

FRESHWATER REPORTER

Serving Coastal Communities from Arcadia to Ludington

Vol. 1 No. 7

© 2019 Freshwater Reporter

Winter Issue **FREE**

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like #25DaysofFishmas

Using social media to talk about Great Lakes fish

By Katie O'Reilly, aka "Dr. Katfish"

Ah, the winter holiday season. A time of sleigh bells, holly, and ... fish??

As a Ph.D. student studying Great Lakes coastal wetlands, I came across a "Fishes of the Great Lakes" poster from Wisconsin Sea Grant that reminded me of an advent calendar – you know, the ones where you open a little door each day in December and get a treat. I thought, why not instead of chocolates, you could get facts about fish? Throw in a heaping cup of raising awareness about threats to freshwater environments, a dash of Great Lakes' science, a sprinkling of the finest fish puns, and, ta-da! You have a recipe for the science communication event on social media known as #25DaysofFishmas.



FISHY FORUM

I created #25DaysofFishmas on Twitter in 2016 as a lighthearted way to showcase the diversity of fish species that live in the Great Lakes. Since then, it has evolved into an annual forum where audiences of all backgrounds – scientists, anglers, others from the Great Lakes region and beyond – are brought together to share their knowledge and experiences and talk about the challenges facing the Great Lakes.

On each day in December, #25DaysofFishmas begins with unveiling the day's fish species on the "Fishmas" calendar (above). It's then followed by a series of tweets about the natural

The 2018 #25DaysofFishmas calendar. Featured fish receive a Santa hat (native to the Great Lakes), Grinch face (non-native), or a Ghost of Fishmas Past (extirpated/locally extinct).

history and ecology of the species, as well as unexpected and/or fun facts and connections to humans. Using Twitter to do #25DaysofFishmas allows anyone to participate by "liking," retweeting (sharing), or replying to these posts. Posts from past years can be found by searching for the hashtag "#25DaysofFishmas".

UNMASKING THE UNDERDOG FISH

While I often joke that I created #25DaysofFishmas to combine two of my

loves – Great Lakes fish and puns – my goal for this outreach was to increase awareness about fish species beyond familiar sport fish like walleye and bass. To that end, some of the most popular species featured during #25DaysofFishmas have included relatively underappreciated and unknown species.

For example, the species with the most overall "impressions" (Twitter's measure of how many times a tweet has been seen) was bowfin, a native fish that has a

continued on page 4

Sno Snake Sho opens at the Ramsdell

From staff reports
Photos by Mark Videan.

MANISTEE – Those who love the annual Art Snake summer art show, and those who enjoy art but could not make the trek to more than a dozen art studios, can view work by the artists in one location beginning in December.

The "Sno Snake Sho" is a Dec. 5-21 exhibition of work by the Art Snake artists inside the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts. Gallery visitors can meet the artists during a 6-8 p.m. reception on Dec. 6.

"This show will feature 17 different artists, all in our beautifully renovated gallery space in Hardy Hall," said Ramsdell Executive Director Xavier Verna.

Organizers said the December show offers an exciting preview of new creative directions as well as familiar styles and techniques of the following artists: Amanda Acker, Jamey Barnard, Susan Wild Barnard, Ken Cooper, Mike Grant, Kristine Harvey, William Hattendorf, Andrew Jagniecki, Judy Jashinski, Phil Joseph, Susan Joseph, Richard Kooyman, Leslie Laskey, Don Paone, Melanie Parke, Les Scruggs and Mick Symanski.

"I'm honored to be working alongside the visual arts community to promote the amazing talent and creative energy that exists in our backyards," said RRCA Board Member and Art Snake Artist William "Bill" Hattendorf.

continued on page 4

Hooked on ice fishing

By Christine Stapleton. Photos courtesy of the author.

A friend of mine recently sent me an article ranking States with the Worst Winters, and Michigan was second – close behind Minnesota.



Christine Stapleton

I "get" the whine on the endless cloudy days, slushy roads and early winter (wink, wink) which goes well into spring. But if you live here and remember why everyone wants to vacation here, you can have fun and keep busy all winter long.

One of my very favorite things to do on those chilly winter days is to sit on a bucket on a frozen lake and fish for bluegills. Some of my friends think I have lost my marbles, but most of my family understands and will join me when they can. I must admit, as I have gotten older, I am a fair-weather fisherwoman, not venturing out when the wind is howling and when falling snow reduces the visibility to almost nothing.

I remember my first and second ice-fishing outings, many winters ago. I tagged along with a next-door neighbor boy.

One of the tools of ice fishing is a spud, a long pole with a chisel end used to check the thickness of the ice and keep the hole open. He told me to always remember to tie the rope of the spud around my wrist. The second time out I forgot ... and lost his spud. Very embarrassing for an 11-year-old.

When you ice fish, you can buy fancy equipment such as portable shanties, fish finders and expensive rods, reels and tip-ups. But what you really need are lots of warm clothes, good boots, an ice auger, a couple of short poles and some waxies, (small, white worms).

There are so many lakes in our area to fish. Some lakes are good for walleye, others for perch, smelt, or pike. There is always the occasional catch of a trout or bass to liven things up.

I am lucky to have a great fishing buddy, Sue, who lives on a lake with plenty of bluegills lurking below the ice. Usually there are a few family members, always some dogs, and sometimes just the two of us.

We are cautious and will not go out until the ice is thick and safe. We guess where the fish may be biting, drill some holes in the ice and bait our hooks. Sometimes we have to move around, and sometimes they

continued on page 4



Artist Susan Joseph.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Holiday Happenings	2
Saunas of Kaleva.....	3
Christmas Tree Farm	3
Winter Comfort Food	5
Snowshoeing in the Park.....	5
Mystery of Father Marquette.....	6
Living in Northern Michigan.....	6
Arcadia Bells.....	7
Happy Little 5K Run for Trees.....	7
Meteor Showers in December.....	7
Christmas Word Puzzle.....	8

Holiday Happenings in December

Please check with the venue first, as some dates or times may have changed. Certain events require tickets/entry fees not shown here.

A brochure listing **Manistee's Victorian Sleighbell Parade and Old Christmas Weekend** Dec. 5-8 events can be found online at ManisteeSleighbellParade.com and at Manistee County Visitors Center and area businesses, such as Snyder's Shoes, The Ideal Kitchen, The Outpost, Moving Spirits Boutique, Stu's Pub and others.



- Dec 3 Sparkle in the Park**
(through Jan. 1) 5-10 p.m., Hopkins Park, 7727 Hopkins Dr. (just off US 31), Bear Lake. Over 1,000 holiday lights in over 50 displays. Donations accepted.
- Dec 4 Rotary Club Annual Holiday Auction**
6-9 p.m., Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 1527 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington
Contact www.ludingtonrotary.org for more info
- Dec 4 Christmas Party and Meeting of the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds (snowmobilers) Club**
6 p.m., 14121 Industrial Dr., Kaleva. All are welcome. Bring a dish to pass.
- Dec 4-8 G&D Alpacas Holiday Open House**
12-8 p.m. Follow the lighted "fairy" trail to the store for unique alpaca, handmade & Michigan gift items at 4796 Maple Rd., Manistee
Facebook: [gdalpacafarm](https://www.facebook.com/gdalpacafarm)
- Dec 5 West Shore Community College Jazz Ensemble**
7:30 p.m., WSCC Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Dec 5-21 Sno Snake Sho**
Open Thurs., Dec. 5-Sat., Dec. 21, with Artist Reception 6 p.m., Fri., Dec. 6. Hardy Hall, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Works by 17 local artists will be on display.
- Dec 5-8 Victorian Sleigh Bell Parade and Old Christmas Weekend**
Downtown Manistee, for a complete listing of events, go to <http://manisteesleighbellparade.com/event-schedule/>
- Dec 6 Hart Performing Arts Series**
7:30 p.m., Hart Middle School Auditorium, 308 Johnson St., Hart
- Dec 6-7 Letha Fulton School of Dance Christmas Show**
Fri. 4 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m. & 5 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington
- Dec 6-7 West Michigan Bed and Breakfast Cookie Tour**
Fri., 6-9 p.m. Sat., 1-6 p.m., various locations. Info at <https://www.ludingtonhouse.com/specials/events>
- Dec 6-8 Manistee Civic Players present: Elf the Musical**
Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:00 p.m., Manistee High School Auditorium, 525 12th St., Manistee
- Dec 7 Photos with Santa**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Ludington Library, 217 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington
- Dec 7 Holiday Craft Fair**
Pentwater Public School, 600 E. Park St., Pentwater
- Dec 7 Lakeshore Animal Friends Bazaar**
9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mason County Animal Control, 305 N. Meyers Rd., Ludington

- Dec 7 Scottville United Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar**
9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 114 W. State St., Scottville
- Dec 7 Annual Custer Christmas Event**
6-8 p.m., Custer Fire Barn, for residents of Custer Village and Custer Township
- Dec 7 Kids Christmas Party**
1-4 p.m., Scottville Optimist Hall, 105 Green St., Scottville. Santa, games, crafts, punch and cookies. Bring a nonperishable food item to be entered in a special drawing. Free
- Dec 7 Sleighbell Craft Show, Bake Sale and Raffle**
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Manistee High School, 525 12th St., Manistee
- Dec 7 Christmas Craft Sale**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Snug Harbor Adult Day Care, 301 N. Washington Ave., Ludington
- Dec 7 Santa's Headquarters Opens**
1-3:45 p.m., Manistee Marina, 460 River St., Manistee. Santa's Headquarters will also be open from 1-3 p.m. on Dec. 14, 15, 20 and 21.
- Dec 7 MaxwellTown Brass Band performs "Sounds of the Season"**
3:30 - 5 p.m., 390 River St., Manistee. Free
- Dec 7 Victorian Sleighbell Parade**
5:30 p.m., Downtown Manistee, east to west on River St. Horse-drawn giant Christmas tree, Victorian characters and bands. Parade ends with caroling and tree lighting.
- Dec 7 Sleighbell Fireworks**
Immediately following the Sleighbell Parade, west end of River St., Manistee
- Dec 7 Laith Al-Saadi**
7:30 - 10 p.m., Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Manistee. Cousin Curtiss opens for Al-Saadi, a 2016 finalist on NBC's "The Voice." Tickets start at \$20.00
Call (231) 398-9770 or visit www.RamsdellTheatre.org
- Dec 9 Scottville Elementary Program**
6-7 p.m., A. O. Carlson gymnasium, Mason County Central High School, 300 W. Broadway St., Scottville
- Dec 9 West Shore Community College Gold Coast Chorale**
7:30 p.m., WSCC Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Dec 11 Pentwater Elementary Music K-4 Winter Program**
6 p.m., Pentwater School, 600 E. Park St., Pentwater
- Dec 11 Franklin Kindergarten Music Program**
7-8 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington
- Dec 12 Lakeview Elementary Christmas Concert**
7-8 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington

- Dec 13-14 West Michigan Bed and Breakfast Cookie Tour**
Fri. 6-9 p.m., Sat. 1-6 p.m., various locations. Info at: <https://www.ludingtonhouse.com/specials/events>
- Dec 13-14 Second Annual White Pine Christmas**
4-7 p.m., Historic White Pine Village, 1687 S. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington. \$8/adult, \$6/ages 3-17, 2 & Under/Free. Crafts, milk and cookies, Santa.
- Dec 14 Santa and Holiday Crafts**
Scottville Library, 204 E. State St., Scottville. Free
- Dec 14 No \$ Turkey Dinner**
3-5 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. Community turkey dinner with all the fixings. Free, donations accepted.
- Dec 14 Santa's Workshop at Floracraft**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Floracraft, 1 W. Longfellow Pl., Ludington. Crafts, games, hot chocolate, stories with Mrs. Claus, horse-drawn wagon rides, photos with Santa. Free
- Dec 14 We'll Be Home for the Holidays Annual Holiday Program**
7-9 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison, Ludington
- Dec 15 Create Jingle Bell Elves with Deb Borema**
12-1 p.m., Sandcastles Children's Museum, 129 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington. \$7.00 per person
- Dec 16 Create-A-Gift**
4-6 p.m., Scottville Library, 204 E. State St., Scottville. Free
- Dec 16 West Shore Community College Percussion Ensemble and Wind Symphony**
7:30 p.m., WSCC Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Dec 16-19 Create-A-Gift**
4-6 p.m., Monday - Thursday, Ludington Library, 217 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington. Free
- Dec 17 Manistee 7th, 8th, and Manistee High School Christmas Concert**
7 p.m., Manistee High School, 525 12th St., Manistee
- Dec 17 West Shore Community College Concert Choir**
7:30 p.m., WSCC Center Stage Theater, 3000 N. Stiles Rd., Scottville
- Dec 17 O J Holiday Band Concert**
7:30-8:30 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington
- Dec 19 Create-A-Gift and Snowflake Soiree**
4-6 p.m., Scottville Library, 204 E. State St., Scottville. Free
- Dec 19 Manistee Choir Holiday Concert**
2 p.m., Manistee High School, 525 12th St., Manistee

- Dec 19 Pentwater 5th and 6th, Junior High and High School Winter Concert**
7 p.m., Pentwater School, 600 E. Park St., Pentwater
- Dec 20 Celtic Woman: The Best of Christmas**
9 p.m., Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. (US-31), Manistee. \$55-\$75. Multi-platinum, bestselling group tours globally.
- Dec 20 Create a Christmas Ornament**
10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sandcastles Children's Museum, 129 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington. \$7.00 per person
- Dec 21 Edgar Struble presents "A Nashville Family Christmas"**
Performances at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School, 508 N. Washington Ave., Ludington. Box office phone 231.843.5507, email caclerk@westshore.edu
- Dec 21 Winter Solstice Ceremony**
4 p.m., Maple Grove Cemetery, Kaleva. Finnish tradition of lighting candles for those who have passed. Nearly 1000 luminaries will be placed at graves.
- Dec 31 2020 New Year**
8 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. Portage Point Inn-Lahey's Pub, 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama. Dance, eat & drink through the 50s to 90s. Dress your favorite decade & get your groove on. \$35 includes gourmet pizza, appetizers from the decades, soft drinks, DJ, party favors, photo stations with props & balloon drop at 12 a.m.
- Dec 31 Balloon Drop New Year's Eve Party**
5-8 p.m., Sandcastles Children's Museum, 129 E Ludington Ave., Ludington. Snacks, ice cream, face painting, conga playing, crafts, big balloon drop. \$40.00 per family, \$10.00 per person, (231) 233-9326 for tickets
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party**
7-11:30 p.m., Ludington Library, 217 E. Ludington Ave, Ludington. Family party with crafts, games, activities, snacks and warm beverages. Free
- Dec 31 Puttin' On the Ritz**
8 p.m. - Midnight, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Top hats and tiaras encouraged. Party favors, noise makers, hors d'oeuvres and libations. Dave Greer's Classic Jazz Stompers. Champagne toast at 12 a.m. Tickets \$65.00 per person, \$75.00 day of event www.mynorthtickets.com
- Dec 31 Ring in the Roaring 2020s**
7:30 - 11 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. Doors open 7:30 p.m., film "The Great Gatsby" showing in the Performance Hall at 8:30 p.m. Live music at 10 p.m. Drinks, refreshments in the Gallery. \$1.00 suggested donation.
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Ball Drop**
9 p.m. - 12:30 a.m., N. James St. Plaza, Ludington. Music, dancing, beer tasting. Ball drop at midnight followed by fireworks.
www.downtownludington.org for more info



- Laskey Hattendorf**
- Scruggs Barnard**
- Joseph Janiecki**
- Acker Jashinsky**
- Parke Grant**
- Kooyman Szymanski**
- Cooper Paone**
- Grant Harvey**

SNO SNAKE SHO

Reception Dec 6 at 6pm



101 Maple St, Manistee

Give a gift that's...

www.HomeGrownMichigan.com

Revisiting the saunas of Kaleva

An unabridged version of this article first appeared in the Grand Traverse Journal, March 2016. Reprinted by permission.

Story and photos by Stewart A. McFerran

As winter approaches, the traditions of the Finnish founders of Kaleva, Michigan come to mind. A hot sauna is often the best way to get warm on a cold, snowy day. As traditions go, the sauna – a steam-filled room meant to cleanse and relax the body – is practical, enjoyable and shrouded in a rich mythology.



Re-creation of a sauna, behind the Bottle House.

Several years ago, Kaleva's last Finnish-speaking resident gave me a tour of the saunas Kaleva. Arthur Hulkonen remembered places where saunas had once been, such as one that burned down behind Kaleva Tavern. Homes on Sampo Avenue and Kauko Street had saunas, and there was one at the Bethany Lutheran Church, where Arthur worshipped.

In Kaleva, the saunas were fired up on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Wood heat from the large stoves filled the small, cedar-lined rooms. Rocks on the top of the stoves sputtered and popped when splashed with water. Steam enveloped the Hulkonen family and their friends as they sat on high benches and thrashed their skin with birch

whisks to improve blood flow.

Arthur was from Nisula in the Upper Peninsula and served in the U.S. Army in World War II. He spent five months as a prisoner of war in Dresden, Germany. He arrived in Kaleva, where his brother was living, on June 29, 1945. He told me he met his wife Mildred at her family's sauna in Kaleva.

Proud of his Finnish heritage, Arthur served on the Finnish Council at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan for many years. He loved Kaleva and spent 70 years actively involved in his community, including as a charter member of the Kaleva Lions Club. In September 2015, the Village of Kaleva and Kaleva Historical Society

honored him for his community service and business contributions by placing his name on the Sculpture Tree at the Kaleva Centennial Sculpture Walkway.

An eternal optimist, he had a great appreciation for life and plenty of "Sisu," the Finnish word for perseverance and determination. He loved jokes and reciting poetry. Being surrounded by his family was his greatest joy.

Arthur died on April 25, 2016, at the age of 93. He and Mildred were married for 65 years. At the time of his death, he was the last Finnish-speaking member of the Kaleva community. He is survived by his three children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The family still uses a sauna in his son Allen's backyard.

SLEUTHING SAUNAS

If you walk down Sampo Avenue in Kaleva, you can see where the saunas once stood. Sauna sites can be found in many backyards there. Once, I stopped at a garage sale on Wuoksi Street and noticed a dilapidated stone shed at the back of the yard. It had been painted pink and had a green roof. Sure enough – the sales attendant told me that it had once been a sauna.

After a few inquiries, I found a sauna behind the barbershop and another behind the hardware store. There is a sauna in the yard of the old parsonage of the Lutheran church and a foundation of a sauna behind the Kaleva Tavern. A garden blooms on the site of the Hautamaki family sauna.

Toivo Johnson's old homestead is just



Sauna in the Hulkonen backyard.

down the road. I could still see the large sign on the sauna outbuilding, which reads: "Toivo's Sauna." Toivo, and all Finnish enthusiasts of the sauna, would relate to the following verse. It is one of 22,795 lines of poetry compiled by Elias Lönnrot from oral tradition to create Finland's national epic, the Kalevala:

I have stoked up the sauna
Heated the misty bath-hut
Softened the bath-whisks ready
Steeped the pleasant whisks.
Brother, bath your fill
Pour all the water you want
Wash your head till it is flax
Your eyes till they are snowflakes!

According to the Kaleva Historical Society, Finnish immigrants often built their saunas first and used them as homes while waiting to build their houses. In 2018, the society received donations to build an authentic Finnish sauna (made of area materials) behind the Bottle House Museum at 14551 Wuoksi Ave. The sauna can be toured when the Bottle House is open.

Stewart A. McFerran is a sauna enthusiast who built his own wood-fired sauna near his home on a Northern Michigan stream. He hopes to visit Finland someday.

Christmas tree farm has deep roots

By Pat Stinson

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," says Christmas tree farmer Ben Nickelson. "Some people like skinny trees, some like them fat, and some like big holes so they can hang larger ornaments."

LUDINGTON – Nickelson, a third-generation Christmas tree farmer, took over the operation from his father last year. He knows his trees and what type he prefers in his living room.

"I like a really full tree, not too many holes, and a dark-green color," he says, without hesitation.

Founded by his grandfather in the mid 1950s, Needlefast Evergreens is more than a Christmas tree farm. The business supplies nurseries, landscapers and soil conservation districts with trees grown on 325 acres, both owned and leased, in Mason County.

Nickelson says the farm is a small-to-medium operation, as Christmas tree farms go. Each year they plant 30,000 trees, grown from seed, raised in a nursery plot and transplanted to a tree lot when they are age 4 or 5. The trees are trimmed each year, beginning at age 3. In an average year, a trimming crew of 6-7 are needed. In years with more trees, the farm hires additional crew from Minnesota.

Fraser fir, the farm's most popular Christmas tree species, are harvested when they reach 8-12 years.

On average, 20 helpers are needed to

harvest and load semi trucks of Christmas trees destined for wholesale customers in the Midwest and West. The process, from first harvest until the last truck leaves the farm, takes five weeks.

"Trees were cut early this year, the last week in October for wholesale customers," Nickelson says, explaining that trees are cut just one week ahead of when they are shipped, to keep them fresh.

One semi truck can hold 500 trees and might contain four different orders and make 3-4 different stops on its journey.

"This year we have 20 semis I had to book and 35-40 smaller pick ups of guys with trucks," he says.

In an average year, the farm sells 25,000 Christmas trees.

On the retail side, sales begin the day after Thanksgiving and end Dec. 23 at the headquarters on Hansen Road. Customers can purchase a tree already cut or cut their own on the lot.

Nickelson says firs are the most popular trees on the lot, due to their vibrant green color. Midwest Fraser fir are favorites, because they hold their needles well and have sturdy branches. The farm's second



The farm's wreath parties, "Make it, decorate it, go home with it," are hosted by Charlotte Nickelson, Ben's wife. Courtesy photo.

most-popular firs are balsam and concolor. "People like the appearance of balsam, and concolor has a citrus smell people really like," he explains.

His 9-year-old son helps on the lot, selling hot chocolate, cookies and wreaths.

"A few thousand" wreaths are made each fall at the farm by 10-12 women, according to Nickelson's wife, Charlotte. A portion of those are donated to local sixth graders to sell as a fundraiser for eighth-grade camp.

Needlefast Evergreens is located at 4075 W. Hansen Road. Reach them at 231-843-8524 or online at needlefastevergreens.com. Follow them on Facebook.

Christmas Trees for sale

MASON COUNTY

- Nickelson's Christmas Trees, 4075 W. Hansen Rd., Ludington. 231-845-6383 (Needlefast Evergreens)
- Ludington Christmas Trees, 709 W. Ludington Ave., Ludington. 231-907-0868

MANISTEE COUNTY

- Lutz Farms, 11353 13 Mile Road, Bear Lake. 231-889-5594
- Osborn's Sports Shop, 8929 N. US-31, (at 9 Mile Road), Bear Lake. 231-889-3775
- Huron-Manistee National Forest, Cadillac/Manistee Ranger Station, 412 Red Apple Road, Manistee. Buy a \$5 Christmas tree tag and cut your own in the national forest. Fourth graders who present an Every Kid in a Park pass receive a tag for one free conifer. 231-723-2211

Ice fishing

continued from page 1



Susie and Rory

will only bite later in the day. It doesn't really matter; it's all about being outside and enjoying where we are so fortunate to live.

Occasionally we will set tip-ups, especially when there are kids learning to fish. A tip-up sits on the ice, with a line down in the water and a little minnow for bait. There is a flag that goes up when a pike grabs the bait, and everyone yells "flag up" and runs to see if the fish is hooked. The line is brought up slowly, hand over hand, fighting the big fish until it finally lands on the ice. It's a group event, with lots of encouragement and unsolicited advice from nearby fishermen, and it is exciting to watch.

Bluegills can be a finicky fish, and



sometimes you have to try different lures and depths until you find them. When they start to bite, others fishing will come near you to try to catch some, too.

When I am fishing, the entire afternoon can fly by in a minute, with no thoughts of work or worries. It's like an outside meditation. I feel refreshed and invigorated and can't wait to go again.

Fish on.

Christine Stapleton loves winter. She lives on a farm and works as a real estate broker for Stapleton Realty, the agency she founded 20 years ago.

Fishmas

continued from page 1

reputation as a "trash" fish because of its prehistoric appearance and tendency to go after anglers' lures. By highlighting some of the bowfin's fascinating behaviors, like how male bowfins guard their young by corraling them into a "ball" to protect them from predators, audiences were able to appreciate this important native species.

Another unexpectedly popular fish was the round goby, an invasive species in the Great Lakes. Because invasive species have dramatically changed the Great Lakes' environment, discussions about their impacts and how we can manage them are common topics during #25DaysofFishmas. Species not native to the basin get a "Grinch" face instead of a Santa hat on the Fishmas calendar.

People often share their experiences with invasive species, for example: sharing their memories of piles of alewife washing up on Lake Michigan beaches or how they felt when zebra mussels first took over the beach at their family's cottage. Interesting discussions about what exactly constitutes an "invasive species" have happened when featured species are not native to the Great Lakes but are beneficial to humans, like the introduced but economically important Chinook salmon. Many people were surprised that salmon were not originally native to the Great Lakes and were introduced in the 1960s, reflecting how much the lakes have changed since the mid-20th century.

SPAWNING SPINOFFS

Over the last three Decembers, I've featured 75 different fish species found in the Great Lakes during #25DaysofFishmas.



A collage of images shared by participants during the 2018 edition of #25DaysofFishmas. Clockwise from upper left: A sketch of a chain pickerel; a paddlefish; holiday lightbulbs painted to look like freshwater fish species; three very festive gar; and three more shares: salmon, northern hogsucker and grass carp.

The most rewarding part of doing this outreach is seeing how engaged people get in the "shell-a-brations." The success of #25DaysofFishmas is largely due to audience participation through sharing stories and photos, asking questions, and adding commentary (Image 2).

While the original #25DaysofFishmas focuses on the Great Lakes, other scientists on Twitter have adopted the hashtag to engage audiences on different topics, with everything from a shark-themed Hanukkah spinoff (#Chondukkah, a play on the word for a classification of sharks, Chondrichthyes), fishes of other regions (for example, Northern California #25DaysofFishmas), and other aquatic organisms (for example,

#25DaysofSquidmas).

By shining a spotlight on the many different types of fish that call the Great Lakes home, I hope to inspire others to appreciate and protect the amazing underwater world of the lakes and beyond. So far, I've only featured about half of all the lakes' species (75 of 178), so the tradition of #25DaysofFishmas will continue for many years to come!

Merry Fishmas to all, and to all a good night!

Katie O'Reilly is a Biology Ph.D. candidate at the University of Notre Dame. (Twitter: @DrKatfish)

"Sno Snake Sho"

continued from page 1



The idea for the Art Snake was born 12 years ago when Onekama-area artists decided to open their homes and studios to the public on the same summer weekend. They mapped a route tracing Portage Lake that visitors could use to "snake around the lake" and see diverse works of painting, sculpture, printmaking and fabric arts.

Some of the original participants, now deceased, who contributed to the "foundational methods and style" of Art Snake are: Ann Smith, Michael Duvall,

Evelyn Sorensen, Marcia Monnett, Kevin Berkland, Kate Heikkenen, and Jane Davidson.

Over the past decade, the annual Art Snake summer event has grown in recognition and popularity. Now the "map" extends beyond Portage Lake to include artist studios in nearby communities, such as Judy Jashinsky's Pines of Arcadia, south of Arcadia, and Melanie Parke and Richard Kooyman's The Provincial, southeast of Kaleva.



Artist Ken Cooper.

The December show is presented by the Art Snake and Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts. Except during Victorian Sleighbell activities, when hours may change, the art center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays. The gallery is closed Wednesdays and Sundays. Admission is free and artwork is for sale. Visitors are asked to stop at the front desk for a list of titles and prices. A portion of the sales will be donated by the artists to the art center.

For more information visit www.RamsdellTheatre.org/art-exhibits

Gifts
Clothing
Jewelry
Accessories

Lily Pad
Gift Shoppe

Next to Arcadia Ice House Ice Cream Shoppe
17073 Northwood Hwy. (M-22), Arcadia
10-5, Monday-Saturday, except holidays
231-889-4555

LAITH AL-SAADI
Saturday, Dec 7

The Ramsdell
Regional Center for the Arts

101 Maple St, Manistee
after Manistee's 31st Sleighbell Parade



Happy New Year!
SEE YOU NEXT
Memorial Day Weekend.

Winter's comfort food

Story by Pat Stinson. Photos by Mark Videan.

When it's cold outside, there is nothing quite like eating an oven-baked pasty. That's pronounced "pass-tee" for those of you who somehow never indulged and hilariously confuse the delicious pastry-covered, savory pie with anatomical adhesives.

Finnish folk transplanted to the Upper Peninsula carried these hand-sized meat pies into the mines, where the pasties – still warm and filled with meat, potatoes and rutabagas – kept them fueled through their afternoon toils.

When some of those Finns relocated to Kaleva, in northern Manistee County, their

carrots, onions, rutabagas and potatoes. The crust that envelops them is your basic pie crust, so we're told.

If you arrive early on a Thursday morning, you may even get to watch them mix the batter for the crust or grab cooled pasties from trays on a baking rack before bagging them.

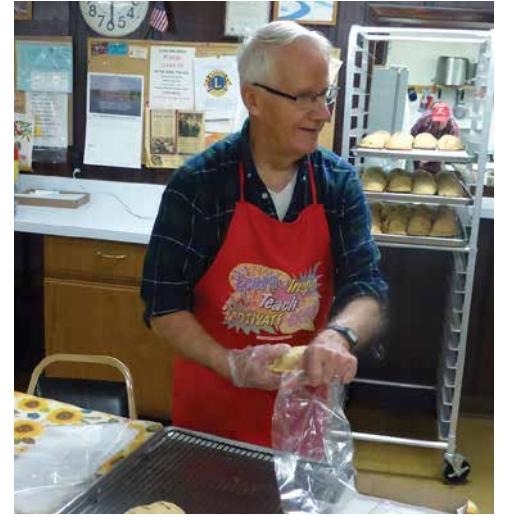
The process is orderly, tidy and quiet. The five folks working in the kitchen and the hall today include both seasoned veterans of the pasty-making venture and relative newcomers. Ken Kuuttila, (20 years), is watching the mixer to make sure the crust batter stays in the mixing bowl; Herb Dyer, (7 years), bags the pasties; Sue Ann Makinen takes your money; John Makinen, (20 years), supervises in the kitchen; and Butch Dorn, voted Lion of the Year, fills in as needed, because he came in Wednesday to set up the mixer, peel and dice the vegetables and soak the potatoes. Today, Thursday, he arrived early to shop at the store "next door" for meat. Everyone helps with clean-up.

In summer months, there are sometimes 6-7 helpers, including Butch's sister.

The dough and pasty construction are a "one-day project." After it's mixed, the dough is separated into 3-pound balls, bagged in plastic and placed in the freezer.



Above left. John Makinen checks the internal temperature of a pasty. Above right. Herb Dyer bags the cooled pasties.



Each bag of dough makes 6-7 pasties. Freezing makes the dough less sticky and easier to work with. Dough is run through a hand-cranked roller before it's cut in a circle and filled with meat and vegetables.

Today, the crew makes a single batch of 63 pasties. In summer, they sometimes make a double batch of 120. When the fresh pasties are sold out, they sell their store of frozen pasties. There are nine dozen in the freezer today.

Makinen says they may run out completely in summer.

"It's never predictable," he remarks.

Dorn chimes in: "They taste as good coming out of the freezer."

Although the pasties are sold as a fundraiser and the crew works hard, Dorn says they're all "basically having a good time."

Pasties cost \$4 each and you save \$5 when you buy a dozen.

Next year the price will rise to \$5 each, the first increase in years.

It's a small price to pay for a prepared

meal that fills the belly and feeds the soul.

The Kaleva Lions Club is located at 14361 Nine Mile Road. The organization provides for those in need with the motto, "We serve." Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 46,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world.



Pasty crew, from left: Herb Dyer, Sue Ann Makinen, John Makinen, Butch Dorn and Ken Kuuttila.

traditional pasty recipe followed.

Every Thursday, from 8 a.m. to noon, except holidays, the Kaleva Lions Club sells pasties they make using a Finnish woman's recipe that's been kicking around for an estimated 40 years. That recipe includes a filling of two parts beef, one part pork,



Sue Ann Makinen weighs the dough.

Snowshoeing is a walk in the park

From staff reports. Photos courtesy of Ludington State Park.

Snowshoeing is easy, offers healthy exercise and is an excellent way to get people outside in winter, according to Alan Wernette, Park Interpreter at Ludington State Park.



Wernette will lead Saturday afternoon and evening snowshoe walks at the park beginning in January. Lantern-lit snowshoe and cross-country ski outings also will be offered twice a month in January and February.

"I have been doing snowshoe walks now for over 25 years and enjoy leading people through the beauty of the snow-covered park," Wernette replied in an email. "As a past skier, (my experience is) snowshoeing is easier and allows people to enjoy their surroundings more without having to think so much about the mechanics, like skiing requires," he continued.

"Also, it's super exercise with less injuries!"

Guided daytime snowshoe walks at Ludington State Park begin at 2 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 4 – Feb. 15. Evening walks begin at 6 p.m., Saturdays, on Jan. 11, Jan. 25 and Feb. 8. Walks last 90 minutes and participants use flashlights at the 6 p.m. sessions.

"I periodically stop during the walks to

interpret the natural and cultural resources within the Park," Wernette wrote.

Lantern Lit Ski and Snowshoe Events take place 6-8 p.m. on the following Saturdays: Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 15. The lantern events conclude with a bonfire in the woods and hot beverages.

Snowshoes are loaned on a first-come basis and no reservations are taken. Severe weather or icy conditions may force cancellation of a walk or event.

All walks and events begin at the Warming Shelter near the park entrance. Visitors must have a Michigan State Recreation Passport which is available for purchase from park personnel or by using a self-registration envelope, or at a Secretary of State office.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Wernette explained that he does not use a standard trail or groomed ski trail for the snowshoe walks.

"The best snowshoeing is through fresh, deep snow and the worst snowshoeing is



on a packed surface," he wrote, explaining why snowshoe walks do not take place on ski trails and detailing the advantages of wooden snowshoes the park provides over high-tech versions with grips that can damage trails.

Persons joining a snowshoe walk or lantern-lit event may find the outing exceeds their expectations.

"The experience of being outdoors in the wintertime and seeing what is going on in the natural world during this season is an eye opener and marvelous experience for participants..." he continued.

Some participants are surprised to learn winter exercise keeps a person warm "to the point of shedding some layers of clothing," he wrote. The ease of snowshoeing allows them to exercise without becoming overwhelmed with cold or exhaustion.

He added, "The bonus is at the same time learning a lot about the resources this Michigan State Park offers all of us throughout the year, especially winter!"

Wernette can be reached with questions during normal business hours at (231) 843-9261.

MARIE MARFIA FINE ART
AND THE
BONAFIDE GALLERY

Working artist's studio and gallery featuring local landscapes, portraits and skeleton art.

307 S. James Street (back of the building), Ludington
Mon-Fri 10-5 • Weekends by appt.

MarieMarfia.com • 904-566-4473

MANISTEE HOME FOR SALE

Move-in Ready. 3BR/2BA in S. Manistee. New bathrooms, granite, wood floors, tile & carpet. 12'x25' finished basement room. 20'x20' workshop building w/electric. **\$174,900** 1868182

Stapleton Realty

Shelly Lewis
Cell/Text **231-492-3209**

www.cd Stapleton.com

Frankfort or Ludington? The Mystery of Father Marquette

Story and marker photos
by P. Misty Sheehan

Father Jacques Marquette (1637-1675) was one of the most famous of the Jesuit priests who came over to the New World to work with the Native Americans.

He loved the New World. He said in his journal, "God surely has had pity on me since I have been in this country, I have not felt any dislike for it or the least desire for France."

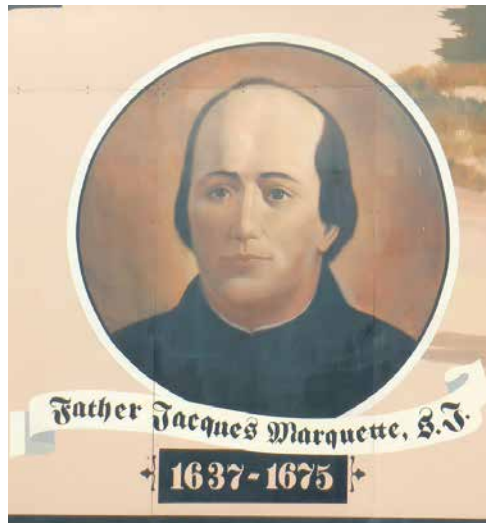


Photo of Ludington mural by Mark Videan.

His work was done in a canoe from Sault Ste. Marie through Michilimackinac, through Green Bay. His last voyage took him from Green Bay to the Fox River and over a portage to the Wisconsin River. He followed this river with his companions, including the famous French-Canadian explorer Jolliet, until they found the Mississippi River. They then paddled down the Mississippi toward the mouth of the Arkansas River, until they were warned back by the natives.

They returned up the Illinois River to Lake Michigan, and Marquette paddled up to a mission in Green Bay. In late 1674 he made his way south to a camp in what would become Chicago. On a trip up the east coast of Lake Michigan to St. Ignace, he had a relapse of dysentery he had contracted while on the Mississippi. He died on May 18, 1675.

Legends of his death tell how another of the voyageurs was also very ill but prayed at Marquette's gravesite and immediately became well again.

After two years the priest's body was moved to St. Ignace. Now the question—where did he come ashore to die?

And this is a dilemma. Two great scholars have researched his life and death and come to different conclusions. Raphael N. Hamilton, retired professor of History at Marquette College in Wisconsin, said he died in Ludington. Catherine Stebbins, of Frankfort, asserted he died in Frankfort. Two Michigan State Historical Society plaques, one in Frankfort and one in Ludington, state that Father Marquette died in those cities.

Which is right? And why are there two?

In 1960 Catherine L. Stebbins from Frankfort proclaimed that Frankfort was his place of death. Stebbins read French and went over to the Provincial Archives in Quebec for French priests' writings from the 1600s. She read the accounts in their journals of the lives of the early priests – Father Dablon, the Rev. Pierre-Francois-Xavier de Charlevoix and the cartographer Bellin. Besides reading original texts in French, she drove from the Manitou Islands to Ludington to measure the mouths of the many rivers and creeks that flow into Lake Michigan. And those measurements matched her reading.

In her book, "Here I Shall Finish My Voyage," she demonstrated that the harbor in Ludington in no way matched the description in Charlevoix's journal, but that Betsie Bay did. She claimed that the Pere Marquette River, which empties into Lake Michigan at Ludington, was actually 64 miles too far south to be the correct river.

She also claimed people in Ludington were using an English translation of the original texts which had incorrect placement of the rivers that flow into the lake. The true river is the Betsie River. Native American tradition also states Betsie Bay is the place of Marquette's death.

Her description was enough to convince the Michigan Historical Commission to declare that Frankfort was indeed the final resting place of Father Marquette. The Detroit Free Press in July 1965 wrote, "The Michigan Historical Commission has bowed to the weight of new evidence and designated Frankfort rather than Ludington as the probable site where Father Marquette died in May."

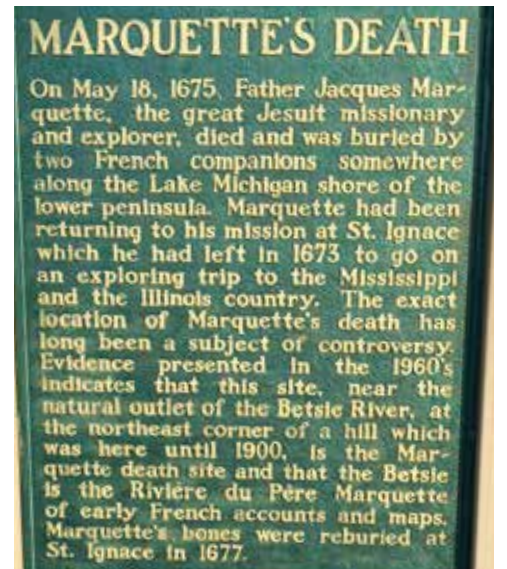
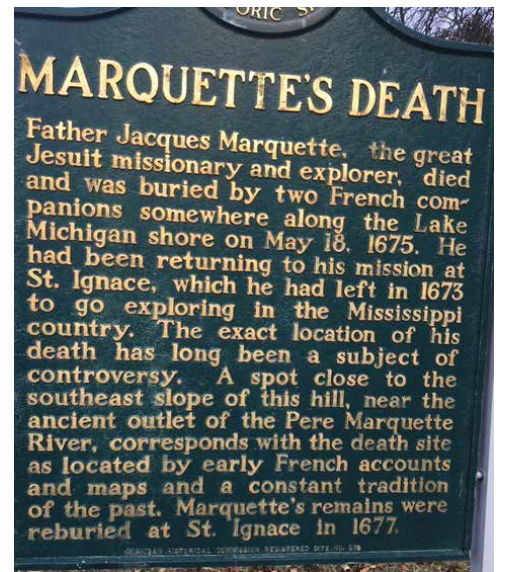
But wait! Raphael N. Hamilton, professor emeritus of history at Marquette University, in his compilation of a biography on Father Marquette, stated that Ludington was the place where he died. He was aware of Stebbins' account and attempted to show that she was seriously incorrect.

He read the 1761 English edition of Charlevoix's "Journal of a Voyage to North America." His strongest point is that in 1815 a red cedar cross was found on the bank of the river in Ludington. He felt that Native Americans had replaced it, as older ones were blown over or rotted, due to their reverence for the Father.

Though he didn't read the original French, he said Stebbins mistranslated a word which denies that Frankfort was the burial place. He also complained that she used the word "axe" when it wasn't in the original text. Finally, he said that the Pere Marquette River is the third river south of the Manitou Islands, as the English text said. His theory led to a second, later, posting by the Michigan Historical Center as to the place of his death.

But wait! Ms. Stebbins isn't through yet! She disagreed with his pejorative treatment of her language. She said her calculations were correct, that tracing three rivers south of the Manitou brings Marquette's death to the Betsie. The three rivers she named are Otter Creek, the Platte River and the Betsie.

So, we are stuck. Both scholars base their



Marquette's death markers in Ludington and in Frankfort.

understandings on good evidence. I called the Michigan Historical Center and asked the question of Director Sandra Clark.

"We just don't know!" Clark said, laughing. "Other theories have arisen since then."

Though the story fades off into mysticism or to legendary status, in both Ludington and Frankfort the historic sites bring comfort and closure to those who revere those sites and the man, now buried in Straits State Park, near St. Ignace, known as the Father Marquette National Memorial.

P. Misty Sheehan is a retired professor of humanities and former executive director of the Benzie Area Historical Society and Museum.

"Why do I live here?"

Story and photos by Judy Cools

It's November, and the cold, white, windy weather has come early this year. The first thing I hear myself whine is, "Why do I live here?!"

We never seem to be ready, with gutters clear and leaves corralled, hoses moved inside, and all the rest. Each year I wonder just how many hours we work for this summer/winter transition twice a year, and is it really worth it? Every year it seems to take longer – or at least more effort.

I'm just not a winter person.

As a kid I suffered from asthma, so romping out in the cold was followed by hours of wheezing and sleepless nights, even the occasional ER visit. If anything set the stage for a lifelong aversion to winter, I would suggest those times of my youth did it.

And yet, here I am decades later, still the Michigander I've always been. We fantasize about moving somewhere with milder winters, but here we stay. Much of our family is here, as well as a lifetime of friends and fond memories. I think there's something about the familiar that keeps people in place, even while yearning for a

different choice.

While we slog through the inevitable snow and ice, boots leak and that blob of snow hits you in the back of the neck. Yet right in the midst of the winter uglies, magic happens. Little tracks tell of a mouse foraging the seeds dropped under the birdfeeder. The sun might come out and turn the snowy yard into sparkling diamonds as far as you can see.

Deer visit overnight and leave tracks so close to the house that you run and get your family, to show them. Even better are the circles of packed snow in the yard, where deer have spent the night feeling safe enough near you to stay for a while. So many secrets revealed in that dreaded, annoying snow.

I'll admit the snow is pretty – especially when it's fresh and clean. Scenes around our home are as beautiful as any Christmas card. There's a lot to be said for natural beauty.



Above. Sleeping deer in Cools' backyard. Right. Perfect Flakes.



Dogs are funny in the snow. Some tiptoe through it and try to come right back inside. They whine about ice stuck in their feet or try to hold up one foot at a time until it melts. Others have their own little party as soon as they cross the threshold, jumping and rolling, eating the snow and digging in it. Their delight is infectious – how can you not enjoy that?

No, winter may not be my favorite season. But wherever I am, I try to look for the good, to enjoy what's unique, to live so that the memories are happy ones.

Sun or snow, I wish you all a blessed winter.

Judy Cools has a varied background as an area columnist, web designer, feature writer, editor and business writer. She and her husband Gary make their home in the woods outside Ludington. Visit: judycoolsmoondance.blog

Hear the bells on Christmas Day

Story and photos by Stewart A. McFerran

The bells will still be heard from Trinity Lutheran Church in this northern Manistee County village.

ARCADIA – As the Christmas season approaches, carols will play at noon and at six in the evening.

After a community meeting at the church, neighbors spoke directly to each other and came to an agreement, according to Pastor Ryan Tinetti. Signs reading “Save the Arcadia Bells” have been removed from yards after a complaint put the bells’ fate in question.

HISTORY OF TRINITY’S TOWER

Century Tower Clocks installed the clock works and bells in the Arcadia Trinity Lutheran Church in 1888, soon after it was erected. The company, founded in Manistee by Nels Johnson, was known internationally for quality clockworks built to last a century.

A blacksmith by trade, Johnson built the clocks himself and was able to compete against the likes of Seth Thomas for clock tower projects. His clock towers were installed in places such as the Detroit Post Office, San Jose Museum of Art, as well as in Arcadia. He also built the clock in the Michigan Building at the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago.

Arcadia founder and Trinity Lutheran patron Henry Starke hired Nels Johnson to build the clock in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Arcadia. The mechanism still needs to be wound every week with a large

crank handle. The gears are turned by the swinging pendulum. The bells ring every Sunday, while the hymns and carols play from speakers in the tower.

SIGNIFICANCE TODAY

The Century Tower Clock in the Arcadia Trinity Lutheran Church has functioned for over a century. It is a source of pride for the congregation. Parishioners care for the mechanism as if were the beating heart of the steeple.

Sharing comments from others, Pastor Tinetti stated:

“Numerous folks, with no direct connection to our church, said things like, ‘Trinity is the iconic center of town.’ Or that our presence embodies the spirit of the village. Or, indeed, that Trinity is ‘the heart of Arcadia’ – not only in a geographical sense (which is true), but in a larger symbolic sense as well.”

If you happen to be in Arcadia, take the time to stop and see this historic church and listen for the bells.

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 17191 Third Street. Visit the church’s website at TrinityArcadiaMI.org and follow its Facebook page: TrinityLutheranChurchArcadia

Stewart A. McFerran lives on his sailboat in Arcadia, Mich., in summer.



Happy Little 5K Run to benefit trees

From staff reports

Michigan’s first-ever Happy Little 5K/Run for the Trees event will take place April 17-26 in a newly announced, expanded format.



REGION – Sponsored by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the 5K can be completed anywhere outdoors, as long as the location of the participant’s address is in the continental U.S. The event can be walked, hiked or run at the individual’s own pace.

Originally, the maximum attendance for the event was capped at 1,000, but organizers decided to increase that number due to overwhelming interest. The new number of allowable registrants will be announced later.

Registration begins Jan. 1, 2020, and the cost to participate is \$34.

All proceeds go toward replanting forest trees in Michigan state park campgrounds that were lost due to invasive forest pests and diseases.

Trees are replanted using local, native seeds gathered by volunteers and nurtured by inmates in the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative who receive instruction in horticultural practices.

In its announcement, MDNR stated: “The collection of local native seeds is key to growing trees specifically for replanting at state parks within the same geographical region, because trees with similar genetics – for example, height, leaf shape and size, type of flowers and function – are much more likely to thrive.”

The name of the event arose from department’s partnership with Bob Ross, Inc. and the U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Ross was a painter with a love of the outdoors and trees. He was adored by millions who watched his PBS television show, “The Joy of Painting.”

The Happy Little Trees program supports the restoration of native Michigan ecosystems and other natural resources by growing native trees, shrubs, grasses and plant products for use in Michigan state parks, recreation areas and public boating access sites.

Chateau Grand Traverse, of Traverse City, is helping to support the transportation of trees and purchase of program supplies through sales of its “CGT Wines of the Great Outdoors” label.

To sign up for notices about the race or to donate or volunteer, visit: <http://bit.ly/MiHappyLittleTrees>. To learn about Happy Little Trees partnerships or 5k sponsorships, contact Michelle Coss: cossm@michigan.gov. For details on Happy Little Tree planting and state park forest health, contact Heidi Frei: frei@michigan.gov.

Meteors to light up sky

By Mark Videan

Considered to be the most active and consistent meteor shower of the year, the Geminids are December’s premier night-sky show.

Named for the constellation Gemini, where they appear to originate, the meteors are visible Dec. 4-17. According to NASA meteor expert Bill Cooke, peak viewing takes place between 9 p.m. Fri., Dec. 13 and 6 p.m. Sat., Dec. 14.

An almost full (waning) moon will make it difficult to see the dimmer meteors. However, their individual brightness, high rate of entry and medium speed should provide 20-30 visible per hour. The later you look, the more meteors you are likely to see. Try going outside between 9 p.m. and dawn. Optimum viewing is around 2 a.m., Dec. 14.

Most meteor showers occur when the earth, in its orbit, passes through the trail of a comet’s debris. The Geminids, along with the Quadrantids, are the only major meteor showers not originating from a comet. Instead, the Geminids are the result of a stream of particles emanating from an asteroid. This asteroid, 3200 Phaethon, orbits the sun every 1.4 years.

The first recorded observation of the Geminids was in 1833 from a Mississippi river boat. The meteor shower has been growing stronger ever since. Over time, the planet Jupiter’s gravity has pulled the stream of particles from the asteroid closer to Earth. 3200 Phaethon is thought to have



Drawing by Robyn Schmidt

collided with an object in the past, creating the trail of fragments that fall to earth as meteors. The fragments are bits of dust, the size of grains of sand. On rare occasions, a particle may be as large as a pea, making for a bright “fireball” display.

Compared to other meteors, the Geminids travel at medium speed, about 22 miles per second, making them reasonably easy to spot. Light is produced when meteors enter Earth’s atmosphere and burn, due to tremendous friction. The Geminids burn up at heights over 24 miles above Earth. A meteor that hits the earth intact is called a meteorite. Few meteors survive the trip through the atmosphere to become meteorites.

Find the darkest place you can to observe the largest possible portion of the night sky.

The lakeshore, a meadow or hilltop – away from ground lights and trees – are ideal. Although the Geminids appear to radiate from the constellation Gemini, they can appear anywhere in the sky.

To see more meteors, plan to spend at least an hour observing, as it takes a minimum of 20 minutes for your eyes to fully adjust to the dark.

Get comfortable, so you can observe for a longer period of time. A reclining lawn chair, warm clothing and a blanket will enhance your viewing pleasure.

Bundle up, fill an insulated mug with something hot and enjoy one of nature’s winter wonders!

Mark Videan is a member of the Planetary Society and a space enthusiast.

64 CHARLESDICKENS	55 TINSEL	46 CANDYCANES	37 NAUGHTY	28 PLUMPUDDING	19 SLED	10 GIFTS	1 ELVES	9 NORTHPOLE
65 TREESTAND	56 GOOSE	47 REINDEER	38 ORNAMENTS	29 RIBBON	20 UNWRAP	11 CAROLS	2 ICICLE	8 STAR
CHRISTMAS PUZZLE SOLUTION: VICTORIAN	58 LUMPOFCAL	48 RELATIVES	39 GIFTWRAP	30 BELLS	21 SUGARPLUMS	12 RED	3 SCROOGE	7 LIST
SLEIGHBELL PARADE	59 TRIMMING	49 GREENINGS	40 SANTACLAUS	31 TIDINGS	22 CARDS	13 NICE	4 TREE	6 WEATH
AND OLD CHRISTMAS	60 FIREPLACE	50 MERRY	41 WASSAIL	32 CRACKERS	23 WINTERFAIR	14 JINGELBELLS	5 ROOFTOP	5 ROOFTOP
WEEKEND IN MANISTEE	61 FATHERHOCHRISTMAS	51 PARTNIDGE	42 NOEL	33 WORKSHOP	24 SLEIGHRIDE	15 HOLLY	6 WEATH	7 LIST
MICHIGAN	62 MISTLETOE	52 EGNOG	43 GREEN	34 REJOICE	25 YULE	16 GINGEBREAD	8 STAR	8 STAR
	63 BOUGH	53 ACHRISTMASCAROL	44 THENUTCRACKER	35 MAGI	26 HOLIDAY	17 EVE	9 NORTHPOLE	9 NORTHPOLE
		54 TOYS	45 WHITE	36 WENCESLAS	27 CHIMNEY	18 CANDLES		

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE ANSWERS:

Christmas Word

by Mark Videan

Answer each of the clues below. The underlines indicate the number of letters in each answer. Write the highlighted letter in the corresponding numbered space above to solve the puzzle.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

- 1 Santa's helpers
- 2 Eaves dropping?
- 3 He had three eerie visitors on Christmas eve
- 4 Popularized by Prince Albert in 1848 when he had one decorated in Windsor Castle
- 5 Yuletide landing site
- 6 Ring at the door?
- 7 Santa checks his twice
- 8 Christmas tree topper
- 9 From here, all directions are south
- 10 Things kept under wraps
- 11 Sing door-to-door
- 12 Stripes on a #46, traditionally
- 13 One of the headings on Santa's #7
- 14 Originally published in 1857 as a Thanksgiving song, also the first song to be broadcast from space in 1965 (Gemini VI)
- 15 Holiday greenery
- 16 Material used to build a house or a man
- 17 Santa's big night
- 18 Wicked ones?
- 19 Hillside thrill ride; classic Christmas gift
- 20 To open #10
- 21 "visions of ___ danced in their heads"
- 22 First commercially produced for Christmas in 1843, 1000 were made showing three generations of Henry Cole's family
- 23 From 1550 – 1850, during Britain's "mini ice age", this festival was often held on the frozen River Thames
- 24 Jingly winter outing
- 25 Holiday log
- 26 Christmas was declared a national one by the U. S. congress in 1870
- 27 Santa's entrance soots him well
- 28 Traditional British Christmas dessert
- 29 It's all tied up with the present
- 30 Some ringers
- 31 "good ___ to you and all of your kin"
- 32 Invented in London in 1846 by candy maker Tom Smith, they open with a bang to release candy, toys and jokes
- 33 Where Santa's helpers toil
- 34 Be of good cheer
- 35 Star trek trio?
- 36 The good king in John Mason Neale's carol, written to a traditional folk tune in Victorian Britain
- 37 The other heading on Santa's #7
- 38 Seasonal bulbs?
- 39 Get items ready to put under the tree
- 40 Head of a major toy outfit
- 41 Old English festive spiced drink
- 42 "The First ___" (carol)
- 43 #12's holiday partner
- 44 Holiday ballet
- 45 "the beard of his chin was as ___ as the snow"
- 46 Edible decorations
- 47 Christmas fliers?
- 48 Familiar holiday visitors
- 49 Salutations
- 50 Festive, like Robin Hood's men
- 51 "and a ___ in a pear tree"
- 52 Often served with grated nutmeg
- 53 #3 was in it
- 54 Santa's sackful
- 55 Glitter imitating #2
- 56 Main course in the Cratchit's Christmas dinner
- 57 Holiday treats or bits of code left on computers by web servers
- 58 What one may find in their stocking if they are on the #37 #7
- 59 Decorating #4
- 60 Poker site
- 61 #40, in England
- 62 Hanging kiss inducer
- 63 Unit of #15
- 64 He wrote #53 in 1843
- 65 Used to hold up #4



Over 1,000 holiday lights in over 50 displays light up the night at Sparkle in the Park Dec. 3 - Jan. 1, 5-10 p.m., Hopkins Park, Bear Lake. Photos by Mark Videan.

Stapleton Realty

READY TO BUY UP NORTH?

Call or text
Chris Stapleton
 231-499-2698
Shelly Lewis
 231-492-3209

VOTED 2017, 2018 & 2019
 BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY (BENZIE CO.)
 WWW.CDSTAPLETON.COM

Serving Benzie, N. Manistee, Leelanau & Grand Traverse Counties

AROUND THE COUNTIES

Each issue, we will feature a photo of something fun or unusual in Manistee or Mason county. Can you guess where it is?

First person to email the correct answer to editor@freshwater-reporter.com will receive a \$10 gift certificate to the location, or to the business closest to it. **GOOD LUCK!**



Congratulations to Nancy Supran, of Scottville, who correctly identified the bench outside House of Flavors in Ludington.

HONOR ONEKAMA BUILDING SUPPLY, INC. 50 Years

www.honorbidgsupply.com

Visit us for all of your Hardware & Building Projects!
 (231) 889-3456
 4847 Main Street, Onekama

378 River St. Downtown Manistee

Ω HMen vape Shop

Bring in this ad for **10% off** your entire purchase!

FRESHWATER REPORTER

Serving Coastal Communities from Arcadia to Ludington

P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI 49660 231-835-0867 editor@freshwater-reporter.com

Editor: Pat Stinson Co-conspirator: Mark Videan
 Graphic design/layout: Amy Hansen Delivery: Pam Dohner Adams
 Contributors: Judy Cools, Stewart McFerran, Katie O'Reilly, Christina Ryan-Stoltz, Robyn Schmidt, P. Misty Sheehan

Freshwater Reporter is published 7 times in 2019 and 12 times beginning in 2020 by Freshwater Planet, LLC. Free copies are distributed throughout Manistee and Mason counties. Advertising inquiries are welcome, as are suggestions, articles, poems and photos. ©2019, Freshwater Reporter, all rights reserved. Look for our website soon at www.freshwater-reporter.com. Find us on Facebook.