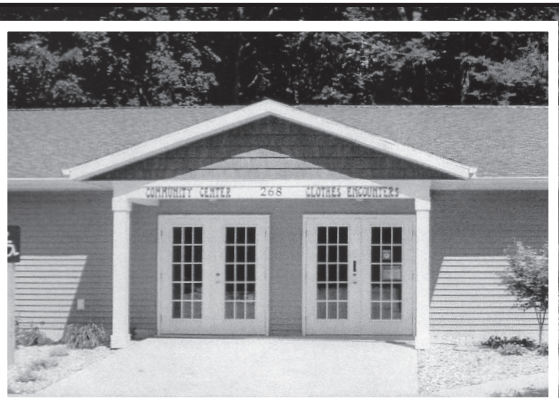


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**Follow the Fellow**

by Sarah Krzemien, DTE Fellow, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly



**Sarah Krzemien**

Welcome to the first installment of **Follow the Fellow** a series of articles where I will share fun environmental topics and projects that I'm working on for the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA). I also plan to provide opportunities for community involvement.

Before I get too far, I want to begin by introducing myself. I graduated from Central Michigan University this past May, with a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science and Spanish. Three months ago, I started working as a Project Manager for MRWA, a position made possible through the DTE Foundation Environmental Fellowship.

DTE Foundation created The Fellowship Program to provide future environmental leaders from underrepresented groups in the workplace comprehensive work experience that is necessary to make a positive impact in the world. The MRWA and the DTE Foundation have been working for over a year to make the program a reality.

This program provides the funding that will allow me to work for MRWA for two years in support of their mission: the preservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the Muskegon River, the land it drains, and the life it supports. In my first four months on the job, I have enjoyed the position and have come to view it as a wonderful continuation of my environmental science path.

My journey began many years ago with my grandfather, who had always wanted to be a forest ranger. He loved the outdoors and tried to immerse himself in nature as much as possible. While this career never became a reality, he did buy a house up north in the middle of the woods. My family would often visit and he would take me on walks around his property. Since I grew up in southeast Michigan, I normally had few opportunities to experience nature in this way.

My grandfather would point out and identify the different flora and fauna we saw. He also taught me very important lessons about the relationship humans have with nature. He explained that humans and nature should share a mutualistic relationship; the Earth cares for us, but we have a responsibility to provide the same great care for it as well. I still live by this mindset today and think that learning this lesson at a young age has fostered my passion and love for the environment.

As I grew up, I pursued every opportunity to learn about the environment. I took environmental science classes in school, watched nature documentaries, and went outside as much as possible. When it finally came time to choose my future career path, it was not a hard decision.

I now work on projects every day that will improve the Muskegon River Watershed. To date, I have created invasive species prevention projects and developed educational programming with the MRWA. Recently, I submitted a grant proposal to fund the planting of 361 trees throughout three counties in the watershed. In addition to writing the proposal, I conducted site visits, contacted partners, and created a budget. We expect approved of my proposal in the next two months.

In the future, I hope to achieve many important goals on behalf of the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly. I am passionate about educational programming and community outreach; therefore, I am excited to continue developing educational opportunities for the Muskegon River Watershed community. In addition, I look forward to working with the rest of the MRWA staff on any projects that cross my desk, ranging from tree plantings and trash clean-ups, to invasive species prevention and streambank restoration.

I want to thank you all for tuning in and I hope you will continue to follow along on my journey.

MRWA director at large Jonathon Wilson is a strong advocate for this program and his consistent support has been a major factor in moving the initiative forward.

*"The DTE Foundation's support will enable MRWA to extend the Fellowship program to a recent graduate, engaging them in an immersive, career-building experience that also brings valuable capacity to MRWA's work."*

**Dorothy Jane Eggleton**

July 28, 1929 – March 2, 2023



Dorothy Jane (Veldman) Eggleton (Dorrie) died March 2, 2023, at Covenant Living of the Great Lakes. Dorrie was born July 28, 1929, in Muskegon, Michigan to Harvey and Evelyn (Stenberg) Veldman.

Dorrie and her husband

C. Howard (Dooley) Eggleton first met in the Muskegon County 4-H Band program. She played the flute and sang in a Christian trio with her sisters, Lynn and Jeannie. Dorrie graduated with the last class of the Third Avenue Fruitport School in 1947. She became a keypunch operator shortly after graduation at Brunswick Corporation in Muskegon. Dorrie and Dooley were married June 24, 1950, and she continued to work and to encourage him until he finished as a student at MSC. They moved back to Fruitport in 1961 where they resided and raised their family. Her love for the Lord Jesus was seen in her love for her family and all children. She taught Sunday School and directed Vacation Bible School at Muskegon Bible Fellowship. She lovingly cared for foster children and found joy in visiting a special needs friend. She was an avid gardener and continued to sing in local churches with the "Veldman Sisters Trio." One of her favorite hymns was "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." In 2007 they moved to Covenant Living of the Great Lakes where Dorrie enjoyed many activities. She loved and participated in drama in high school, at Brunswick and at Covenant Living.



**The Veldman Sisters Trio**

She is preceded in death by her parents, Harvey Veldman and Evelyn Ouellette; sister, Shirley Koats; brothers: Reginald Veldman, Timothy Ouellette and niece, Lisa (Carlson) Conklin. Dorrie is lovingly remembered by her husband of over 72 years, C. Howard (Dooley) Eggleton; 4 children: Steven H. (Ellen Wilson) Eggleton, Susan J. (Terry) Turner, Leah A. (Frank) Powers, Robyn L. Latham; 16 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren; sisters: Marilyn (Alden) Carlson, Jean (Irwin) Hunt; many nieces and nephews.

To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign the online guest book, or to share a favorite memory, please visit: [www.MichiganCremation.com](http://www.MichiganCremation.com). Gifts in memory of Dorrie can be given to your favorite charity.

**Hey Parents and Grandparents—**

Do you need something fun, as well as educational, to do with your kids this fall? How about attending Sportsmen for Youth – Youth Day held on September 9, 2023 between 9am and 3pm, at the Muskegon County Fairgrounds!

This is family friendly totally free event. There is no fee for parking and/or entry. There will be at least 60 exhibitors in attendance along with 8 fire trucks. Some of the exhibitors will include a trout pond, rock climbing wall, mentored archery and shotgun shooting (must have DNR Hunter Safety Certificate to participate in shotgun event). There will be informational talks by some of the best fisherman on tips to catch bass, walleye, perch and big lake fish. There will also be demonstrations on fire safety throughout the day by members of the local fire departments. Each youth (age 17 and under) will receive a free t-shirt (while supplies last), a ticket for a hotdog lunch, and a raffle ticket. Yes, all this and more is free. For additional information see our website at [www.sportsmenforyouth.com](http://www.sportsmenforyouth.com) and our Facebook page. Hope to see you there.

from John Cramblet, Sportsmen for Youth