once it has settled on a preferred design, though all of its meetings (on Zoom so far) are open to the public.

In the south – Late in 2020 FOTBST hired a new engineering firm (Abonmarche of Benton Harbor) to re-evaluate the optimal route along Blue Star Highway heading north from the Kal-Haven Trailhead through Casco Township. Initial engineering work is now complete and suggested route options are being considered in partnership with local communities.

FOTBST is pleased to report that it is finalizing plans for the return of our two largest fundraising events:

The **Toast to the Blue Star Trail** will be held Monday, August 23 outdoors at Quiet Creek Farm (2048 Lakeshore Drive, Fennville, MI). This festive evening will feature food, drinks, and a live auction. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and/or attending this outstanding event, please go to [FOTBST.org](http://FOTBST.org) for additional information.

The **Lakeshore Harvest Ride** will be held September 18 – all proceeds from this outstanding event benefit the Trail. This ride has become very popular, attracting large numbers of biking enthusiasts from nearby states to our locale for a fun day of riding and immersing themselves into the early fall scenery as well as the farms, vineyards, cider mills, art galleries, and more along the routes. If you are interested in participating, please register at [LHR.com](http://LHR.com) - early registrants can save up to \$20 per rider. If you would like to be a sponsor or volunteer at the event, please contact Jack Eisinger ([jce6935@gmail.com](mailto:jce6935@gmail.com)).

We look forward to the day when we complete the 20-mile route between South Haven and Saugatuck, with connections south to Van Buren State Park, east on the Kal-Haven Trail to Kalamazoo, and north on the Beeline Trail to Holland and beyond. In the meantime, with your help, within 2-3 years residents and visitors will be able to enjoy the 4.5 mile “linear park” through Saugatuck-Douglas.

We look forward to seeing all of our “friends” on the Trail.

*S. Clark Carmichael, President  
Friends of the Blue Star Trail*





## Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Wau-Ke-Na Update

At Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, we know that a big part of what makes Glenn such a special place to live, in addition to the thriving arts scene, the rich history, and the vibrant local food and wine producers, is the abundant nature in which this little town is gently set. Carefully nestled between the Lake Michigan shoreline, and the rural farmfields, and thousands of acres of prairies and woodlands, Glenn is the perfect place for anyone who loves nature, the arts, good food, and community.

As the owner and caretaker of the Wau-Ke-Na, William Erby Smith Preserve, SWMLC takes very seriously our role in supporting the quality of life for residents and visitors to Glenn. Comprising 385 acres of public natural area in Glenn, we understand that the health and vitality of this nature preserve is as important to the people who live here as it is to us.

Over the last several years, SWMLC has been working proactively to help ensure that this critical piece of natural area remains healthy and continues to serve the needs of the Glenn community for generations to come. With a significant grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund which is generously supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Fund, SWMLC has been able to remove a stand of diseased and blighted non-native Douglas fir trees, and begin to restore the forested area with species that will better adapt to anticipated changes in the region's weather patterns. We know that the changes in the landscape at Wau-Ke-Na have been significant and that change is hard, but we also know that creating a forest that can withstand fluctuations in climate, as well as accompanying increases in destructive pests, will help to ensure that a healthy natural area will always be here to be enjoyed by residents and wildlife, alike. In addition, as part of this grant, SWMLC was also able to treat over 1,100 of Glenn's iconic native eastern hemlock trees to protect them from the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid which has killed so many hemlock trees further north.

This spring, SWMLC staff and volunteers are busy planting 1,860 baby trees at Wau-Ke-Na's North Tract! And later this season, they will be planting an additional 2,400 at Wau-Ke-Na's South Tract! In a new approach to healthy forests, these traditionally "southern" species of

trees, including Ohio buckeye, pawpaw, common persimmon, and chinquapin oak, which are better suited to the warmer climate and more severe rain events that are expected for the region, are being planted to help prevent the proliferation of invasive species that can take hold and quickly destroy an ecosystem when major canopy species are lost to drought, flood, or even a singular pest like the Emerald Ash Borer or the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. So, when you see the rows of white tubes protecting these tiny trees at Wau-Ke-Na, try to imagine the strong, climate-resilient forest these little "whips" will become.

Separately, SWMLC's field crew attacked the thick jungle of invasive autumn olive trees that previously surrounded the pond on the north end of the South Tract. And with generous assistance from the Ganges Township Fire Department, SWMLC followed up this intensive invasive species removal with a controlled burn that not only knocks back these invasives even further, but also helps restore the health of the grassland areas. Wau-Ke-Na's grasslands lend rural character to Lakeshore Drive while providing important habitat for grassland birds whose populations are in decline. This most recent burn created an open 65-acre prairie habitat for grassland birds by removing the tree lines that separated them.

But the biggest reward for all of this ongoing work and effort is seeing the ways in which Wau-Ke-Na has become a part of the lives of the people of Glenn. We were thrilled to learn recently about the nature-rich hikes and lessons that Linda Page's lower elementary students have been experiencing at Wau-Ke-Na's South Tract. During spring and fall, the kids visit the preserve about once a week, walking nearly two miles round-trip from the Glenn School! Nature is baked right into their lessons on core subjects like math and reading – and the kids are empowered by learning that they can help both the preserve and the community with projects like creating a monarch waystation. Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is proud to play a part in the lives of a town with such strong, home-grown value for nature and for community.

Please visit our website for more information and photos from these projects:

<https://swmlc.org/swmlc-receives-national-grant/>

<https://swmlc.org/making-omelettes/>

<https://swmlc.org/hemlocks-for-the-holidays/>

*Peter Ter Louw, Director  
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy*

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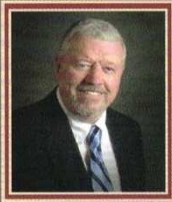
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# Lake Michigan Shore Association Boundaries Map





## Lake Michigan Shore Association

### NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Tear off  
&  
return

I hereby make application for, or seek renewal of, membership in The Lake Michigan Shore Association which represents an area bounded by Lake Michigan on the West, Lake Shore Drive "wash-out" or 128th on the north, then along Interstate 196 on the East, then South to exit 30, then South on Blue Star Hwy to 111th Ave (the southern boundary), then west to Lake Michigan, in Allegan County Michigan. I am a property owner or resident of the above described area.

It is a condition of membership that any group, owning or residing in a membership property, are included in a single membership.

**Enclosed is my check for \$35.00 covering membership dues  
for the period January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Local or Other Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Michigan Voter? Yes  No

If yes, Ganges Twp.  Saugatuck Twp.  Casco Twp.  Other

I am interested in serving on an LMSA committee:

I am interested in serving on the LMSA Board of Directors:

I am interested in helping LMSA in other ways. Please contact me:

**Make checks payable to LMSA and send to:**

**LMSA  
P. O. Box 995  
Douglas, MI 49406**

Please take a moment to add suggestions, concerns or "areas of interest" that you would like to share with the LMSA Board on the reverse side of this form. Visit [www.lmsa.us](http://www.lmsa.us) for more information or to renew/apply online.

**Lake Michigan Shore Association**  
**PO Box 995**  
**Douglas, MI 49406**

*Dedicated to Preservation of the Quality  
and Character of the Area*

