

Scenic MICHIGAN



**Alert! Watch our video at
www.scenicmichigan.org**

*Our mission: To preserve, protect, and
enhance Michigan's scenic resources.*

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President's Message

By Jim Lagowski

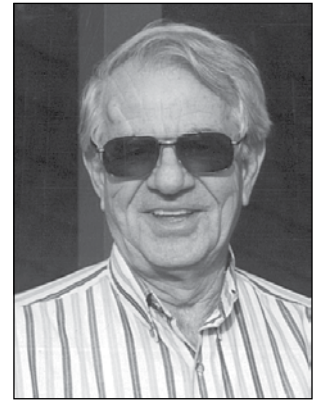
Real progress has been made in meeting Scenic Michigan's 2009 objectives;

- Our website, www.scenicmichigan.org, has been updated through donated services. Potential members can now join on-line, safely and securely. You can help by referring friends and neighbors to the website.
- A new brochure has been completed and is enclosed with this newsletter.
- Our drive to gain 75 new members this year has been supported by a generous challenge grant from the Frey Foundation in Grand Rapids, along with two other grants. We need you to help identify new members to meet this challenge.
- A new video has been produced, aimed at raising awareness of Scenic Michigan, gaining new members and calling attention to the aesthetic and driver safety issues associated with digital, changeable message billboards. You can view the video by going to our website. If you would like a DVD of the video to show to potential members, contact us at 231-347-4929.
- A donor has provided funds to hire a Lansing lobbyist to help us work toward a statewide moratorium on any new digital, changeable message billboards. (Those big TV-like boards on a stick!)
- Another supporter has funded a state-wide poll regarding those digital billboards. Michiganders clearly support a moratorium until the results of a Federal Highway Administration study regarding driver distractions/safely is completed, analyzed, and recommendations made regarding their use.
- Our June 26th wine tasting fundraiser in Harbor Springs was a smashing success. This fundraiser built on the experience of the three preceding annual events.

Our priorities for the balance of 2009 include:

- Fundraising (it never ends!).
- Gaining new members
- Introducing moratorium legislation for digital billboards.

We need your help to "preserve, protect and enhance Michigan's scenic resources". Without it we cannot succeed in the long run. The decline of our manufacturing base is putting increased emphasis on tourism as a key component of Michigan's economic future. The attractiveness of our communities and roadways is important for business retention and expansion. Billboards of any kind do not contribute to the quality of life of residents or tourists.



Thieves of the Night

By Lou Sanford
Elk- Skegemog Lakes Association



Two of the most spectacular natural displays of the North are being stolen from us—night after night—right before our very eyes. We are referring to the celestial phenomena known as The Milky Way and the Northern Lights. The culprit? Light pollution. The polluters? Maybe us. We'd like our ESLA friends to give some thought to lighting—on their properties, in their neighborhoods... in our beautiful region.

It used to be that car dealerships and all-night gas stations were the major light polluters. And we didn't have too many of those up here. Yes, those farmyard lights that shine all night have been around for a long time, but nowadays it seems as if homeowners everywhere are somehow encouraged (in the name of security?) to brighten large expanses of their property, and frequently those of their neighbors. Their tactics often involve lights that shine upward and/or horizontally, pop on automatically dusk to dawn, and frankly trespass in several directions, shining and reflecting clear across our lakes. Your ESLA Board worries that if this trend continues it won't be long before we'll all be scratching our heads as we join the two-thirds of U.S. residents who are unable to see the Milky Way at all.

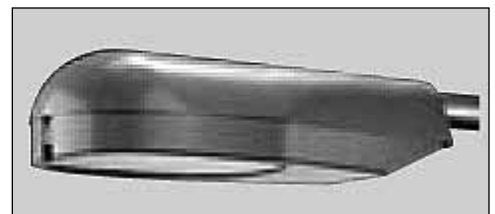
Is this sad result inevitable? We think not. Local ordinances are truly becoming tougher in this regard; appropriate light-

ing fixtures, shields and retrofits are definitely available, increasingly inexpensive and easy to install; and entire neighborhoods are banding together to improve streetlighting, and encourage good lighting practices.

Are you a light polluter? Do you have a neighbor who is? We don't have space here to explore all angles and solutions, but we do suggest you do two things.

1. Visit the website of the International Dark Sky Association (<http://www.darksky.org>), an excellent and informative resource and
2. Observe the following guidelines:
 - (a) View your home from your neighbors' perspectives
 - (b) Light the ground, not the sky
 - (c) Use a uniform lighting pattern and avoid sharp contrasts
 - (d) Choose fixtures that have a full cutoff (shielded) design
 - (e) Place fixtures only where light is needed
 - (f) Use bulbs with appropriate wattage
 - (g) Use motion detectors or time controls to turn off when not needed.

At the end of the day (literally), let's all do our part to identify and apprehend those thieves of our precious dark nights.



COOPER Lighting fixture OVH Flat Glass, 50 - 250W, Roadway Luminaire; suitable for parking lot & residential applications, 'dark sky compliant'.

Great Lakes Energy received the Gary R. Williams Excellence in Outdoor Lighting award for making Cooper OVH Flat Glass outdoor security lights (pictured above) available to its members, that do not contribute to light pollution. Scenic Michigan board member Mary Lou Tanton with the Outdoor Lighting Forum in Petoskey presents the award to Jim Ance (center) and Larry Failing.

An Interview with Scenic Michigan Board Member Diana Leipprandt

Interview by Abby Dart
Scenic Michigan Executive Director



Q. How did you become involved with Scenic Michigan?

A. Bethany Goodman (Scenic Michigan former President and Board Member) was on the board of the Michigan Garden Clubs and I took over her job as legislation chairperson. That opened the door. I feel it is a good fit with all my interests.

We know you've been very involved with the Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. What do you think is the best way for Scenic Michigan and the Garden Clubs to work together?

There are many ways that we mesh. For many years I was the Environmental Educational Chairperson on the Michigan Garden Club Board. I have been the agent to MSU for scholarships in horticulture and Landscape Architecture for many years.

Q. Tell us about your educational background and family?

A. I graduated from MSU in Landscape Architecture with a Bachelor of Science degree. I am a master in Flower Show Judge, Environmental Education, Garden Study and need one more school to be a master in Landscape, all through the National Garden Clubs. I have been married to my husband, Bob, for just over 50 years. We have 4 children, all productive adults, and two of the four particularly care about gardening and the environment.

Q. Are you a Michigan native and what do you think are the best qualities that our state has to offer both visitors and residents?

A. I have lived in Michigan all my life. The Great Lakes and all its watersheds, including all of the inland lakes and streams make Michigan a most beautiful and wondrous state.

Q. What hobbies do you enjoy and describe what you consider to be your "perfect day"?

A. I do love to garden and spend time in our home in the woods.

Q. Scenic Michigan, like many other non-profit organizations, faces challenging times ahead in the current economic climate. What are your thoughts

on how to increase membership and raise public awareness for our organization?

A. Membership poses challenges and in particular it is very important to have a diverse group of members from all over the state. Membership though is tied to message...when your message excites people, they will join.

Q. Since you have been on the Scenic Michigan Board, what have been some of the highlights of the work of the organization and, if funding was not an issue, what projects would you like to see Scenic Michigan embark upon in the future?

A. Since I was a child viewing the little Burma Shave signs at 50 miles per hour and now digital signs at 70 miles per hour...what a distraction! We need to take back our roadways!

**Scenic Michigan
"Wish List"**

Scenic Michigan has many needs including the items listed below to help us get our message out to communities and individuals around the state...If you can help us with a donation to purchase either of these items, please contact the Scenic Michigan office at 231-347-4920 or email at info@scenicmichigan.org. Your generous support is greatly appreciated!

22 INCH DVD PLAYER FOR USE TO SHOW SCENIC MICHIGAN VIDEO TO SUPPORTERS AND POTENTIAL DONORS (approximate cost: \$400.00)

PORTABLE MULTI-MEDIA PROJECTOR (approximate \$500.00)

Recap of the 4th Annual Waterfront Wine Festival

The 4th Annual Waterfront Wine Festival proved to be a smashing success. The event was held in its permanent location on the waterfront in Harbor Springs with over 40 community members graciously volunteering to help serve the 500+ guests in attendance.

Scenic Michigan and the Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce present the event each year, with proceeds from the event benefiting the operations of both organizations.

Providing considerable support this year was Fernelius Toyota of Cheboygan and Odawa Casino of Petoskey. Both were on hand at the event with Fernelius featuring two 2010 alternative fuel vehicles. A stellar musical performance was provided by the John Driscoll Ensemble. Two members of the five member group have recently been accepted to the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Wines and micro brew beers were provided by Fabiano Brothers, Shady Lane Cellars, Chateau Grand Traverse, Griffin Beverage, Mackinaw Trails Winery, Great Lakes Wine and Spirits and Bayside Beverage with both national and international tastings. A sampling of gourmet treats was provided by four local businesses including the Good Hart General Store of Good Hart, Stafford's Pier Restaurant of Harbor Springs and Fustini's Oils and Symons General Store of Petoskey.

Executive Director of Scenic Michigan and event chair, Abby Dart, commented on the success of the event and offered a nod to plans for next year. "As an organization, we're thrilled at the turn out. The event raised literally thousands of dollars for both organizations and offered a wonderful evening of fun for those in attendance. We have even greater plans for 2010 and our first meeting for that event has already been scheduled. Our immediate plans for 2010 include a larger tent space, additional distributors, and definitely more food options. Thank you to everyone who attended and we hope to see you next year!"



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www.scenicmichigan.org

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