

FRESHWATER REPORTER

A fresh approach to storytelling in Manistee and Mason counties...and a bit beyond.

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FREE

DEMONIC POSSESSION

Story and photo by KEVIN HOWELL

Homegrown pumpkins decorate the scary Halloween scene at the home of Sharon Sloan on U.S. Highway 10, just west of Walhalla. The main feature, a larger-than-life devil head and hands, once haunted an amusement park near the Pennsylvania-New York state line.



Carvings of damned souls appear in the fingerprints.

Lucifer's corporeal parts were purchased about 15 years ago by Sloan's son Bob, who also grows the pumpkins Sloan sells. The satanic structure is just one of five built for amusement parks.

Another devil head burned in Hell,

Michigan. Sloan said hers may be the only one still terrorizing Earth.

A winged demon appears to "hover" where Satan's shoulder should be. A ghost "ship" of skeleton pirates has reappeared after several years.

Take your picture with the devil and

leave a tip. Don't forget to buy a pumpkin. Remember: Satan is watching.

Kevin Howell currently resides in Mason County. You can find him haunting local breweries.

Bjorkquist Brothers: History of a Manistee Commercial Fishing Family

By STEWART A. MCFERRAN

If there was ever a plucky crew of entrepreneurs struggling to build a business and support their families, it was the Bjorkquist brothers of Manistee. In his recently completed manuscript, Dennis Bjorkquist, with the help of students at West Shore Community College in Scottville, highlights the hard work of his grandfather, who built the Bjorkquist Brothers – a fishing company that endured for almost 100 years along Fifth Avenue in Manistee.

Bjorkquist said he wrote his family's story so that future generations of family members would understand how hard their

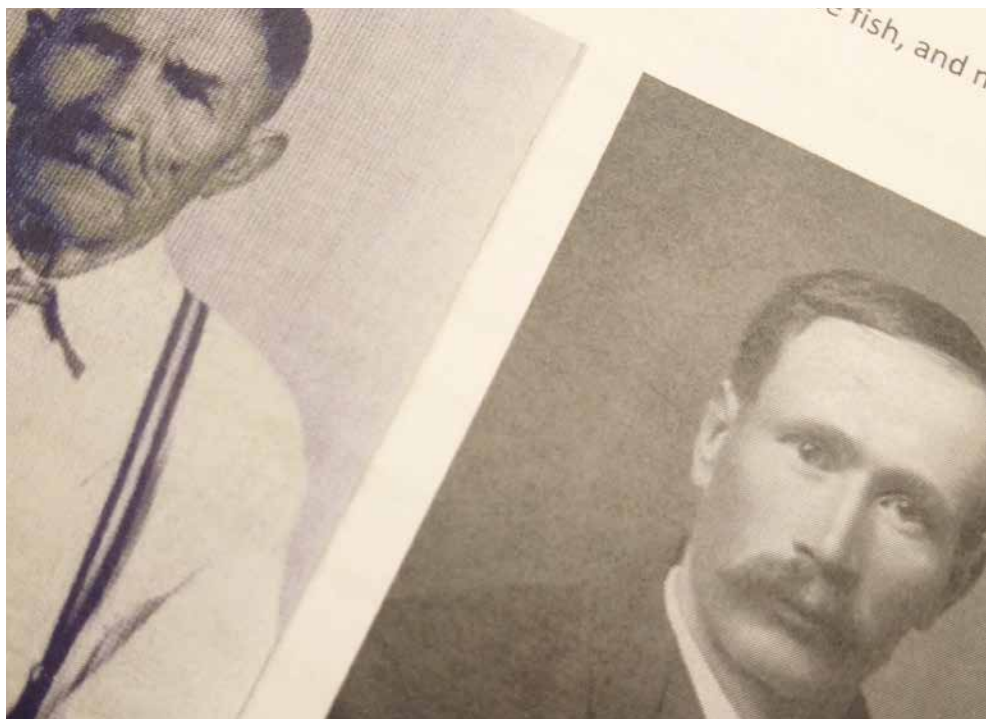
ancestors worked to carve out a life in this Michigan port city.

Gill nets were one of the standard tools

of the fishing trade for the 100 years the Bjorkquists fished and 100 years before that. Albert Bjorkquist, a native of Siippy, Finland, arrived in America in 1891. He followed his brother Fred to Manistee, Michigan. He set his gill nets from his sailboat, the Cape Pigeon, on the Arcadia Reef. At that time, Albert was a newcomer to the established commercial fishing industry that was already shipping thousands of barrels of whitefish and lake trout to hungry customers in Detroit and Chicago.

In the early days, the product was lifted by hand over the gunnel of the Cape Pigeon. The fishing was good in Lake Michigan. Without the power of a motor, Albert and Fred fished their gill nets closer to home, in shallower water than in later years. Returning to the Manistee River, they often found the harbor packed with logs that had been floated down the river. Those quick to blame the gill nets for the later decline of fish will consider those logs and the milling operations that dumped large quantities of sawdust onto the spawning beds of fish.

The catch was dressed and put on ice at



Albert and Fred Bjorkquist. Courtesy photo.

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SEE THE EVENTS
CALENDAR INSIDE

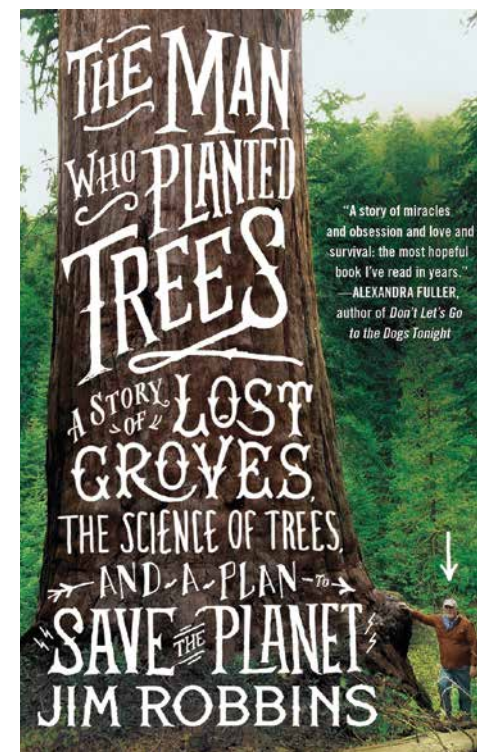
Archangel cofounder weighs in on fires, climate and big trees

Story by STEWART MCFERRAN.
Photos by PAT STINSON

COPEMISH – When asked about the fires raging in the West, David Milarch, co-founder of Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, said they are raising awareness, especially among California residents who he said have taken their redwoods for granted, "in spite of the fact that 95% of the old growth (trees) have been cut down."

"There's only 5% of the old growth left," he continued.

Archangel has left its mark in the West.



In Washington State, Milarch said the organization has planted trees in 37 cities in the Puget Sound area.

"In Oregon, we've planted for the 2021 World Games," he said. "They wanted 2,021 sequoias to offset the carbon of the additional people coming for the World Games in Eugene."

Milarch is referring to The World Athletics Championships, which have been postponed until 2022.

Archangel's success in growing 120 different species of trees from the oldest and largest specimens can be attributed to several factors.

First, Milarch said the organization is not taking genetic samples and freezing them. On its website, Archangel explains that it clones ancient trees through propagation of root cuttings and grows

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Fun & Fabulous Community Events - Manistee & Mason Counties

Due to weather, schedules and COVID-19, some events may change or be canceled. **Always call ahead.**

Email your November and December calendar events or press releases by Oct. 20 to editor@freshwater-reporter.com or mail to Freshwater Reporter, P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI 49660.

October

- 1-23 All-media Juried Art Exhibition**
M-F 10am-4:30pm, Sat 10am-4pm, free, Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort
- 1-31 Maria Marfia Skeltacular Art Show**
LACA gallery hours Tues-Fri, 11-4. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington mariemarfia.com
- 1 The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Madama Butterfly (Puccini)**
1-3:45pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 2-30 2nd Annual ARF Prize art show featuring dog-themed art**
11am-4pm, free, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington, Pooch-friendly opening reception 5-8pm, Oct. 2
- 2 Ludington Farmer's Market**
(tentative) 3-7pm, N. James St. Plaza, downtown Ludington
- 2 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington, 7-9pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 22
- 3 Manistee Farmer's Market**
8:30am-12pm, Memorial Dr. and Washington St., Manistee
- 3-4 Holiday Artsie Craft Show**
9am-4pm, both days, 505 E. Melendy St., Ludington. Look for the pink signs. Backyard art sale with work by Laurie Carey and Marie Marfia, Denise Slocum-Jones, Joan Rilse, Julie Rostick, Sarah Johnson-Wolfe, Julia Carey, Staffan Boettcher. Melendy St. is one-way, west to east. Parking along the street.
- 3 The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Madama Butterfly (Puccini)**
1-3:45pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 3 Fall Concert Series featuring Desmond Jones**
7-10pm, free, Northern Natural, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva
- 4 No Man's Land by Harold Pinter w/ Ian McKellen & Patrick Stewart**
presented by National Theatre Live 1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Filmed live at the West End theatre in London
- 4-10 Mental Illness Awareness Week: What People with Mental Illness Want You to Know.**
www.nami.org
- 5 Books in the Park**
Storytime begins at 10:30 at Brethren Park, 14479 N. Coates Hwy., Brethren. Bring something to sit on. Manistee County Great Start.
- 6 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington, 1-3pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 2
- 6 No Man's Land by Harold Pinter w/ Ian McKellen & Patrick Stewart**
presented by National Theatre Live 1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Filmed live at the West End theatre in London
- 6 Special Needs Halloween Hayride and Potluck**
(weather permitting), 3:30pm, free, Circle Rocking S Children's Farm, 5487 Tuttle Rd., Free Soil. Costume contest. Bring a dish or treats to pass. Limited space - must RSVP (231)462-3732

- 6 Live, Outdoor, Socially-distanced Courtyard Concerts with Cheryl Wolfram**
7 and 8pm, \$5, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
Two individually ticketed (in advance), 40-minute concerts limited to 20 guests each. Tickets available at L.A.C.A. gift shop, or call 231-845-2787, or go to <https://ludingtonartscenter.square.site/>
- 8 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington, 1-3pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 2
- 8 Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Rigoletto (Verdi)**
1-3:30pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 9 Books in the Park**
Storytime starts at 10:30am, Red Szymarek Park, 106 Charter Ct., Manistee. Bring something to sit on. Subject to weather. Manistee County Great Start.
- 9-10 Manistee Ghost Ship**
Haunted ship full of scary surprises. 99 Arthur St., Manistee. 7:30-10:30pm. \$10/adult. 6 & under free, but not advised. www.manisteeghostship.com On Facebook @GhostShipManistee
- 10 Pet Costume Party presented by Patina Designs**
11:30am, free, Onekama Village Park, Portage Ave., Onekama. Goodie bags for all pets, prizes for costumes
- 10 The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Rigoletto (Verdi)**
1-3:30pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 10 Fall Concert Series featuring Seth Bernard**
7-10pm, free, Northern Natural, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva
- 11 All My Sons by Arthur Miller with Sally Field and Bill Pullman**
presented by National Theatre Live 1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Filmed live at the Old Vic theatre in London
- 12 Books in the Park**
Storytime begins at 10:30, Onekama Village Park, 5283 Main St., Onekama. Bring something to sit on. Subject to weather. Manistee County Great Start.
- 13 All My Sons by Arthur Miller with Sally Field and Bill Pullman**
presented by National Theatre Live 1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Filmed live at the Old Vic theatre in London
- 13 Live, Outdoor, Socially-distanced Courtyard Concerts with Taylor Makowicki**
7 and 8pm, \$5, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
Two individually ticketed (in advance), 40-minute concerts limited to 20 guests each. Tickets available at L.A.C.A. gift shop, or call 231-845-2787, or go to <https://ludingtonartscenter.square.site/>
- 14 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington, 1-3pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 2
- 15 The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Tosca (Puccini)**
1-3:20pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee

- 16 Books in the Park**
Storytime starts at 10:30am, Red Szymarek Park, 106 Charter Ct., Manistee. Bring something to sit on. Subject to weather. Manistee County Great Start.
- 16-17 Mary Wahr Retrospective art exhibit**
Free, Hardy Hall at Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
Featuring works made throughout the artist's life including drawings, paintings, prints, paper castings, scratchboards and collage
- 16-17 Manistee Ghost Ship**
Haunted ship full of scary surprises. 99 Arthur St., Manistee. 7:30-10:30pm. \$10/adult. 6 & under free, but not advised. www.manisteeghostship.com On Facebook @GhostShipManistee
- 17 Fall Concert Series featuring Airborne or Aquatic?**
4pm, free, Northern Natural, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva
- 17 Fall Concert Series featuring Gregory Stovetop**
7pm, free, Northern Natural, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva
- 18 Fleabag, written by and starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge**
presented by National Theatre Live, 1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Filmed live at London's West End
- 18 Trunk or Treat**
Socially-distanced costumed fun presented by Onekama Athletic Boosters. 1-3pm, free, Onekama School parking lot, 5016 Main St., Onekama (Masks mandatory ages 6+)
- 18 Boston Brass - Arts Across America: Community, Together**
8-9pm, Main floor \$30 (50 avail.), Balcony \$20 (75 avail.), Under 18 \$10, 125 tickets total. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Broadcast live from Manistee to a national audience
- 19 Books in the Park**
Storytime begins at 10:30, Brethren Park, 14479 N. Coates Hwy., Brethren. Bring something to sit on. Subject to weather. Manistee County Great Start.
- 20 Fleabag, written by and starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge**
presented by National Theatre Live 1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Filmed live at London's West End
- 20 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. 7-9pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 2
- 20 Live, Outdoor, Socially-distanced Courtyard Concerts with Greg Kjolhede**
7 and 8pm, \$5, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
Two individually ticketed (in advance), 40-minute concerts limited to 20 guests each. Tickets available at L.A.C.A. gift shop, or call 231-845-2787, or go to <https://ludingtonartscenter.square.site/>
- 22 The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Il Trovatore (Verdi)**
1-3:45pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 22 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. 1-3pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 2
- 23 Books in the Park**
Storytime starts at 10:30am at Red Szymarek Park, 106 Charter Ct., Manistee
Bring something to sit on. Subject to weather. Manistee County Great Start.

- 23-24 Manistee Ghost Ship**
Haunted ship full of scary surprises. 99 Arthur St., Manistee. 7:30-10:30pm. \$10/adult. 6 & under free, but not advised. www.manisteeghostship.com On Facebook @GhostShipManistee
- 24 The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Il Trovatore (Verdi)**
1-3:45pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 24 Fall Bazaar and Craft Show**
10am-3pm, Kaleva VFW Post, 13300 Nine Mile Road, Kaleva
- 25 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. 1-3pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 2
- 25 Frankenstein directed by Danny Boyle with Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller**
presented by National Theatre Live, Two shows at 1pm and 5pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 26 Books in the Park**
Storytime begins at 10:30, Onekama Village Park, 5283 Main St., Onekama. Bring something to sit on. Subject to weather. Manistee County Great Start.
- 27 Frankenstein directed by Danny Boyle with Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller**
presented by National Theatre Live, Two shows at 1pm and 5pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 27 Live, Outdoor, Socially-distanced Courtyard Concerts with Nathaniel White and Noah Cameron**
7 and 8pm, \$5, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington
Two individually ticketed (in advance), 40-minute concerts limited to 20 guests each. Tickets available at L.A.C.A. gift shop, or call 231-845-2787, or go to <https://ludingtonartscenter.square.site/>
- 28 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. 1-3pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 2
- 29 The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Turandot (Puccini)**
1-3:20pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 30 Books in the Park**
Storytime begins at 10:30am at Red Szymarek Park, 106 Charter Ct., Manistee. Bring something to sit on. Subject to weather. Manistee County Great Start.
- 30 Manhattan Short Film Festival**
at Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. 1-3pm, \$10, limited seating, Ten best films from 1600 world-wide entries. Audience members vote for their favorite. Global winner will be announced November 2
- 30-31 Manistee Ghost Ship**
Haunted ship full of scary surprises. 99 Arthur St., Manistee. 7:30-10:30pm. \$10/adult. 6 & under free, but not advised. www.manisteeghostship.com On Facebook @GhostShipManistee
- 31 The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Turandot (Puccini)**
1-3:20pm, \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee

Ready for the Challenge of Fall Birding?

Story and photos by DR. BRIAN ALLEN

Springtime and the birding is easy, with bright-blue skies, blooming flowers and, best of all, singing birds. Not only are the birds advertising their whereabouts, they are on territory, in the habitat that makes sense to them and to us as we look for them.

Think about a common bird, the American Robin. In spring you wake up to their cheery song and see them hopping about in yards. As fall progresses, I challenge you to even find an American Robin. It's a whole different ball game.

In spring the warblers are decked out in tropical colors – bright yellows, orange, red and blue – and now almost all warblers are a dingy yellow-green as they wing their way back to Central or South America. They are a quiet group, sometimes only emitting a soft chip note if we are lucky enough to hear it.

Some birders hang up their binoculars in summer after the bounty of spring birding, but they may be missing some of the year's best birding moments. If you are up for the challenge, fall birding can be exciting and boost your birding and natural history skills.

Getting back to the robins, where are they? In fall they act a little more like their relatives, the thrushes. The Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Veery and Swainson's Thrush are all woodland birds. They are a little difficult to find out in the open. In spring their songs are arguably the most beautiful of all. In fall it is not unusual to see robins associating with other thrushes in thickets with berries and good shelter.

In fall you must think like the birds. Where would you be on a cool, windy day after you've flown 100 miles and are hungry? I look for them in brambles with red-osier dogwood and wild grapes, especially if it is at the edge of the woods, sheltered from the wind and in the sun.

Thinking more about the movements of birds, you can use weather to your advantage to find them. Here, on the west side of the state, we need a north wind to help the birds head south but, more importantly for us, we need an EAST wind to have them accumulate along the lakeshore. With a northeast wind,

the birds will concentrate. That helps, especially now that bird populations have declined so much in the last several decades.

Look at maps for areas where birds would funnel and be held up on their way south. One of my favorite places is North Point Park in Onekama, near Lake Michigan, on the peninsula that points south into Portage Lake. The open thickets and low forests make it easy to see birds, and the geography works in your favor to find tanagers, flycatchers and warblers in fall. Sorting out the confusing fall warblers at North Point Park is just as good for the brain as working a tough crossword puzzle!

Another important fall birding area is the Lake Michigan shoreline. As early as July, when the beaches are busy, the first fall shorebirds start arriving from the Plains states. If you get up at the crack of dawn, before the dog walkers and beach goers, you have a chance to see some of the big shorebirds: Avocets, Godwits and Willets.

August marks the peak of fall shorebird migration. Sanderlings, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers are the most common shorebirds seen, but occasionally you'll pick up something more exotic like a Ruddy Turnstone, Bairds Sandpiper or a Red Knot to boost your year or life list.

The lakeshore is also the best place to be throughout the season for rare birds in our area. It seems incredible but, sometimes,



Upland Sandpiper



Least sandpiper and pectoral sandpiper

after hurricanes have hit the southern United States, birds from the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico will be stranded up north and make their way to Lake Michigan. Several years ago, a Great Shearwater was found at the Platte River outlet and was the first ever seen in Michigan. This September, after Hurricane Laura, a Magnificent Frigatebird was seen in Saugatuck, and the species has been reported even north of here in previous years. Just as exciting are more expected oceanic migrants like Jaegers and some of the rarer gulls. One of my best birding moments was seeing a powerful Pomarine Jaeger fly towards me, lit by the rising sun at the First Street Pier in Manistee, on its way south along the lakeshore.

Our Ruby-throated Hummingbirds usually head south in mid-September. Any hummingbirds seen at feeders after this should be checked carefully. Another type of hummingbird, the Rufous, has sometimes shown up in Michigan later in fall. No Rufous Hummingbirds have shown up yet in Manistee County, but Mason, Benzie, Wexford and Lake counties have all had records. Late summer and fall have also been good times for other extremely rare hummingbirds, like the Costa's that

showed up in Onekama one October. This bird was such exciting news that more than 300 people came from across the state to see it. When it was banded, the news coverage went national!

Not as exciting on the national news front, but anticipated by all birders in the late fall, is the arrival of our early winter/late fall migrants. The "ocean" ducks, such as Long-tailed Ducks and all three types of Scoters, arrive in late October and early November, mostly on Lake Michigan. If you are fortunate, you can find the brightly patterned Harlequin Ducks surfing the waves near piers in November. Some years we get the arrival of "winter finches," such as Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks. There is even an online forecast every fall that gives us an idea about how many and which of these birds will arrive. All About Birds: <https://tinyurl.com/y4og35lv>

I hope I've whetted your appetite for some good fall birding and hope to see you out on the trails or at the lake this fall.

Dr. Brian Allen is a long-time birdwatcher and bird researcher based in Manistee County. Reach him at manisteebirder@gmail.com.

The importance of forming a community of lake monitors

By STEWART A. MCFERRAN

People are drawn to the water. Shoreline communities were once the center of commerce along the shore of West Michigan. Tall ships came and went at the waterfront. Product was "shipped" and received at the dock.



Limnologist Eric Elgin with Lake Leaders. Photo by Stewart McFerran

Today, people flock to the shores of the inland lakes and stroll on docks for different reasons. They find themselves close to other lake dwellers. Communities of people have developed where all try to get away from

it all. Lake associations have formed and become a force to be reckoned with.

The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program has been creating community while monitoring and advocating for the lakes.

For 15 years volunteers have measured and reported lake conditions to Michigan State University staff and the Michigan DEQ.

The volunteers meet for training with MSU's Jo Latimore, Ph.D. A key player in the program, she encourages and trains citizen scientists to come together as teams around the water, to protect the water. Last year the training took place at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville. Many of the volunteers have met before – at the waterfront, where issues come into view. Citizens can determine the direction of the science when they raise concerns together.

CLMP is recruiting volunteers to train and continue monitoring lakes in 2021. The program is accepting applications now for next year. It is important work that can make a big difference in the water quality of our lakes. Measures taken can improve fishing and reduce the harmful effects of invasive species. Monitors can be the eyes and ears of experts who can direct the resources

needed to control invasive aquatic plants. A rapid response can sometimes eliminate an unwanted species before it spreads.

Over time, trends can be identified using the measurements taken by CLMP volunteers. These measurements, when grouped together, arranged and analyzed, amount to data that can lead to conclusions. These conclusions can impact the lives of everyone who takes a dip in a Michigan lake.

For example, swimmer's itch has been a big problem on many Northern Michigan lakes. It turns out that tiny parasitic worms, schistosome cercariae, float on the surface of the water only at certain times, in certain places and under certain conditions. Being aware that these parasites are blown about by the wind can allow swimmers to avoid them. The techniques for avoiding them are being developed and shared among CLMP volunteers. Also, it has been found that mergansers are not the sole carrier of the worms that cause swimmer's itch. Mallards and Canadian Geese also carry them.

Bruce Pelletier, a member of the Hamlin Lake Preservation Society, continues to monitor both Upper and Lower Hamlin

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“Jeep the Mac” Memories

Due to COVID-19, this year’s Jeep the Mac event was rescheduled for Oct. 2-4.

Story and photos by SUSAN HINTZ

The day had arrived! April 26, 2019, the day we and 800+ others invaded St. Ignace and the Mighty Mac for the fourth annual Jeep the Mac. The big event includes crossing the Mackinac Bridge twice, followed by a trek from St. Ignace to Drummond Island.



Jeep selfie with Mr. Hintz.

We made our reservations in March for our first Jeep-the-Mac excursion, and we were stoked. It was a brisk, sunny morning with scattered snow on the ground, but spring fever was in the air and we were ready for adventure. We loaded the last of the gear into the Jeep and took a quick selfie to mark the start of the adventure. One last check of the weather: high 30s to low 40s and breezy. Not good when crossing the Mighty Mac. Oh well, we’re off!

There wasn’t much Jeep activity until we reached Gaylord, then the convoy began. Excitement was building with each passing Jeep and signature Jeep wave. As we approached the bridge, a LED sign flashed, “High Winds, Reduce Speed.” My excitement quickly turned to anxiety. I constantly glanced at the speedometer and reminded my husband to keep to the posted 20 mph. (He already was.) The wind was gusty and Lake Michigan was angry, but our bridge crossing was uneventful. Safely across, we presented our toll pass. St. Ignace, here we come!

Arriving at the staging area at Little Bear Arena, we found the party in full swing. Music blared and several hundred Jeeps in every size, color, vintage and condition were already lined up. A mandatory meeting was followed by the release of the first wave of Jeeps escorted by police over the bridge and back. When our row was released, we maneuvered our way through the streets of St. Ignace. Residents, store owners and even a Yeti were gathered streetside and waved as we passed by. When we reached the bridge, the first Jeeps to cross were already making their return trip. An army of Jeeps was crossing the bridge in both directions, and we were excited to be part of the cavalry.

Once across, most drivers followed the group through Mackinaw City and immediately returned. Some of us strayed and ponied up to the Dixie Saloon. Our rebellion was cut short, as our free return bridge pass was due to expire at 5 p.m.

Back at the arena in St. Ignace, we decided to use casino coupons included with our package. Others had the same idea; the coupon redemption line was deep. Rather than wait in line, we gave away our tickets and headed to the hotel.

Morning brought another crisp yet sunny day. We enjoyed a continental breakfast and coffee to go. Maps and guide in hand, we drove to Detour to catch the ferry to Drummond Island – the Jeep’n place. Arriving in Detour, we were surprised to find Jeep traffic stretched around the block

from the ferry. Nearly two hours later, we finally boarded. After a short ride, the Jeeps disembarked to explore in every direction. We headed northeast.

As this was our first excursion, we weren’t ready for anything too harrowing. Drummond Island has 40 miles of ORV trails and 70 miles of ATV trails marked as easy, intermediate and challenging. The trails are not merely a two-track system through the forest connecting to other challenges and obstacles, as found in many ORV parks. Here, the road can be just as challenging! Some trails were inaccessible due to snow, while others were flooded with snowmelt.

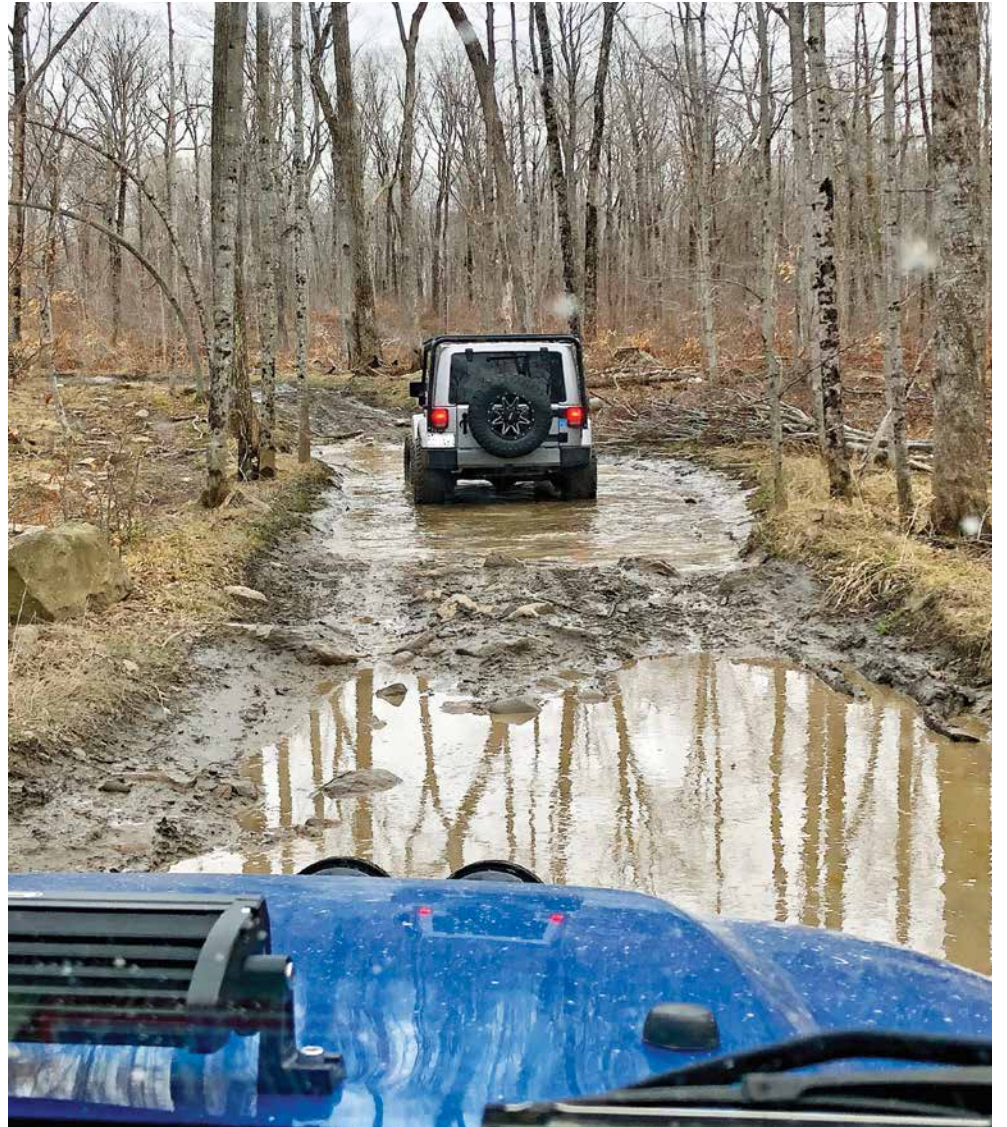
There were experienced “guides” at some of the trailheads to provide information and directions. We met one, a 40-year resident of the island, when we got out to stretch. As he began telling us about a bear he had spotted here a couple of nights ago, a pair of eagles flew overhead. The conversation quickly turned to eagles as cameras of fellow Jeepers began to shutter.

Next, we headed toward Fossil Ledge. It was a long, winding road, with several areas completely submerged. The road dead-ended at Fossil Ledge. Jeeps were parked on the road, off the road, in



Jeep line up.

snowbanks and wherever else they could squeeze. Fellow Jeepers were outside their vehicles enjoying sunshine, food, beverages and camaraderie. We walked down to the lake and were immediately greeted with a stiff north wind. Although the shoreline, “Fossil Ledge,” was encapsulated in ice, the fossilized details were visible through the



Jeep mudding.

translucent ice. Exploring more of the ledge was too treacherous.

We decided to head to town to grab a bite at a local establishment. The place was packed. The food was good, but the service was less so, understandably. We met a nice downstate couple who later came along with us.

We decided to try a more challenging trail than what we had driven thus far. We slowly meandered through the woods, going over boulders and downed trees, through puddles and down steep, rocky embankments. As daylight faded, we found ourselves at a crossroads. Do we continue or turn back? Ahead of us, the road was totally submerged, and we had no idea how deep the puddle was nor how long the journey would last – that is, if we made it through. There was no indication anyone had gone before us, and there was no one around to ask. Erring on the side of caution, we slowly back-tracked – a feat all its own. Once we reached the paved road, we were golden ... and I was relieved! It was only a few miles to the Migration Bash for the awards ceremony, more food and live music.

We totally missed the Mud-Bog event, but it was evident which Jeeps participated.

It was a fun-filled day that went by too quickly. Everyone we encountered was friendly, helpful and considerate. We expected to visit the entire island, but there is just too much terrain to cover. Marble Head, a rocky trail, was on our radar, but conditions were not favorable, and it was beyond our expertise and comfort level. Jeep the Mac is a well-organized event that draws more than 800 Jeepers and typically occurs the third weekend in April. If you’re a Jeep owner and you haven’t yet participated, you need to. It’s a great way to spend a weekend with like-minded people exploring the great outdoors. And if you’re not a Jeep owner, you might wish to reconsider. o||||o

More about the event at: <https://www.visitdrummondisland.com/jeep-the-mac>

Susan Hintz is a creative entrepreneur who loves beachcombing, photographing nature and writing about the outdoors. Check out her latest endeavor at www.RockhoundThreads.com



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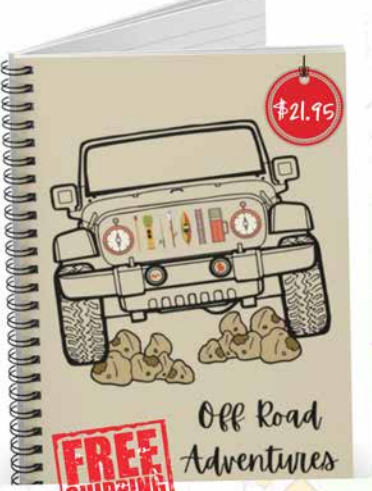
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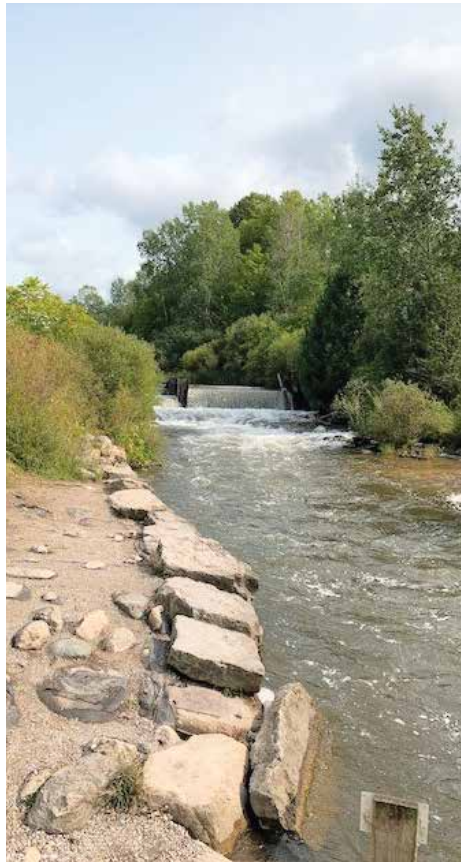


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Once There Was: Homestead Dam, Benzonia

By MILTON F. WHITMORE

Here in this 21st century what we see as normal wasn't always so. Of course, one must have a few years under their belts to accurately relate what we see today, compared to what once was. There is unknown history lurking at every curve in the road or bend in a river, every street corner and even parking lots. Oft times this history is represented, in part, by the structures that once marked a spot of significance.



Looking upstream at today's low head dam/lamprey barrier. Photo by Milton F. Whitmore.

On the Betsie River, east of Benzonia, in Benzie County, we find one such area and it involves a structure of some import.

Drive on US Highway 31 as it leads through the village, until Love Road, and turn eastward for about a mile and a half to Dam Road. Turn south and another miles' drive will bring you to Homestead Dam. The road ends at a Michigan Department of Natural Resources parking lot and a short walk along well-worn paths will bring you to the dam.

Today's structure is a low-head affair whose main purpose is to block the upstream spawning migration of the invasive sea lamprey which prey on valuable freshwater species, such as trout and salmon, in the Great Lakes. During spring steelhead (Great Lakes rainbow trout) runs in April, and again during the salmon spawning season in September and October, parking places will be difficult to find, due to the angling crowds. I suggest that you visit the site in the off seasons.

From the low-head dam, take a short hike of less than 100 yards downstream and look back at the dam. What you see today is not what you'd have seen prior to 1974. In those days, you would be looking at a Consumers Power Company hydroelectric dam.

In the early years of the 20th century, Consumers Power implemented dam construction on many Michigan streams. Dams produced electricity by using a stream's "fall of water" to turn turbines,



Homestead Dam as it appeared in 1940 and until its removal in 1974. Photo source unknown.

which generated electricity. Construction of the hydroelectric dam at the Homestead site was begun in 1912 and completed in 1913-14. It remained in place until the early 1970s. There was a fish ladder/trap located between the turbine outflow and the spillway. The Michigan Conservation Department, as the MDNR was called at the time, would remove fish from the trap and relocate them upstream of the dam.

In the late 1920s the MCD began to stock Lake Michigan with steelhead trout, which were rainbow trout that lived in the ocean. Although spawned in western streams, they spent most of their adult lives in the Pacific Ocean, where they grew large and silvery in color. Fisheries biologists felt that this could be duplicated in Lake Michigan. They reared and raised the fish and planted them in Lake Michigan. Beginning in late autumn the adult steelheads would migrate up suitable streams to spawn in the spring. The experiment was a huge success.

The Homestead Dam blocked this upstream migration and so became a gathering point for hundreds of eager anglers. They lined the dam area, and points several hundred yards downstream, hoping to take home one of these tasty, bruising battlers. Today, steelhead in spring and chinook salmon in the fall can jump over the present-day lamprey barrier to continue upstream to their gravel spawning grounds.

What you see today wasn't always there.

Milton Whitmore and his wife moved their family to the Onekama/Arcadia area, where he taught middle school science and math until he retired in 1997. Trout stream fishing was his first love, after his wife and family. He no longer fishes but relives it all through 70 years of memories.

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Trout Madness at the Homestead Dam site

Story and photos by STEWART A. MCFERRAN



Visitors watch for fish leaping the falls at the site of the Homestead Dam.

Trout Madness has a history of infecting the minds of Michigan anglers. Robert Traver wrote about it in a book by that name. Whether a dry fly is tied to the end of a \$1,500 fly rod by a wine sipper, or a worm is hooked to a \$19 spinning rod by a beer drinker, all fishers are subject to Trout Madness – even salmon fishers.

The evidence is clear that a virulent strain of Trout Madness has been running rampant at the Homestead Dam in Benzonia. Michigan's DNR just decreed that no one can fish within 300 feet of the dam until November 15. There are also new restrictions on camping and campfires.

They had to do it. Just last year DNR officers issued 54 civil infractions and made 349 misdemeanor arrests at the Homestead Dam site. The banks of the Betsie River were packed with anglers not leaving the site for days.

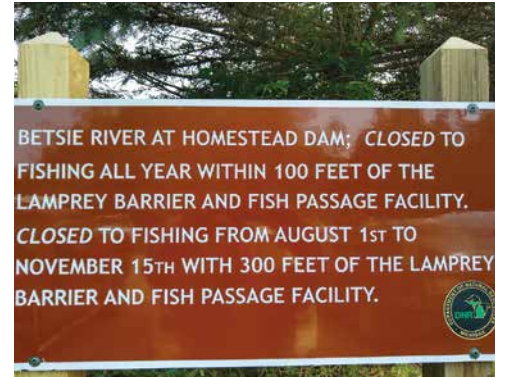
MDNR's Scott Heintzelman said visitors "leave enormous amounts of garbage and accumulations of human waste" at their campsites.

"Additionally, campers process their daily catch and leave the remains of processed fish," he said. "Roadways routinely become clogged by parked vehicles."

This writer recently detected a heavy stench as he came within the vicinity of the Homestead Dam site. The heavy boots of fishermen from near and far grind the vegetation into oblivion as erosion widens the river.

Heintzelman said that groups of fishermen camping on the riverbank were laying claim to sections of water. He explained that when others attempted to fish in that section, the claimers would object ... and fights broke out.

A notice by the Natural Resources Commission on the DNR's Michigan.gov website states:



Top. New sign awaits visitors to the Betsie River access site. Above. Fisher Shelley, 300 feet from the Homestead Dam site, Benzonia.

SUBJECT: Order to Regulate Camping on State Forest Lands in Benzie County.

Land Use Order of the Director, Amendment No. 04 of 2020.

Betsie River is regulated under the Natural Rivers Program, which prohibits camping near the river under R 299.922(u). The purpose of this proposed amendment is to update LUOD 4.10 to also prohibit camping and tending fires due to extensive resource damage occurring at these locations.

The cure for Trout Madness is elusive but may be found on the pages of Robert Traver's books.

Stewart A. McFerran illuminates current environmental issues in an historic context. He hopes readers will gain understanding and insight into ways people interact with their environment.

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Bjorkquist Brothers

continued from page 1

the brothers' operation on the north side of the river. The brothers built a shanty, where nets were mended, an icehouse and a smokehouse. They sold their catch right off the dock, as well as packing fish on ice inside boxes and barrels for wholesale.

In the ensuing years, other family members helped at the fishery and a new boat was built of oak on the bank of the Manistee River. The Bob Richard was 47 feet long and powered by a Kahlenberg marine internal combustion engine, an engine known at the time for its dependability. Albert continued to lift nets by hand until a mechanical lifter was installed on the port side of the vessel.

The family often caught perch at the "rock pile," but during spawning times they would not set gill nets nearby, thus ensuring more perch would be caught in the future.

Dennis Bjorkquist writes: "Albert firmly understood how important a strong fish population was to the success of his business."

In "Fishing the Great Lakes," Margaret B. Bouge writes: "The combination of refuse from sawmills, toxic residues from chemical plants, and waste fluids from pulp and paper mills further destroyed the quality of Great Lakes waters for fish life."

Some speculate that those impoverished during the Great Depression also contributed to the demise of the big fish, as a lunger could feed a hungry family.

"Once the Lake Trout were all but decimated and the Chubs became the fish

of choice for the Bjorkquist family, the workload greatly increased and intensified as well. Chubs were a much smaller fish which required gill nets with smaller openings. The smaller openings meant more knot tying and increased net repair."

Because they were smaller, the chubs took more time to process than the larger lake trout. The smoked chubs were delicious but required a lot of hard work.

Dennis claims commercial fishers were blamed for ruining the fishery with their gill nets. He writes: "Between the 1930s and 1960s, the Department of Natural Resources became more regulatory."

Restrictions regarding where the Bjorkquist Bros. could fish, what they could fish for, and how they could fish were piled on as the state engaged in social engineering.

"Late in the night, on June 23rd, 1981," Dennis writes, "the Michigan Department of Natural Resources motored out to the nets that had been set by the Bjorkquist brothers the day before and confiscated them."

The brothers filed a claim with the local court. The court ordered the DNR to return the nets.

The state had embarked on a quest to turn the big lakes into giant fish farms stocked with the kind of fish sportsmen like to catch. In the 1970s state hatcheries began churning out millions of Pacific salmon and releasing them into Great Lake waters. This



Net lifter from the fish tug Katherine V, Besser Museum, Alpena. Photo by S.A. McFerran.

scheme lured anglers to the big lakes. It was a boon for sportsmen but off limits to those entrepreneurs already established, such as the Bjorkquist Bros.

The state brushed aside the commercial fishing operations in the Great Lake states. The Bjorkquist Bros. fishery was collateral damage. Just this year, the Michigan

Legislature saw fit to further regulate and restrict commercial fishers in favor of sportsmen.

Gill nets are one method of fishing, among others in the tackle box. Gill nets can be misused in a way that can reduce fish populations, but industry and invasive species are, arguably, mostly to blame for the disappearance of native fish such as whitefish and chubs. Some would postulate that the predator fish that were dumped into Lake Michigan gobbled up the native fish in which the commercial fishery was based.

While sport fishing policy allows all to buy a license and engage in the activity of fishing, there is a place for commercial fish operations in the big lakes as well. Commercial fishers can provide fresh-caught fish for restaurants and groceries in a way sport fishers cannot. They can build businesses, as Albert Bjorkquist did.

With the pressure of the heavy hand on them, the "Bjorkquist Bros." went out of business in 1981.

Forty years later, some might gaze north from the Riverwalk across the mighty Manistee, remembering the old buildings and the delicious taste of the brothers' locally caught, locally smoked chubs, now a distant memory.

Though S.A. McFerran does not consider himself a Great Lakes commercial fisherman, he bore witness as crew for two seasons on the "Joy" and "Francis Clark" with Captain Ross Lang. He recently completed a degree in Environmental Studies from Antioch College.

Archangel

continued from page 1



the clones in its warehouse, raising them until they are saplings. Milarch said the organization owns 20 acres in Copemish.

"We have living libraries," Milarch said, "...so it's like building Noah's Ark and bringing the trees on alive, two-by-two."

Experience is another reason Archangel has been successful.

"I was born and raised in a family with four generations of shade tree producers," Milarch said. "We've all grown shade trees commercially for cities and landscapers since sometime back in the 1940s."

The organization also seeks the advice of scientists when questions arise.

"We have some of the best scientific minds in the world on our science board that guide us," he said, as well as a "network of scientists" with whom they consult.

Finally, Milarch explained that Archangel only ships its trees to "credible people that will take care of them," who already have a two-year watering program in place.

"A lot of tree-planting groups don't like their stats released," he explained. "Ninety percent of the trees that are planted by tree-planting groups die."

In his book about Milarch, "The Man Who Planted Trees," New York Times columnist Jim Robbins included a chapter on black willows, a tree species Milarch said has fire remediation properties and other benefits.



"All those years of spraying orchards, that spray went into the groundwater and it's migrating toward the Grand Traverse Bay," he said. "Black willow is the only tree that pulls it out of the water and the soil and neutralizes it."

Milarch said Robbins' book footnotes "how toxic our groundwater is here."

Each spring, Archangel gives away thousands of beneficial black willow seedlings produced from a state champion tree on the grounds of the former Traverse City State Psychiatric Hospital.

Park officials from the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore invited Milarch to give a presentation on South Manitou Island about the demise of the white cedar found in the "Valley of the Giants." Recorded under the largest white cedar tree known in Michigan, his presentation was shown at the Park's Visitor Center in Empire.

"There isn't a species of tree right now in Northern Michigan that isn't under attack," Milarch said, adding, "We'll be lucky to come out with anything short of a parking lot in 20 years."

"Climate Change is real."

Stewart A. McFerran illuminates current environmental issues in an historic context. He hopes readers will gain an understanding of and insight into ways people interact with their environment.

Lake monitors

continued from page 3

Lake in Mason County. Since May, he has been taking temperature readings and readings using a tool called a secchi disk. The disk is lowered into the water. When it is no longer visible, the depth is marked. This is a measurement of water clarity at that location and time.

Pelletier has found that the water in Hamlin Lake is clear in the spring, but as summer progresses the algae growth reduces the clarity of the water. The Hamlin Lake crew measures dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll levels which show how much algae are in the water.

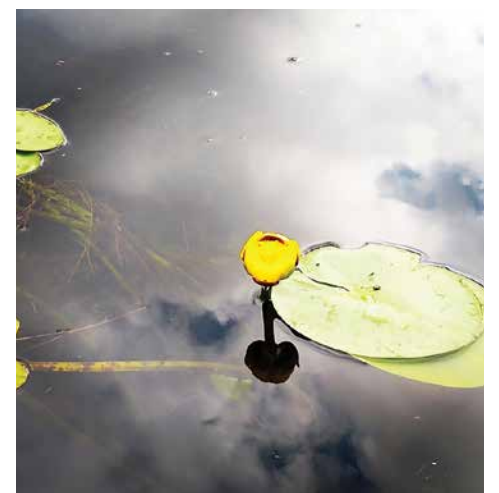
He and his crew of six other volunteers not only keep a close eye on the physical parameters of the water but also watch for invasive plants, such as frog bit. Frog bit is a kind of invasive lily pad that clogs waterways. If volunteers were to identify something like that in the water, they could call MSU Limnologist Eric Elgin or Vicky Sawicki with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts. Most likely they would be asked to send a digital picture of the plant or creature.

Shorelines are the primary habitat area for many birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects and fish. All rely on shallow water and the aquatic and terrestrial vegetation along a lake's edge to find food and a safe place to rear their young. Healthy shorelines help maintain water quality, limit erosion, and slow and filter rain runoff.

While on the lake, the CLMP volunteers "Score The Shore." Each 1,000-foot



Dr. Jo Latimore, of MSU, trains volunteers to be lake monitors. Courtesy photo.



Lily pads are among the lake weeds deemed invasive and a nuisance. Photo by Stewart McFerran.

section of the shoreline is evaluated for its ability to host wildlife, as Don Oswell has done on Arcadia Lake. In general, the bushier the shore, the better. Find more about Score the Shore at: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/scoreyourshore/index.html>.

MiCorps partners – including MSU Extension, Michigan Lakes and Streams Association and Huron River Watershed Council – offered a limited volunteer lake monitoring program to fill this year's funding gap. You can find information on the program here: <https://www.hrwc.org/what-we-do/programs/2020-lake-monitoring>.

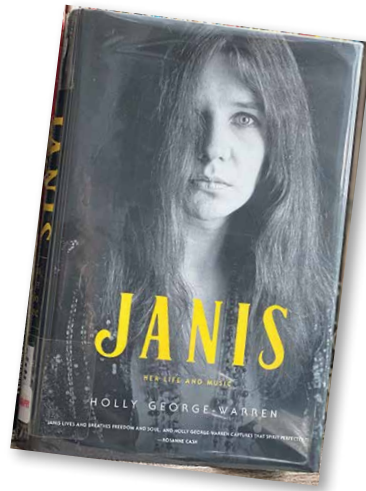
When the 2021 season is eventually announced, all the information will be posted on the MiCorps website: www.micorps.net. Meanwhile, interested potential volunteers can also contact Dr. Jo Latimore (latimor1@msu.edu) or Marcy Knoll Wilmes, Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, (knollm@michigan.gov).

Stewart A. McFerran illuminates current environmental issues in an historic context. He hopes readers will gain understanding and insight into ways people interact with their environment.

Janis & me

By MCSTELLAR

Last month, I was standing in the well-established liquor store down the street from my place and staring at the limited wine selection. Ten minutes earlier I had realized my place was bone dry – except for a bottle of scotch, and I’m not a fan. Out the door I went, on a mission to get some good red wine to accompany me on my journey through my latest library pick, “Janis: Her Life and Music,” by Holly George-Warren.



Growing up in an opinionated, music-listening family, I found that Janis Joplin was one of several artists that did not make the cut. Not many females did. My mother didn’t care for her “raspy voice” and my dad wasn’t into “that hippie s---.” Any dose of Joplin was delivered through my 1997 Buick Century’s stock radio while I hustled to and from jobs as a teen. At best, I could rattle off some lyrics of Bobby McGee, maybe one other, but I wasn’t too acquainted with Joplin’s music.

A few years back, her psychedelic 1964 Porsche 356 went up for auction and an editor where I work covered the story for our digital audience. Seeing the colorful body on four wheels triggered me to want to know more about her. A mental note was made and filed away for a rainy day.

That day finally arrived last month when I made my library choice.

Back inside the liquor store, I grabbed a bottle of rioja and bellied up to the counter. The store usually has decent music playing, which makes me more partial to this place than others in town. Before I paid, I asked how much a bottle of Drambuie costs, as my personal stash was drained. The manager stopped ringing me up, looked at me behind his mask, and said I wasn’t the usual demographic for the stuff. When I asked him who was, he shot back, chuckling, “Eighty-year-old women ... You’d be the youngest customer I’ve ever sold it to.”

To this, I giggled. I am used to people having these sorts of reactions to things I say or do, as when friends stop by to find me smoking my grandfather’s pipe or playing some obscure jazz. Point is, I am used to feeling like the oddball. As it turns out, I didn’t expect to feel a kinship with Joplin on this.

A bottle of red in hand – a staple for Joplin, I later learned – I headed out the door into the rain. Back home, I dove into the book ... a rollercoaster ride of drug and alcohol abuse, endeavors to sober up and go back to school, engagement to a con artist, hitchhiking trips from Texas to California while trying to “make it on the scene,” a zillion lovers, and ... well ... it could keep one captivated for hours. I’d been at it for four when I finally peeled my eyes from the pages. At 12:22 a.m. I was 100 or more

Joplin: Further Revelations

By MCSTELLAR

Joplin’s life in words comes off as a pitch-perfect story of parent-child relationship issues, fame, love and tragedy. Albeit too short, her life was as colorful as the shapely body of her Porsche. She smashed The Doors’ Jim Morrison over the head with a glass bottle twice. She embraced her bisexual tendencies. She was loyal and democratic with her Big Brother family and kept the finances and communal living spaces in order.

Her father, a depressed man, shared his angst with her and molded much of her outlook on life. As a teen, Joplin began defying her mother’s desire for a dress-wearing, churchgoing, doting wife. Instead, she was a beatnik laying tracks to surrounding Texas towns, to begin cutting her teeth in the blues and country music scenes.

Her first band, Big Brother & the Holding Company, was one of a power-

packed line up that Chet Helms, of Family Dog, promoted – including Airplane (Jefferson Airplane) and the Grateful Dead. Each brought advice and guidance to the queen of counterculture as she navigated the music industry, relationships and personal demons.

Besides flexing her vocal abilities to the max, she also pushed the limits with alcohol and drugs. She battled what she called the “kozmic blues,” namesake of the band, and doped herself with heroin – leading to her early and lonely passing.

Though most would group Joplin into the psychedelic rock genera, a case could be made that her true equals are the likes of notable blues singers Bessie Smith, Odetta, and Ma Rainey, etc. Joplin’s full discography includes two albums with Big Brother & the Holding Company, one with Kozmic Blues Band, and her final with Full Tilt Boogie (posthumous).

pages into her biography and my water glass, doubling as a wine glass, was empty. I got up to fill it and put on her first studio album with Big Brother and the Holding Company as a nightcap.

As I listened into the wee hours of the morning, I started to identify the liberties she took, changing the original lyrics of old blues and gospel songs. I let the harsh and witty lyrics of her own gems, such as Women Is Losers, wash over me. I could hear the joy and pain in her voice and her manipulation of old blues songs. I was incapable of appreciating either, until I got to know her story better. She was known for searching for obscure blues recordings and listening to them until she knew them like the back of her hand, something we share in common. By this point in the evening, I was bursting to share some of these incredible revelations.

I claim no professional education in music or instrumental know-how, or any

out-of-this-world knowledge about music. However, my favorite thing to talk about is music – the same way some talk about politics ... passionately. So, this is my attempt at sharing the music I love with a wider audience.

As we sidle up to fall and into winter, take the time to pour yourself some good red wine, or help bring the buying demographic for Drambuie down, then join me for some musical anecdotes and journeys through some of the greatest music ever created.

Until next time, “Bye, Bye, Baby.”

McStellar is a music, space, and wine enthusiast who digs blending and balancing the creative side of work and life. Parent to a wild-child toddler, McStellar tries to lead by example by embracing the motto “let your freak flag fly.” The two-time Michigan State graduate is a native to northern Michigan. Send your comments to: themcstellar@gmail.com



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HAPPY FALL TO YOU ALL!

Photo by Mark Videan

A ghost town, a cemetery and the spirit of the lumber barons

Story and photos by KEVIN HOWELL

Three down and three to go, and it's back to Ludington for the fourth Mason County Cultural Trail. For the last three editions, I and my faithful navigator Jean have been riding the roads in Mason County to explore cultural trails laid out by masoncountyculture.com. From maritime heritage to barn quilts, agriculture and eats, we've discovered history, heritage and culture in our new Michigan home.

Last trip, I embarked on the agricultural trail alone. Jean was sidelined with a stiff back and passed on the unplanned, extended excursion I ended up taking. In other words, I got lost.

Now, she's back and directed me expertly to Iris Road, south of Ludington. We traveled through the rolling dune lands, past Historic White Pine Village, to the peninsula separating Pere Marquette Lake from Lake Michigan.

The old lumber ghost town of Buttersville, on the peninsula, was a stop on our route that day. Buttersville is a former lumber boomtown that helped create lumber barons. The town prospered, until Michigan's treasured white pines were diminished.

Partners Horace Butters and Richard Peters were two lumber barons whose names appear in connection to Buttersville and other lumber towns like Hamlin, Lincoln, and Tallman. According to both the maritime and lumber trail guides, Butters and Peters "were responsible for the biggest so-called ghost town" on Pere Marquette Lake – none other than Buttersville.

In 1873, because the peninsula was close to the timber, the partners set up mills there. They used the Pere Marquette to float logs to the mill and Lake Michigan to ship lumber to market. By 1880, they bought the Foster and Filer Mill which became

Buttersville. In 1909, the mill succumbed to fire and was not rebuilt.

Today, there is a Buttersville campground and park along Lake Michigan.

"Did you see that trash can marked for fish guts only?" Jean, always the one for unusual sightings, pointed out.

We also saw resort homes on a high dune overlooking both lakes and a towering cross marking the place where Jesuit priest and explorer Father ("Pere" in French) Marquette reportedly died. (See Freshwater Reporter, Nov. 2019, "Ludington or Frankfort? The Mystery of Father Marquette.")

From here, Jean led me back to Ludington where 10 impressive homes of former lumber barons are listed in the tour guide. This was going to be a quick scan for me. I love old architecture but can only handle a few homes at a time. We piled out of the truck and headed up the block on foot. There's no real parking on upper Ludington Avenue, so it's best to pick a side street and hoof it.

One of the most impressive homes is the Warren Cartier Mansion at 409 East Ludington Avenue. Currently a bed and breakfast, the home is touted as the "Grand Dame of architecture." According to the guide, the house was built by Warren, son of lumber baron Antoine Cartier, and it includes a spacious main entry hall, five fireplaces, chandeliers, wood-beamed ceilings, and five bedrooms upstairs.

Down the street is the home of former businessman Daniel Webster Goodenough, an interesting name. I wanted to see what home was good enough for Goodenough.

As we strolled along, my navigator kept up a running commentary.

"That one is Antoine Cartier's home; down there is the Ward home, he was the richest man in Michigan" – and more like that.



A cross on a high dune, in the former lumber town of Buttersville, marks the place where Father Marquette reportedly died.



The Cartier Mansion on Ludington Avenue is one of 10 eye-catching homes of former prominent lumber barons in Mason County.

She also pointed out that Goodenough is pronounced Good-e-now. Still, the residence was definitely good enough. The 1888 Queen Anne Victorian home is described as having a "grand oak staircase, cosy (sic) inviting environment, a fireplace in the wall downstairs, tiled fireplaces in the bedrooms, stained glass windows, a library, and an octagon tower that is a defining structure." Also notable is that presidential candidate William Jennings Bryant stayed in one of the bedrooms on several campaign visits to Ludington.

Time to move on ... but first, lunch. Wanting to restock my favorite craft beer supply, we headed to Ludington Bay Brewing and decided to eat a quick bite. The crab ragoon pizza was tasty and left plenty for another meal.

Next on our tour: a quick stop at Lakeside Cemetery on North Lakeshore Drive.

We passed by Goodenough's tomb, impressive at one time, but through the barred door to his monument we saw debris on the floor and broken windows. It's still impressive.

Goodenough started as a clerk in a general store and eventually owned one of his own in Hartford, Michigan, before moving to Ludington in 1872. He owned a store in Ludington until fire wiped it out in 1875. Goodenough launched a business manufacturing railroad ties and also stripped bark for leather tanning industries.

Butters and other Mason county figures are also buried at Lakeview.

Heading home, we followed the trail past Lincoln Lake – remember the Village of Lincoln – just north of the cemetery, then through remains of the hamlet of Hamlin on Lake Hamlin, and east passing through the village of Tallman near Tallman Lake, where a reminder of its past as a lumber town is on a street sign, Butters Street.

Stay tuned for our adventures on the next cultural trail.

Kevin Howell is a transplanted freelance writer from Indiana currently residing in Mason County. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes, people and especially Michigan craft beers – not necessarily in that order. Contact him at kevin@ytci.com.

Are We Alone? By BROOKE EDWARDS

On September 14, news of the discovery of phosphine on Venus took scientists by surprise. A team of researchers, all associated with different astronomy organizations from multiple countries, made the observations using telescopes in Hawaii and Chile.

Phosphine, composed of phosphorus and hydrogen, is produced in small amounts by bacteria on Earth. This discovery excited scientists worldwide as there is no known inorganic process for producing phosphine, leading to the speculation that the byproduct of some form of life had been detected. While it would be highly unlikely for life to exist on the surface of Venus, which is hot enough to melt lead, microbial life may float in the planet's atmosphere. These conditions would make any microbial lifeforms there entirely different from those found here.

While missions to observe Venus are being considered by NASA, the Mars 2020 Rover, Perseverance, is currently on its way to the Red Planet. Scheduled to land in February, 2021, Perseverance is unlike any previous Mars rover as it will gather samples for future missions to collect and return to Earth. The rover will also scan geological features to detect where, and in what quantity, different chemicals are distributed on the Martian surface. It has been speculated that Mars may have once hosted life. With research from Perseverance, we may find evidence of that within our lifetimes.

Enceladus, one of Saturn's icy moons, is another area of great interest. While observing Saturn and its moons, NASA's Cassini probe discovered that Enceladus

has an ocean world under its frozen surface. This discovery of liquid water, one of the main prerequisites for life as we know it, has led many scientists to propose future missions to Enceladus.

As for the possibility of life beyond our Solar System, NASA has the Kepler and TESS telescopes. They observe stars in our Milky Way Galaxy for signs of planets that may be in habitable zones around their host stars. This is done by watching for a transit, or passing by, of a planet in front of a star. When a planet transits a star, the star's brightness dims and scientists can determine the size of the planet passing between us and the star. If a planet is in a habitable zone, where the temperature and conditions might support life, it becomes a subject of interest. It is estimated that there are about 100 thousand-million stars in our galaxy, and over 2 trillion galaxies in the Universe. We still have little idea of what is in our own galaxy. Who knows what we will discover in time.

Are we alone? The true answer is that we still do not know. Given the size of the universe, it would be astounding if Earth were the only place that hosts life of any kind. It is likely that life exists elsewhere, maybe even in our own Solar System. Until we find answers, we keep searching.

Sources: <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/Phosphine>, NASA, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Brooke Edwards is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. She lives in Manistee. Follow her Facebook group @ManisteeStarParty.



Venus was observed by the Magellan probe from 1990-94, revealing many of its mysterious features. Photo by NASA and the Magellan team.

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