

# FRESHWATER REPORTER



A fresh approach to storytelling in West Michigan

Vol II, No. 8

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FREE

## What's SUP in Northern Michigan?

By CHELSEA WHITE

*It sometimes seems that to be a true, card-carrying Northern Michigan resident one has to pick a water-related activity about which to wax poetically among friends. That's at least how I justified my foray into paddle boarding.*



The writer gives daughters Isabel and Anna a ride on her paddleboard. Courtesy photo.

I acquired my stand-up paddleboard – SUP, for those in the know – late last summer, after a year of agonizing over what the perfect board for me would be. This year I began watching the lake obsessively in March, waiting with bated breath for the ice to thaw. My first trip out? Grand Traverse County's Long Lake, the first week of April, in gray, 40-degree weather. I just couldn't wait any longer.

My search for a paddleboard was long and drawn out. It consisted of renting boards, watching YouTube videos, and reading every article I could find to determine the best board for me. It's overwhelming to see

all the available options: racing boards, touring boards, boards geared toward yoga, and the list goes on. You must also choose between an inflatable or plexiglass board, and all SUPs come with their own benefits and drawbacks. I finally settled on an Atoll inflatable board and have been very happy with my final decision. I'm even

happier with my decision to get an electric pump this year. The workout of pumping an 11-foot paddleboard to 15 p.s.i. by hand was nearly equal to the workout of the paddle, which is no small thing and often a large part of the SUP appeal.

I know a lot of avid SUP enthusiasts here

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## A brief but spectacular multi-media pop-up gallery

By PAT STINSON

ONEKAMA – A former winetasting room seems a fitting gallery space for an artist who used to own a café-deli-bakery in this vibrant, picturesque village beside Portage Lake.

In fact, Don Paone, along with his gallery partner Mark Lough, redecorated the Linebacks building with Paone's acrylic paintings and Lough's fine-art photographs, just as they did in Paone's former café.

This time, however, the space is temporary, lasting only as long as summer's flowers. It is one of several short-lived art exhibitions popping up in recent years.

"The Art Divas in Manistee did a pop-up (gallery) for a few weeks during the Sleighbell Parade," Paone said, adding that the space stayed open through Christmas.

"We thought, 'We could do this.'"

Last summer, Paone participated in the annual Art Snake, showing his work in the garden beside the Yellow Dog Café, where he said he did "very well." He also sells his work through his website donpaone.com and is working to build a future virtual-gallery website for the Ramsdell Regional Arts Center.

"We belong to the Ramsdell," he said, "and we show and belong to Oliver Arts Center (in Frankfort)."

### Pop-up artists

The pair's new pop-up gallery show opened July 1 and also features 3D and other works by Manistee artists Lynn

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Fine art photographer Mark Lough and landscape painter Don Paone inside their pop-up art gallery in Onekama. Photo by P. Stinson.



Susan Hintz, in early spring, in a typical rockhound's trance-stance. Courtesy photo.

## Rockin' the beach

BY SUSAN HINTZ

Editor's note: This is part one of the writer's account of her rockhounding obsession. In our July 22 issue, she will explore her foray into rock polishing.

My life has always been centered around nature and water. From an early age, I have spent countless hours at the shoreline playing in the sand, skipping stones, frolicking in the water, and just enjoying the serenity that open water brings. Growing up only a few blocks from Traverse City's West End Beach, I used this as my summer playground. Other than frequenting my uncle's cottage on Long Lake a few times each summer, my world existed primarily within the city limits.

That all changed in my early twenties when I gained a sister-in-law! Barb loves the beaches of Lake Michigan and the small towns along the M-22 corridor. Several times a week, after work and most weekends, we would grab our towels, chairs, sunscreen and cooler and find somewhere along Lake Michigan to take in the sights and sounds of lapping water and stroll the sandy shoreline.

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# Your July Community Calendar

Due to COVID-19, weather and other factors, dates and times of events may change or be cancelled.

- 8-31 Pop-Up Gallery in Onekama**  
Photographs by Mark Lough, acrylic paintings by Don Leone plus 3D and other artworks by Jeanne Butterfield, Lynn Williams and Mary Wahr. 10 am-7 pm, daily. 4990 Main St., in the former Linebacks winetasting building.
- 8 Classic Film Series – Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994)**  
10am, \$2, Vogue Theatre, 383 River St., Manistee
- 8 Fun Fish Competition, Manistee Lake**  
Manistee Co. Sportfishing Association. 6-9pm, \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, \$30 for annual membership for Fun Fish. **For more info: mcsfa.org**
- 8 Crystal Mountain Chairlift Rides and Top of the Mountain Entertainment with Jim Hawley**  
7-9pm, weather permitting, \$9, 8 and under free with paying adult, houseguests free. 12500 Crystal Mountain Road, Thompsonville
- 9 First Person Stories & Songs, featuring Eliese Tillman**  
"Paws with a Cause" 10am, free, Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St., Manistee
- 9 Crystal Mountain Garden Tours**  
10am, \$10, free for houseguests. Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville. Reservations required. 888-968-7686 ext. 7000
- 9 Live in the Plaza – Acoustic Music featuring Adam Knudsen**  
5-8pm, free, N. James Street Plaza Stage, downtown Ludington
- 10 Ludington Farmers Market**  
Fridays, 3-7pm, N. James Street Plaza, downtown Ludington
- 10 Friday Night Live Unplugged – Acoustic music w/ Tom Zatarga**  
6-9pm, Free, N. James Street Plaza Stage, downtown Ludington
- 10 Live Music at the Level Four Rooftop Bar with Chris Smith**  
7-9pm, bar open 5-10pm, Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Road, Thompsonville
- 11 Manistee Farmers Market**  
Saturdays, 9am-12pm, Memorial Dr. & Washington St., Manistee
- 11 Crystal Mountain Chairlift Rides and Top of the Mountain Entertainment w/ Izzy Wallace**  
7-9pm, weather permitting, \$9, 8 & under free with paying adult, houseguests free. 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 11 Chris Good and Billy King (Folk, rock and blues)**  
7-10pm, Northern Natural, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva
- 14 Talks, Tunes & Tours with Stephen Plummer**  
"The Music of Django Reinhardt and How Just One Musician Began an Entire Genre of Music". 10am, Free, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 14 Frida – Viva La Vida**  
Documentary film about revolutionary feminist artist Frida Kahlo 2-4pm, \$15, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 14 Live Music at the Level Four Rooftop Bar w/ Jesse Jefferson**  
7-9pm, bar is open 5-10pm, Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 15 Classic Film Series – Father of the Bride (1950)**  
10am, \$2, Vogue Theatre, 383 River St., Manistee
- 15 Fun Fish Competition, Bear Lake**  
Manistee Co. Sportfishing Association. 6-9pm, \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, \$30 for annual membership for Fun Fish. **For more info: mcsfa.org**
- 15 Crystal Mountain Chairlift Rides and Top of the Mountain Entertainment with Jesse Jefferson**  
7-9pm, weather permitting, \$9, 8 & under free with paying adult, houseguests free. 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 16 First Person Stories & Songs with Mark Herberger: "Tales of a Forester"**  
10am, Free, Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St., Manistee
- 16 Crystal Mountain Garden Tours**  
10am, \$10, free for houseguests. Reservations required. 888-968-7686 ext. 7000. 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 16 Live in the Plaza – Acoustic music with Jimmy Dodson**  
5-8pm, Free, N. James Street Plaza Stage, downtown Ludington
- 17 Ludington Farmer's Market**  
Fridays, 3-7pm, N. James Street Plaza, downtown Ludington
- 17 Friday Night Live Unplugged – Acoustic music with Steve Plummer**  
6-9pm, Free, N. James Street Plaza Stage, downtown Ludington
- 17 Live Music at the Level Four Rooftop Bar with Mike Youker**  
7-9pm, bar open 5-10pm, Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 17 Mark Lavengood Band**  
(singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalists) 7-10pm, Northern Natural LLC, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva
- 18 Manistee Farmer's Market**  
Saturdays, 9am-12pm, Memorial Dr. & Washington St., Manistee
- 18 Crystal Mountain Chairlift Rides and Top of the Mountain Entertainment w/ Jesse Jefferson**  
7-9pm, weather permitting, \$9, 8 & under free with paying adult, houseguests free. 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 18 Sam Cooper and Elisabeth Pixley-Fink**  
(singer/songwriters, multi-instrumentalists), 7-10pm, Northern Natural LLC, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva
- 21 Talks, Tunes & Tours w/ Joan Young: "The North Country Trail"**  
10am, Free, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 21 Hermitage. The Power of Art.**  
Documentary film touring St. Petersburg and The State Hermitage Museum, the largest collection of paintings in the world. 2-4pm, \$15, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 21 Manistee Shoreline Showcase, with Tosha Owens / The Bobbie Murray Detroit All-Stars**  
(Blues, Rock, R&B, and Soul). 7pm, Free, 1st Street Beach Rotary Gazebo, 100-122 S. Lakeshore Dr., Manistee
- 21 Live Music at the Level Four Rooftop Bar feat. Chris Smith**  
7-9pm, bar open 5-10pm, Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 22 Classic Film Series – White Nights (1985)**  
10am, \$2, Vogue Theatre, 383 River St., Manistee
- 22 Fun Fish Competition, Portage Lake**  
Manistee Co. Sportfishing Association. 6-9pm, \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, \$30 for annual membership for Fun Fish. **For more info: mcsfa.org**
- 22 L.A.C.A. Summer Concert Series feat. Tosha Owens / The Bobbie Murray Detroit All-Stars**  
(blues, rock, R&B, and soul) 7pm, free, (donations welcome), Ludington waterfront Park, 391 S. William St., Ludington
- 22 Crystal Mountain Chairlift Rides and Top of the Mountain Entertainment with Jim Hawley**  
7-9pm, weather permitting, \$9, 8 & under free with paying adult, houseguests free. 12500 Crystal Mountain Road, Thompsonville
- 23 First Person Stories & Songs featuring Bill Anderson**  
"Women During the Civil War." 10am, free, Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St., Manistee
- 23 Crystal Mountain Garden Tours**  
10am, \$10, free for houseguests. Reservations required. 888-968-7686 ext. 7000. 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville.
- 23 Live in the Plaza – Acoustic music with Cheryl Wolfram**  
5-8pm, Free, N. James Street Plaza Stage, downtown Ludington
- 23 Sunset Beach Bonfires**  
8-10pm, free, Stearns Park Beach, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington. Bonfire & music featuring Medium Well, sunset. Bring beach chairs, blankets.
- 24 Ludington Farmer's Market**  
Fridays. 3-7pm, N. James Street Plaza, downtown Ludington
- 24 Friday Night Live Unplugged**  
Acoustic music, performer(s) TBD. 6-9pm, free, N. James Street Plaza Stage, downtown Ludington
- 24 Live Music at the Level Four Rooftop Bar w/ Jesse Jefferson**  
7-9pm, bar open 5-10pm, Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 24 Brian Oberlin & The Journeymen**  
(original bluegrass and acoustic swing) 7-10pm, Northern Natural, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva
- 24-26 Manistee Salmon Splash Fishing Tournament**  
**Info: www.tournamenttrail.net/manistee-splash**
- 25 Manistee Farmers Market**  
Saturdays, 9am-12pm, Memorial Dr. & Washington St, Manistee
- 25 Crystal Mountain Chairlift Rides and Top of the Mountain Entertainment w/ Jesse Jefferson**  
7-9pm, weather permitting, \$9, 8 & under free with paying adult, houseguests free. 12500 Crystal Mountain Rd, Thompsonville
- 25 Last Gasp Collective**  
(indie jazz/gospel underpinnings with soulful voices). 7-10pm, Northern Natural LLC, 7220 Chief Rd., Kaleva

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August deadline looms

# What will happen to the fish of many names?



Ben Wolfe, with cisco, owns Sport Fish Michigan, a guided fishing service based in Benzie County. Courtesy photo.

By STEWART A. MCFERRAN

*Of all the natural resources Michigan has been blessed with, the one that is perhaps the most valuable and dear to the heart is fish. Ask any fishers – men, women or children – why they love to go fishing, why they love catching fish, and you will find that it is not just for recreation, it is a labor of love.*

One group of fish, perhaps more special than all the rest, is called *Coregonus*. This sub-family of the salmon, known as whitefish, is said to have at least 68 different types. Special in value and special in kind as natives, they are also known as cisco. The ciscoes are valuable as food for larger fish, such as Lake Trout, Walleye and Northern Pike, and for humans who harvest them commercially.

There are said to be nine kinds of cisco found in the Great Lakes. Known by many names, the Great Lakes ciscoes are part of a larger group that circles the arctic. They are a family that swims with salmon of northern countries like Finland, Norway and Russia. There are the Hoyi and the Artidi. The Blackfin, Shortnose and the Pygmy whitefish. The mooneye and kiyi, chub and zenithicus.

Each niche has its own kind, and anglers in different regions have their own names for the catch, as do the scientists who study coregonids. A staple of the Great Lakes fisheries, this native group includes the lake whitefish (*coregonus clupeaformis*), a wild-caught fish still found in supermarkets, either ready to cook or already smoked. It has been a staple of the Great Lakes commercial fishery for hundreds of years.

All the Great Lakes had a mix of coregonids that teemed in the lakes. But the lake whitefish are all but gone in the southern lakes: Erie, Ontario and southern Lake Michigan. Habitat degradation, due to development and pollution, overfishing, and invasive, non-native species – such as sea lamprey and rainbow smelt – have taken a toll on this group. Zebra and quagga mussels have filtered the small creatures coregonids eat.

Many of the nine persist, nonetheless. They still thrive in the deepest, darkest wells of the biggest lakes in North America. The coregonids have hidden reserves and there is a conservation effort under way.

Titus Seilheimer, Ph.D., Fisheries Specialist with the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, provided the following figures, a comparison of coregonids and salmon caught in Lake Michigan over

similar periods of time:

- Coregonids, 1879-1920: 14 million pounds per year (Great Lakes Fisheries Commission data)
- Salmon, 1986-2019: 5 million pounds per year (Legler Salmonid Working Group, Predator-Prey Ratio Model)

These figures show the historic importance of the *Coregonus* group and may inform future decisions.

So, what is being done to protect this community of fishes?

The Great Lakes Cisco Wildlife Action Plan (2015-2025) has partners at Central Michigan University, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, MDNR and the Nature Conservancy. Additionally, there is a small but dedicated group of researchers that study and work to preserve the *Coregonus* group: Titus Seilheimer, Ph.D., Biology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fisheries Specialist, Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute; Dr. Ellen George, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Jefferson Community College, Watertown, N.Y.; Cory O. Brant, Ph.D., of the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center, in Ann Arbor, and the bi-national Great Lakes Fishery Commission. For the trio, it is a labor of love. You can tell by their Tweets and the t-shirts they wear.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has the difficult job of managing fisheries' resources. They have worked with their Tribal partners for more than 20 years. Together, they decide who gets to catch which fishes. The Tribal treaty that was signed in 1836 guides them, as does the federal government.

**The 2000 Consent Decree**

The fisheries resource was divided up 20 years ago with the consent of stakeholders: the DNR, tribes and sportsmen.

That 20-year agreement expires in August. New rules about who may catch what fish need to be re-established by then. Negotiations are happening now.

But the decline of the *Coregonus* group

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Top. Dr. Ellen George with *Coregonus*. Above. Dr. Fish (Titus Seilheimer), sporting his *Coregonus* T-shirt. Courtesy photos.

## Name that whitefish and cisco

Cory O. Brant, Ph.D., of the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center, in Ann Arbor, and of the bi-national Great Lakes Fishery Commission, provided us with his list of the various whitefish and ciscoes:

- 1) cisco, a.k.a. lake herring (*Coregonus artedii*),
- 2) bloater (*C. hoyi*),
- 3) Kiyi (*C. kiyi*),
- 4) deepwater cisco (*C. johanna*),
- 5) blackfin cisco (*C. nigripinnis*),
- 6) shortnose cisco (*C. reighardi*),
- 7) shortjaw cisco (*C. zenithicus*),
- 8) lake whitefish (*C. clupeaformis*),
- 9) Lake Superior's pygmy whitefish (*Prosopium coulterii*), and
- 10) round whitefish, a.k.a. menominee, (*P. cylindraceum*).

"Whitefish and ciscoes are lumped in the same genus (*Coregonus*), while pygmy and round whitefish are a distinct genus (*Prosopium*) – still not sure why!" Brant said. "*C. johanna* and *C. reighardi* are currently reported as extinct."

## Local resident to speak at Inland Lakes conference

By PAT STINSON

Freshwater Reporter Contributing Writer Stewart McFerran will be a presenter at the 2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention, Sept. 16-18. This year's theme is Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment.



Hosted by the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, the conference is held every two years and this year will be presented in a virtual format, due to the pandemic. Presentations are geared toward lake enthusiasts, researchers, managers, and educators.

McFerran will explain why promoting native fish species is important. He will also share his knowledge of the *Coregonus* group of fishes and advise attendees how they can help promote cisco and coregonids, once the most valuable group of fishes in the Great Lakes.

Keynote addresses will be given by Robert Thorson, author of the book "Beyond Walden: The Hidden History of America's Kettle Lakes and Ponds," and Kendra Cheruvellil, Co-director of the Data-intensive Landscape Limnology Lab at Michigan State University. (Limnology is the scientific study of inland waters.) The agenda also includes 10 workshops, 10 extended presentations, 30 individual presentations, and 13 speed talks.

Registration fee for the virtual conference (via Zoom) is \$30, all-inclusive, for three days. There is no charge for students. Fees cover student participation as well as administrative and technical costs.

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership is a group of organizations with diverse goals but one mission: advancing lake stewardship. The conference is a platform to learn and share the latest innovations and ideas. Some presentations will be archived and made available to the public.

Submissions for an Inland Lake Photo Contest and Inland Lake Creative Writing Contest are due Aug. 15.

To learn more or register: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/convention>



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# Pop-up gallery

continued from page 1



Courtesy photo.

Williams, Jeanne Butterfield and Mary Wahr. Paone will include some of his own sculptural pieces as well.

"It's new to me," he said of his fired clay and porcelain works. "I did some 20 years ago."

A resident of Onekama for 25 years, Paone, who is "semi-retired," paints canvases that reflect where he lives.

"I do predominately beachscapes and landscapes, and some abstracts," he explained.

Asked about the subject matter in his paintings, the New Jersey native replied:

"For me, it's an interpretation of nature. I spent almost two decades hiking the Sleeping Bear Dunes."

No longer able to climb its sandy hills, he said he paints from his memories rather than using pictures or other references.

"In my art, I'm not looking for it to look like a photograph; that's not my objective," he explained, emphasizing that his work is "on the cusp of beginning," blending the abstract and realistic.

Gallery partner Mark Lough, a native of Indiana, said he began taking photographs and learning film processing and printing while in high school, where he "got the bug." Following graduation, he volunteered for a branch of the armed services for three years and in '67-'68 was assigned to Cantho, Vietnam, where he did conventional printing of aerial reconnaissance photos. After his service, he spent 10 years in a popular Indianapolis

camera store that "disappeared" in the new age of digital photography. He moved north from the big city to Bear Lake, where he had vacationed each summer, before settling in Onekama. He worked for 10 years at Hokanson Camera, in Manistee, and 13 years at "magical" Portage Point Inn, just a few miles north of the gallery.

Now retired, he said, "I have a camera with me all of the time." He added that he will take a picture of "anything that gets my attention, ranging from waterscapes, landscapes and little, individual subjects along the way."

Paone said the gallery, also a working studio, is open daily, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Social distancing and masks are expected.

"The gallery show runs through July and most likely August," he said. "We're eager to do it."

The pop-up gallery is located at 4990 Main Street, Onekama. Paone can be reached at (231) 489-4890 and Lough at (231) 970-0313.



Courtesy photo.

# The next best thing to being in Space

By BROOKE EDWARDS



A few years ago, I fulfilled one of my dreams when I visited the permanent home of Space Shuttle Discovery in Chantilly, Virginia, at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. Not widely known, the Udvar-Hazy Center is a part of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and features many aircraft, spacecraft and artifacts from aviation history. Discovery first flew in 1984 and was in operation until its final mission, STS-133, in 2011.

I started driving to the center early in the morning, heading down I-95 from Philadelphia. Dismayed I could not make it to Discovery's final launch years ago, I was determined to finally get the chance to see it – not just in person, but up close. After hours of driving and battling traffic, I arrived at Udvar-Hazy.

As soon as I walked through the door, I was stunned by the view, clear as day, of the Space Shuttle Discovery. This made getting through the short security line seem to take forever. Once they waved me on, I moved closer to the magical sight. I entered the aircraft hangar and right there, in front of me, was Discovery. It was hard to believe that I was so close to one of the four space shuttles I had seen on TV all my life. I walked around it, looking at every detail, even taking pictures with it in the

background.

Afterward, while roaming around the center, I came across some flight simulators. One was for Discovery! I wasted no time getting a ticket. I knew it would be worthwhile. The 4-D ride – three dimensions in space, plus time – simulated Discovery's mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope. Minutes later it took us through the reentry process. It felt as though you were truly landing in a space vehicle, touching down on a runway as airplanes do and as space shuttles did in their day. The whole experience was enlightening and exhilarating, and I would go back to visit any time.

If you are in the area, I highly recommend you check out Discovery and the other amazing space capsules and artifacts on display. You can easily drive to Udvar-Hazy from the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. If time permits, I recommend spending a day at each location. For more information, go online to <https://airandspace.si.edu/udvar-hazy-center>.

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

# SUP

continued from page 1

in Northern Michigan. Most of my friends who have paddleboards post brilliant pictures of complex yoga feats in the middle of the lake, looking completely zen and happy. I personally can't even do yoga on solid ground, so this was never a goal of mine. While I appreciate the health benefits of my board, this isn't an athletic pursuit to me as much as it is a pursuit of peace.

On paddleboards we are offered a unique perspective of the water under us. The ability to stand gives us a beautiful vantage point to the clear depths of our beloved lakes while still keeping us close to the water. It keeps us grounded, in a

sense. A larger board such as mine comes with added benefits, such as having enough stability to change positions and take breaks from standing, or even being able to take my kids for a ride with me. In theory, having a larger board also means I could do yoga on it, but you know...

Truly, though, when I need a moment to be quiet with the water, my board becomes my haven. I'm often found floating far out in the water, sitting or lying in the sun, soaking up the peace. I rescue butterflies, I pick up trash, I visit with dragonflies, ducks, and even the occasional loon. And when I'm done resting, I paddle back, inevitably into a nice, solid headwind ... because I can't ever seem to figure out which direction the wind is blowing when

I start out.

As a Michigan resident, I'm eternally grateful for the beauty and peace found on our waters. It's cleansing and calming and, especially in these uncertain times, I think that's something we all need in abundance. We are immeasurably lucky to have the ultimate setting for social distancing. So, this summer, in lieu of festivals, parades, and densely packed downtowns across the state, maybe go for a paddle. Don't worry – yoga isn't required.

A Michigan native recently returned from 10 years in Florida and time spent traveling with her family in tow, Chelsea White is now happily ensconced back in Northern Michigan – and loving it.

Found, Flawed, Fabulous

# Patina

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# Stop and smell the flowers at M-22 Flower Power

By PAT STINSON



Gloria Savory (L) and Connie Veverica, of M-22 Flower Power, at their self-serve stand south of Onekama. Courtesy photo.



In early June, the flower beds held only the promise of the beautiful blooms to come in July and August. Photo by P. Stinson.



Weeding is a necessary part of gardening, made easier in the company of friends. Photo by P. Stinson.



Photo by P. Stinson

*Freshly paved and climbing like ivy between US-31 and the village of Onekama, highway M-22 takes one past fields, farms and a forgotten storefront. From the hilltop, around Domres Road, there's a distant view to the west of Bar Lake, with Lake Michigan beyond. Farmstands dot the roadside.*

One of these is M-22 Flower Power, an adorably decorated, sweetly scented, cut-flower stand north of Miller Road. The business is a collaboration of friends Gloria Savory and Connie Veverica, whose last names appropriately bring to mind an herbaceous plant and a Latin name for what surely must be a lovely flower, existing only in our imagination.

Savory is perhaps best known around these parts as the owner of Savory Sales, LLC, an estate-sale service, though she is also an avid birdwatcher and avian advocate. The roadside stand and flower gardens are part of Savory Gardens, her home and farmstead she shares with her husband, Terry.

Veverica, retired from her career with the Manistee Health Department, is a Master Gardener and member of the Portage Lake Garden Club of Onekama. She said she always wanted to take the four-hour-per-week, 14-week gardening course, offered in Suttons Bay through Michigan State University, and did so last year. She met

the program's annual 20 hours of volunteer gardening last year by working in the community garden near Patina and Yellow Dog Café, in Onekama.

Last fall, Savory and Veverica started the business with an idea that grew from two earlier ones. Savory sold her favorite zinnias and sunflowers at the stand last summer because they were "fun and easy." Veverica offered to do some flower arrangements for Savory's daughter's wedding, held in a field. She placed some cut flowers in canning jars, which made lovely centerpieces for the tables. That planted the seed to place cut flowers in canning jars to sell by the road.

"And they sold!" Gloria said, still sounding surprised.

Savory asked Veverica to join her in a cut-flower business.

"It didn't take her a moment to say yes," Savory said. "So it's been fun."

Some of their inspiration for the business came from Floret, a flower farm in Washington state, and Omena Cut Flowers,

in northern Leelanau County.

Both wanted organic gardens, and Savory already had a fenced field with water running to it for a strawberry patch. They used old carpet from Haglund's, cut in shapes, to lay over the weeds to kill them. Veverica's neighbor provided maple leaves shredded last fall for mulch.

"It's like organic gold," Savory said.

In March and April, Veverica said they lifted the carpet and Terry rototilled. They put down lime, leaves, manure and straw and put the garden back to bed for a while. They sprayed a mixture of vinegar and Epsom salts to kill weeds and make nice edges in the beds.

"Meanwhile, we grew everything from seed," Veverica said, adding, "We're learning a lot."

Savory added, "We're always praying for rain."

The two agreed they have spent a lot of hours, perhaps "hundreds," getting everything ready for the new season.

"None of it has been tedious," Savory remarked. "It's exciting."

Some of the varieties ready in mid-July and early August include snapdragons, cosmos, zinnias, ageratums, pinks and the popular dahlias, with asters and multi-colored sunflowers to follow in the fall.

"Zinnas are easy to grow, hardy, and

there are so many colors," Savory explained. "(They're) my mom and grandma's favorite flowers."

Their friend, Terri Barto, held a garage sale and the two bought her canning jars. Savory's husband Terry built the roadside stand and the ingenious foam holders which secure the jars in the stand.

Savory said she noted a "rush of flower sales" beginning daily at 3 p.m.

"Guys coming home from golfing would stop to get their wives something," she said, with a smile.

The two encourage people to "stop and smell the flowers" at their self-serve stand. M-22 Flower Power is located at 5374 Orchard Highway (M-22), north of Manistee. For information, call (231) 723-2625.



## Chasing the Orphan Train: The Saga of Annie Foley

By James H. Goodwin

REVIEWED BY P.G. MISTY SHEEHAN

This work of historical fiction by a local author is about the importance of family.

Annie Foley, 17, leaves her home in Ireland in the mid-1800s to travel across the Atlantic Ocean with her parents and siblings. After her mother dies during the crossing, Annie's life is consumed with taking care of Gus, 10, Lilly, 8, and Peter, 5.

Author James H. Goodwin, of Manistee, paints a gritty picture of life in the nineteenth century for a young woman who attempts to keep her family together despite being alone in a big city, one that – at the time – is not welcoming to persons of Irish descent. Goodwin draws on his past experiences as a clinical social worker and as director of an agency offering children's counseling, adoption services, foster homes and residential treatment.

The story unfolds as Annie's father becomes depressed after first losing his Irish farm and then his wife. His inattention leads to the younger children's mistaken relocation by a church group that

picks them off the street in New York City, believing them to be abandoned children or orphans. According to Goodwin, 10,000-30,000 homeless children roamed NYC streets in 1850. The group, Mercy House for Children, takes no care to find the children's home before displacing them, a common practice in this time of "orphan trains." Mercy House sends Annie's siblings via train to Dowagiac, Michigan. There, they are thrust into the arms of couples who, for various reasons, want to adopt.

Annie takes on the role of an adult – in this era, age 17 was considered adulthood – and travels to Dowagiac to find her siblings. The attractive young woman endures horrible misadventures in her quest to reunite her family.

In Dowagiac things turn around for her, personally, but she finds her sister and brothers living in separate households, under drastically different circumstances. One of the situations is so extreme, it could be considered the emotional low point of

the book. It was for me. However, despite the negative blows she receives on her trip to rescue the children, Annie is always intrepid and turns setbacks around to accomplish her goals.

I particularly liked the description of her time spent in a logging camp. Thanks to her ability to bargain, she was employed at a higher wage than the rest of the workers. She vowed she would be the best at what she did there, and she was.

The rest of the book focuses on Annie as she attempts, as an adult, to find her place in the world, in this case in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She makes good friends who appreciate her abilities and lift her up.

The other children in the story are not as fleshed out as Annie; this is, indeed, her tale. However, through her eyes, the reader understands that poor children in the nineteenth century were treated differently than they are today in the United States. This is a revealing look at the best and worst of life for abandoned or orphaned



children at that time, and at the specific hardships they faced. It is also an insightful read about the supportive role of family, then as now.

This is Goodwin's tenth book. It is available for sale at Happy Owl Bookstore in Manistee and on Amazon. Call ahead to borrow a copy from the main branch of the Manistee County Library, 95 Maple St., Manistee: (231) 723-2519.

P.G. Misty Sheehan was a philosophy professor at College of DuPage in Chicago. Her family came over from Ireland during the potato famine and had to make many of the same decisions Annie did.



# Won't you weed, my neighbor?

By STEWART A. MCFERRAN

Weeds are a problem. The kind that grow in the water at the end of your dock are deemed “yucky” by those seeking a refreshing dip in the lake. The invasive kind of weeds, like Eurasian watermilfoil, are a big problem. By the end of the summer they can “top out,” meaning a lake or harbor can be so jammed with weeds that boats can't get through, let alone speed along towing a water skier.



Dead phragmites on Bar Lake, Manistee. Photo by P. Stinson.

The idea of applying chemicals to our fresh water strikes many in different ways. But many who have invested heavily in lakefront summer homes expect the water to be clear. Those few fine summer days at the shore when all the family can get together may be ruined by weeds.

Lakefront homeowner associations and some units of government have funded the chemical treatment of lakes.

Brother-and-sister team Ben and Alison Schermerhorn spend their summers on the lakes in PPE, treating the water for weeds. The effort to control the weeds, and keep boaters and swimmers happy, starts early.

Ben and Alison are certified field techs, or “Applicators” of chemicals, and work for PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. The pair works from the company's Evert office.

They tow an airboat and chemicals to the

launch ramps of the lakes they are treating. The airboat has no propeller in the water. Instead, it has a big fan that pushes air. In this way, they can reach weedy corners of lakes. There is a tank that holds liquid chemicals and two spreaders on the front of the square bow that can broadcast pellets of chemicals onto a wide area of water. Each application of chemicals “for the control of aquatic nuisance weed and algae” is permitted by Michigan EGLE Water Bureau.

Ben and Alison recently treated Arcadia Harbor and Ben explained the importance of timing when treating invasive weeds.

“In the spring, when the plants are first growing, is when the plants are going to have the fastest growth rates,” Ben said.

He explained that it is “imperative” to treat the plants at first growth, when they absorb the chemicals more quickly.

“If their growth rates are a little bit slower, like in the fall, the plants aren't growing as much,” he noted, adding that a plant's root system isn't absorbing as many nutrients and the uptake of chemicals will be slower.

Alison said she enjoys the work and has fun doing it.

“It gets me out of the house,” she said, “and I love being outside, so it's really nice to be on the water all day and get paid for it.”

The airboat is loud, so the pair wears ear protection. Alison also explained that the boat sometimes travels so fast that they “skip all the way across” the water.



Ben and Alison Schermerhorn on the PLM airboat in Arcadia Harbor. Photo by S.A. McFerran.

“You have to hold on,” she said. “They go surprisingly fast, depending on how much chemical and weight we have on here. It's pretty fun; I enjoy it.”

Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions is a company in South Boardman that treats wetlands for weeds. They use a “Marsh Master,” an amphibious buggy with tracks, that can mow aquatic nuisance species. (Some models can carry herbicides.) The company was subcontracted last fall by the Invasive Species Network of Northwest Michigan to treat phragmites on Bar Lake in Manistee. WWS's Mikayla Leishman said phragmites are treated between Aug. 15 and the first frost or Oct. 15, and the



The Marsh Master. Photo courtesy of Wildlife & Wetlands Solutions.

company is typically contracted to treat phragmites in at least two successive years.

Mary Reed, who serves on the Onekama Township Invasive Species Committee, said that there has been a special assessment within the township and around Portage Lake for the treatment of invasive weeds. A survey has been done and areas of Portage Lake will be targeted for treatment which, according to the committee's May meeting minutes, depends this year on the level of shoreline flooding. The Committee is authorized to spend up to \$83,000 for the treatment of Portage Lake.

So far, the weeds seem to be under control in the Arcadia Harbor, and boats with propellers come and go from the Veteran's Memorial Marina. The diquat dibromide, 2,4-D amine and triclopyr are working as intended.

Stewart McFerran was returning from a sailboat ride on Lake Michigan last year when the keel of his boat got stuck in a thick mat of weeds in Arcadia Harbor. He threw out his anchor to pull the boat free. After doing so, he pulled up a truly “yucky” ball of weeds.

## Rockin'

continued from page 1



A “selfie” with her prized find. Photo by Susan Hintz.

It was during one of these leisurely walks on the beach that I rediscovered my childhood pastime of skipping stones. We encountered a slightly rocky area, where the flat rocks and stones jumped out at me. I picked up stones, examined them for flatness and weight, discarded the unsatisfactory ones, and positioned a single stone in my hand. Then, with a flick of the wrist, I released the stone and watched it skim across the water, counting the number of skips. Barb was in awe and, after a how-do-you-do-that, a lesson ensued. Despite several failed attempts, she finally got the “flick,” resulting in a successful skip. Satisfied with her success,

we continued our walk.

The more we strolled, the more rocks there were. Waves were lapping against them, exposing their color and characteristics. Barb soon belted out, “I found one!” What “one” was, I had no idea ... but I was about to find out. As I moved in for a closer look, she turned to me with her hand out, palm side up. She was cradling this rock like a precious baby chick.

“What is it?” I asked.

“A Petoskey stone,” she replied.

It was the most beautiful and unique stone I had ever seen. Little did I know this little Petoskey would be the beginning of a decades-long obsession.

### Rockhound nose, eagle eye

For me, the thrill has always been in the hunt. Discovering a Petoskey stone totally exposed, glistening in the sun, or catching a glimpse of a partially submerged stone puts a pep in my step! It's almost like they are saying, “Pick me!” or “Rescue me!” Eyeing a dry one or finding one in an unexpected place – among landscaping rocks, along two-tracks, in fields and on the forest floor – brings a fun element of surprise. Some of my best Petoskeys were found dry and off-the-beaten path.

After all these years, and thousands of overturned stones later, I seem to have developed a rock intuition or a magnetic pull of where to look. A rock whisperer, perhaps, or just chalk it up to experience. Regardless, the thrill of the hunt has not

lessened, and there is still the feeling of excitement and an instant crush when our “eyes” meet.

I have my sister-in-law to thank for expanding my horizons and finding the “one” so many years ago. It was the steppingstone that ignited a passion for discovery and later an outlet for stress relief and creativity. Rocks have an overwhelmingly calming effect on me. Whether I'm hunting for them or polishing them, I get lost in my own thoughts, completely silencing the noise of the outside world. When life gets crazy, all I need to do is look at the rocks I have gathered, polished and placed throughout our home. They restore my peace and tranquility.

Susan Hintz is a creative entrepreneur who spends many hours on the shores of the Big Lakes. Her love of nature is reflected in her creations found at: [www.homegrownmichigan.com](http://www.homegrownmichigan.com).

## Southern Benzie County 26 Acres



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# Sense US 2020

Story and photos by RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS

Editor's note: When we learned one of our Freshwater Reporter contributors had landed a job with the U.S. Census Bureau, we wanted to know what the job was like, especially during a pandemic. It was an adventure.

*If nowhere's middle had a swamp in its back forty, that's where I managed a 10-point turn without getting stuck, avoiding a temporary pond. This particular two-track used the same hand-dug, elevated route where narrow-gauge railroads had carried white pine logs in the early 1900s.*



A padlocked gate doesn't deter a census taker.

There was a "living quarters" out here, somewhere, according to 10-year-old records, and I needed to be sure the occupants had received a census packet. The fact that the road wasn't passable in April was beside the point. With a goal, an address and determination – and an all-wheel drive car – I continued my search and adventure. If I couldn't find it, then I'd fail. I was an enumerator. A census taker. That's what the bureau calls those of us employed to count households.

Names and place identities have been protected in these stories.

Finally, I found the swamp abode, now an empty, trailer-sized spot, with broken cement blocks, on the side of the road. But then, only a half mile around the corner, I found a new camp trailer location and added it to our records. It was probably a hunting camp; there were no power poles or recent tire tracks in the mud. I counted lots of deer, squirrels and turkeys, but zero people on that particular morning.

In the afternoon, as I was getting my work bag and supplies ready – to walk toward a "living quarters" behind a gate – I turned at a sound. Something caught my eye. Holy cow! From about 50 yards away, a large 2- or 3-year-old, brownish black bear lumbered out of the trees. It humped its large backside across the paved road, disappearing into brush on the other side. I got back into my car and described those two gated homes as "unable to work" on my device. Later, I was told by a "local" that a sow with three cubs lived in the area.

Camels in a pasture in Lake County.



I was able to return at another time and leave a bag of census materials on the gates.

I found so many new-to-me places out there, many on small lakes, some along rivers or creeks. Places that boggled the mind with their glory, others humbler. I rescued turtles, saw a bobcat, a loon, two red-headed woodpeckers, tens of ducks, hawks, turkeys, innumerable deer and a barred owl. Oh, yeah, I even saw camels in Lake County. I spoke with people who were glad to have an "in-person human" to talk to, after months of isolation, and left them with a smile. That made my day!

During my travels, branches across two-tracks were moved, trees driven around, mud accumulated on tires; deerflies were fed, mosquitos too. Luckily, I know how to cover up against ticks and poison ivy. We live in such a beautiful area, shared with all kinds of creatures, plants and habitats!

Entering a few driveways, the creativity of some of the unfriendly signs amazed me, with postings like, "We don't call 911." Some properties had razor and barbed wire, others had cameras or surveillance. Many landowners were not present. I counted the living quarters on their property, as long as it was safe to do so. I didn't pet the dogs, even friendly looking ones, just stayed in my car. You never know. We had safety training.

I followed paper and digital maps and ATV tracks, not bothering to wash my dusty car. Some addresses were random, changed because the new owners didn't like the old addresses. Streets had more than one name. Other properties had four residences on one lot. Sometimes, I needed to walk around to find electrical boxes, and I was authorized to enter properties to collect some basic information. Fortunately, no one was unhappy to see me once they saw my identification – surprised, sometimes, but not unwelcoming. There were many types of living quarters, such as multi-unit homes, condos, mobile homes, camp trailers, tents, cottages and cabins. Some previous residences were now uninhabitable and were deleted. So were duplicate addresses. Many new living quarters needed to be added. It was a giant puzzle!

My biggest challenges included finding bathroom facilities – a.k.a. secluded trees without cameras nearby – and locating roads not found on a map when I lost all computer and cell phone connections. Perseverance and patience were needed to

Turtle about to be rescued.



Above. Signs and portents.



succeed.

I finally went through a car wash after my last "sensible" field day, my car and I well satisfied.

I'm glad I helped work the census this year and am satisfied that the 60 or so people I spoke with – from an appropriate distance and without knocking on doors – appreciated my efforts. Many of those I talked to had already completed their census questionnaire. Most people realized how important it is/was to complete the census and be counted.

Have you been counted? There's still

time. Where did you live on April 1? Go to [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). It only takes 10 minutes to complete the form. You can also respond by calling 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-426-2020 (Spanish). The census offers 59 non-English language guides and web pages, as well as American Sign Language.

Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas is a retiree of the Manistee Ranger District, Huron-Manistee National Forest, where she worked in recreation and as an outdoor recreation planner.

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# Fish of many names

continued from page 3



Ben Wolfe loves his job as a professional fishing guide in Benzie County. Courtesy photo.

has continued for 20 years since that agreement was made. Sports fish available to catch by hook and line have also declined in that time. The fisheries' resource "pie" is smaller than it was when the agreement was signed. All stakeholders are bound to get a smaller piece of the pie by August.

The decision-makers are representatives from the State of Michigan, five tribes and the federal government. They meet in secrecy, in various locations, and are tight-lipped about the process and outcomes. What will this group decree in August? Whatever they decide will be reflected in the manual of fishing regulations provided with every fishing license. Commercial fishers will also feel the effect of the decision.

Just how are we to proceed with the

"allocation, management, and regulation of State and Tribal fisheries in the 1836 Treaty waters of the Great Lakes," as outlined in the 2000 Consent Decree?

The restoration of native coregonids is a course of action that will surely be on the table, as well as consideration of all other fish that make up one of our most beloved resources. The Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority, a group of five fishing tribes of the 1836 Treaty, will consider this, and a host of other issues, before publishing the agreement next month

Stewart A. McFerran worked as a deck hand for Lang Fisheries in Leland. With Captain Ross Lang, he fished for Coregonus hoyi and Coregonus clupeaformis.

# Summer resident on forefront of research

By PAT STINSON

In an ordinary year, Mark Ebell, M.D., spends his summers in the Onekama area, enjoying all the usual warm weather pursuits. This year, however, the family physician, professor of epidemiology, and director of biostatistics at University of Georgia College of Public Health is pursuing something much less pleasant. As a researcher in infectious diseases, his attention is focused elsewhere this season.

Freshwater Reporter recently invited him to share his enthusiasm as a bicyclist, but he made this reply:

"I am working flat out on COVID-19, updating a medical reference chapter, writing daily research briefs, two federal grants, and a half dozen studies underway... so it is full on. We just completed a study that we hope will help doctors in the E.R. identify patients who are likely to do well

and those who aren't."

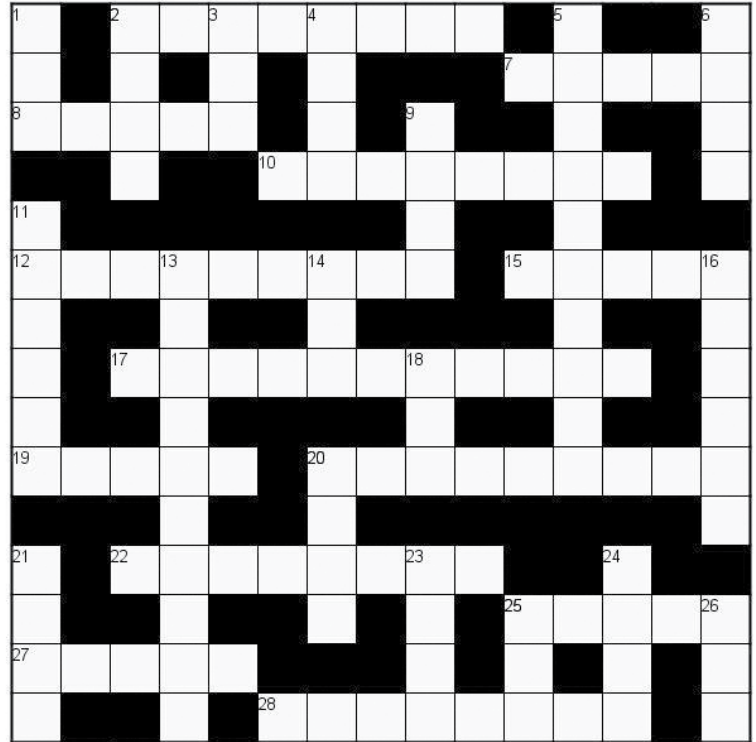
Instead, Dr. Ebell offered two website links related to his work and a site that includes graphs and county-level data on new COVID-19 cases in northwest Michigan.

**American Family Physician:**  
<https://www.aafp.org/journals/afp/explore/covid-19-daily-briefs.html>

**Essential Evidence Plus:**  
<https://www.essentialevidenceplus.com/content/eee/904>

**Case tracking in Northern Michigan** (updated daily): <https://bit.ly/3dPIAlh>

"Please feel free to share with readers," he said. "They are not behind a pay wall and represent what I hope is objective best evidence on the pandemic."



# LAKES and STREAMS

By MARK VIDEAN

**ACROSS**

- 2 Carried overland while #10 Across
- 7 Part of #24 Down, where #17 Across may search
- 8 Moor
- 10 Paddling in a vessel, traditionally made from a dug-out log or birchbark
- 12 Organic material, perhaps collected by #17 Across
- 15 Mammal that swims in #27 Across
- 17 One searching for Petoskey stones, perhaps?
- 19 Boat slip that's a bit too narrow, a \_\_\_\_\_ fit
- 20 Where a creek sleeps?
- 22 Boat or coat, with origins in northern Michigan
- 25 Fiber used to make cordage and rope
- 27 Manistee or Pere Marquette
- 28 Propelling a craft using a double-bladed paddle

**DOWN**

- 1 Astern
- 2 Berth place that's a shore thing
- 3 Dangerous type of current
- 4 Contents of an lagoon
- 5 Easiest way to paddle on #27 Across
- 6 Put in the hold, as cargo
- 9 Place for a lily or a duck
- 11 Floating aimlessly
- 13 Contents of the Great Lakes
- 14 Cry of delight, perhaps upon seeing #15 Across
- 16 Challenge while #10 or #28 Across
- 18 Paddle's relative
- 20 Opposite of sink
- 21 Left to the captain
- 23 Color of #4 Down
- 24 Shore patrol
- 25 Glide on water, in summer or winter
- 26 Ontario or Supérieur, par exemples

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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](mailto:editor@freshwater-reporter.com) will receive a \$10 gift certificate to a business nearest the location.



**GOOD LUCK!**



# FRESHWATER REPORTER

A fresh approach to storytelling in West Michigan

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