

# FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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**FREE**

## Women's History Month

# The Enduring Legacy of Margaret Chandler

By P.G. MISTY SHEEHAN and PAT STINSON  
Photos courtesy of the Chandler family.

*Hard work. Perseverance. Honesty. Integrity. These attributes describe Margaret Bailey Chandler (1929-1997), who encouraged these values in her nine children: Bonnie, Sandra, Thomas, Robert, Mary, Dale, Timothy, Jeffrey and Janette.*

Those qualities led Chandler, at 21, to be elected secretary of Unit 7 of the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association (NMOA) in 1950, the same year she married Dale G. Chandler. As stated by her granddaughter Valerie Chandler on the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame website:

"For the next 20 years, she recorded and retained the unit's meeting minutes, notes, and event information: documentation that would prove valuable to the sovereignty cause. She also traveled the state at her own expense to meet with other native leaders, keeping herself and her people well informed."

During that time, according to her granddaughter, she also made sacrifices.

"My grandma did whatever it took to seek reaffirmation for our people, even if it meant long hours away from family," Valerie Chandler said. "... She did (the same) in her personal life too by working hard to can foods for the large family of 11 and making meals stretch so they were all fed."

NMOA Unit 7 was an administrative unit created to draw attention to the problems the Ottawa Tribe faced in Benzie, Mason, Wexford and Manistee counties. Specifically, the organization worked to re-establish the rights that were granted them by the United States government in treaties made in the 1800s. The treaties promised them sovereignty, monies and

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Top. Margaret Chandler in regalia she wore while riding on the Little River Band's float in the Manistee National Forest Festival Parade, 1995. The tribe was the Grand Marshal in recognition of its September 1994 Federal Reaffirmation. Above. A plaque from the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in Margaret Chandler's honor was given to her family in recognition of her work on behalf of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

## St. Urho's Day March 13 Fundraiser

By PAT STINSON

KALEVA – A Bakeless Bake Sale? Thanks to the pandemic, this year's St. Urho's Day Bake Sale at Kaleva Art Gallery is happening without its signature sale of tasty treats, like Finnish nissua, grasshopper cookies and other goodies.

"We will forgo that baking and ask folks to donate money in lieu of goodies," said art gallery spokesperson Cindy Asiala.

She said the public is invited to visit the gallery at 14449 Wuoski Avenue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 13, to make a donation. Then, hop over to Kaleva's Centennial Walkway on Walta Street to see the giant grasshopper. The metal sculpture is 18 feet long and weighs 500 pounds.



Asiala explained that St. Urho's Day, observed on March 16, celebrates driving the grasshoppers out of Finland, to keep them from destroying the grape crop.

It's a cheeky myth thought up by a Finnish community member in Minnesota that appears to poke fun at that other March saint's celebration. Neither Finland nor Minnesota is known as wine country.

The metal sculpture, crafted in 2000 by students in the Brethren Service Learning Class, is made of metal parts, such as shovels and Weber grill covers, welded together. Artist Andy Priest, of Silverline Welding in Wellston, worked with juniors and seniors at Kaleva Norman Dickson Schools (located in Brethren).

"They called (the sculpture) Farmer's Nightmare, the one that got away!" she said, adding, "But crops are safe because the grasshopper is grounded."

Asiala shared this recipe for those longing for a taste of the usual St. Urho's Day celebration.

### Grasshopper Cookies

Recipe by Brian Smith. Baked by Mary A. Grossnickle and Cindy Asiala, her daughter, for Kaleva Art Gallery St. Urho's Day Bake Sale.

- 2 sticks butter
- 2 eggs
- 3 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1-2 T. grated orange peel
- 1 T. vanilla
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 t. salt
- 2 c. flour
- 1 c. miniature chocolate chips
- 1/2 c. roasted grasshoppers (use pecans if desired)

Beat butter, cream cheese and sugars until fluffy. Add eggs, orange rind, pecans and vanilla. Beat well. Add flour, baking soda and salt. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

## Have you been hearing a Barred Owl?

By BRIAN ALLEN

It was dark out, pitch black, and my flashlight only made a small circle of light — enough for me to find my way back to the car this cold winter morning. I was in the Manistee State Game Area, doing a survey for owls during the Manistee Christmas Bird Count many years ago, and had been frustrated.



Barred Owl. Photo by Linda Scribner.

For about an hour I had hiked along the trail, on the bluff above the Manistee River, calling for Great Horned Owls, Screech Owls and Barred Owls. This was one of the best spots to find them in the rich bottom-forests of the game area, but I had heard nothing other than the distant prop roar of a plane taking off from Manistee County Blacker Airport. I opened the car door and sat down, with the door open, recording my stats and hoping at the last minute to hear a call way off across the valley.

Huge oak trees towered above me, faintly lit by my flashlight. I was glad to get back to the car. Something about this place always seemed a little creepy at night (still does), like you should always be looking behind for some creature following you.

Suddenly, a cry rang out from the tree above me.

"EEEEEE-AAAAAAA-OOOOA."

I swear I jumped a couple feet and my heart raced with the surge of adrenaline, but then my experience with this sound calmed

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## Community Events Calendar

Some events may change or be canceled due to weather, schedules and COVID-19. Always call ahead. **Email April calendar events or press releases by March 29** to: editor@freshwater-reporter.com or snail mail them to: Freshwater Reporter, P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI, 49660.

- March**
- Now **26th Annual (Virtual) Spring Thru COMMUNITY Auction**  
 Mar 6 Featuring a \$500 raffle with live and silent virtual auctions, benefitting the Mason County Central Educational Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. Live auctions held at 7pm each evening. Raffle tickets are available at MCC Administration office, 300 W. Broadway, Scottville, or the Chamber of Commerce, 5300 W. US-10, Ludington (9am-3pm).  
**Register to bid at: e.givesmart.com/events/k2y**
- Now **Walking Through: Art exhibit featuring Steve Cattin, Apr Stewart Allison McFerran, and Nick Walsh**  
 Apr 9 Free, Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort Sculptures and 2-D works by 3 local artists.
- 3 Sustainable Farming Webinar**  
 9am-12pm, Integrating Cover Crops, Pollinator Stewardship, Nutrient Management, Water Quality and more. Register online for the event: <https://tinyurl.com/ewv8fna3>  
 Co-sponsored by Conservation Districts: Mason-Lake, Manistee, Oceana, Muskegon, Newaygo
- 4 Winter Birding 4-H Club**  
 MSU Extension, 4:30-5:15pm, free to all youth ages 8-12. To register and receive Zoom link, email conninji@msu.edu
- 4 Michigan Birding 101 with Michigan Sea Grant**  
 7-8pm, free to all adults. Explore the wonderful hobby of bird watching  
**Register at: events.anr.msu.edu/birding101**
- 5 Cabin Fever Conversations**  
 Live Zoom Webinar. 12:30pm. Free. Connect with other gardeners and featured speakers discussing conscious stewardship in the garden and increasing inclusion and access to growing food.  
**Register at: events.anr.msu.edu/cabin\_fever\_conversations\_2021/**
- 6 Mardi Gras on the Mountain**  
 12-4pm, DJ will be playing tunes at the Crystal Center Patio. On-slope Scavenger Hunt for prizes. Trivia at the DJ booth. 2pm, costume contest.  
**For more info go to: crystalmountain.com**  
 Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville
- 9 4-H Wild Spartans Series**  
 featuring conservation scientist Yu Man Lee. Searching for Vernal Pools, Nature's Disappearing Act. 7pm, free, live online  
**Register at: www.canr.msu.edu/environmental\_outdoor\_education/wild-spartans-series**
- 11 Winter Birding 4-H Club**  
 MSU Extension, 4:30-5:15pm, free to all youth ages 8-12. To register and receive Zoom link, email conninji@msu.edu
- 11 Michigan Birding 101 with Michigan Sea Grant**  
 7-8pm, free to all adults. Explore the wonderful hobby of bird watching  
**Register at: https://events.anr.msu.edu/birding101**
- 12 Cabin Fever Conversations**  
 Live Zoom Webinar. 12:30pm. Free. Connect with other gardeners and featured speakers discussing conscious stewardship in the garden and increasing inclusion and access to growing food.  
**Register at: events.anr.msu.edu/cabin\_fever\_conversations\_2021/**
- 12-16 Soul Sisters: An All-Woman Art Show presented by The Art Divas**  
 Apr 16 Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 13 St. Urho's Day Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraiser, Kaleva**  
 10am-4pm, Kaleva Art Gallery, 14449 Wuoski Avenue. Donations welcomed. Due to the coronavirus, no baked goods will be sold this year. Held in observance of St. Urho's Day (March 16).
- 13 Spring Carnival**  
 12-4pm, DJ will be playing tunes at the Crystal Center Patio. On-slope Scavenger Hunt for prizes. Trivia at the DJ booth. 2pm, costume contest.  
**For more info go to: crystalmountain.com**  
 Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville
- 18 Winter Birding 4-H Club**  
 MSU Extension, 4:30-5:15pm, free to all youth ages 8-12. To register and receive Zoom link, email conninji@msu.edu
- 19 Cabin Fever Conversations**  
 Live Zoom Webinar. 12:30pm. Free. Connect with other gardeners and featured speakers discussing conscious stewardship in the garden and increasing inclusion and access to growing food.  
**Register at: events.anr.msu.edu/cabin\_fever\_conversations\_2021/**
- 20 Celts & Kilts**  
 12-4pm, DJ will be playing tunes at the Crystal Center Patio. On-slope Scavenger Hunt for prizes. Trivia at the DJ booth. 2pm, costume contest.  
**For more info go to: crystalmountain.com**  
 Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville
- 23 Healthy Trees Create Healthy Communities**  
 Webinar. 12pm. Trees offer health advantages to humans & beautify neighborhoods. Even in highly wooded areas, tree loss leads to poorer health outcomes and higher rates of mortality. Melinda Jones, 20-year consulting forester and director of Releaf Michigan, will present.  
**RSVP to: www.releafmichigan.org/RSVP**
- 25 Winter Birding 4-H Club**  
 MSU Extension, 4:30-5:15pm, free to all youth ages 8-12. To register and receive Zoom link, email conninji@msu.edu
- 26 Cabin Fever Conversations**  
 Live Zoom Webinar. 12:30pm. Free. Connect with other gardeners and featured speakers discussing conscious stewardship in the garden and increasing inclusion and access to growing food.  
**Register at: events.anr.msu.edu/cabin\_fever\_conversations\_2021/**
- 27 Retro Day**  
 12-4pm, DJ CDX will be playing tunes at the Crystal Center Patio. On-slope Scavenger Hunt for prizes. Trivia at the DJ booth. 2pm, costume contest.  
**For more info go to: crystalmountain.com**  
 Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville
- April**
- 2 Cabin Fever Conversations**  
 Live Zoom Webinar. 12:30pm. Free. Connect with other gardeners and featured speakers discussing conscious stewardship in the garden and increasing inclusion and access to growing food.  
**Register at: events.anr.msu.edu/cabin\_fever\_conversations\_2021/**
- 3 Easter at the Mountain**  
 12-4pm. On-slope Easter Egg Hunt. Guess how many are in the Jelly Bean Jar. Prizes. Last weekend of skiing for the season.  
**For more info go to: crystalmountain.com**  
 Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville
- 9 Cabin Fever Conversations**  
 Live Zoom Webinar. 12:30pm. Free. Connect with other gardeners and featured speakers discussing conscious stewardship in the garden and increasing inclusion and access to growing food.  
**Register at: events.anr.msu.edu/cabin\_fever\_conversations\_2021/**

## Food Pantries

Please contact Food Pantries for eligibility requirements and updated schedules, as hours and procedures may have changed due to COVID-19.

- Baldwin**
- Bread of Life Pantry**  
 870 Beech Street, Baldwin, (231) 898-4466  
**Wednesdays** | 11am-3pm
- CSFP & TEFAP**  
 FiveCAP Office, 2476 W. 44th St., Baldwin  
 Commodity Supplemental Food Program for income-eligible seniors, 60 and over.  
**First Wednesday of month** | 9am-4pm  
 Feb. 10, April 14, June 9, Aug 11, Oct 13, Dec 8  
 Emergency Food Assistance Program for income-eligible families.  
**First Thursday of month** | 9am-4pm  
 March 4, June 3, Sept 2, Dec 2  
 Emergency Food Pantry to provide up to 30 days of food to families and individuals on an emergency needs basis. Contact your FiveCAP County Office for assistance.
- Bear Lake**
- Bear Lake United Methodist Church**  
 7861 Main Street, Bear Lake, (231) 864-3680  
**First Thursday of month** | 9-11am  
**Third Thursday of month** | 5-7pm
- Benzonia**
- Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN)**  
 2804 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, (231) 882-9544  
 Available to families twice a month. You can request your bag(s) by calling Monday through Thursday from 10am-1:30pm for pick up that same day by 2pm. Contact BACN for eligibility requirements.
- Benzie Friends Resource**  
 1034 Michigan Ave., Benzonia  
 As needed
- Beulah**
- Benzie Co. Baby Pantry**  
 785 Benzie Hwy, Beulah, (231) 882-4059  
**First & Third Saturdays** | 10am-3pm
- Brethren**
- Lakeview Church of the Brethren**  
 14094 Coates Hwy, Brethren, (231) 233-0316  
**Last Wednesday of month** | 9-11am
- Copemish**
- Marilla Food Pantry /Irons Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
 11029 Marilla Road, Copemish, (231) 889-3619  
**Second Thursday of month** | 11am-noon
- Custer**
- Caritas Food Pantry at St Mary's Catholic Church**  
 85 Madison, Custer, (231) 301-0626  
**Mondays & Wednesdays** | noon-2pm
- Fountain**
- Mobile Pantry**  
 Sherman Township Hall  
 3854 Main Street, Fountain  
**Saturday** | February 6 | 11am
- Irons**
- Irons Seventh-Day Adventist Community Service Center**  
 11802 Bass Lake Road, Irons, (231) 266-2180  
**Second Monday of month** | 11am-3pm
- Kaleva**
- Bethany Lutheran Church**  
 14575 Wouski Ave, Kaleva, (231) 510-0856  
**First Friday of the month** | 10am-12pm
- Ludington**
- Cornerstone Baptist Church Food Pantry**  
 One visit every 60 days.  
 121 Nelson Road, Ludington  
**Fridays** | 11am-1pm
- Lake Shore Food Club**  
 920 E Tinkham Ave, Ludington, (231) 480-4334  
**Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri** | 11am-5pm  
**Saturday** | 9am-noon
- Salvation Army - Ludington**  
 114 E Melendy, Ludington, (231) 843-3711  
**Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri** | 12:30-2:30pm
- Luther**
- Fellowship Baptist Church**  
 308 Elm Street, Luther, (231) 797-5281  
**Third Wednesday** | 10am-noon
- Manistee**
- CCM / Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry**  
 249 6th Street, Manistee, (231) 398-0296  
**Second Friday of month** | 10am-noon
- CSFP & TEFAP**  
 FiveCAP Office, 265 First St., Manistee  
 Commodity Supplemental Food Program for income-eligible seniors, 60 and over.  
**Wednesdays** | 9am-4pm  
 Feb. 10, April 14, June 9, Aug 11, Oct 13, Dec 8  
 Emergency Food Assistance Program for income-eligible families.  
**Thursdays** | 9am-4pm  
 March 4, June 3, Sept 2, Dec 2  
 Emergency Food Pantry to provide up to 30 days of food to families and individuals on an emergency needs basis. Contact your FiveCAP County Office for assistance.
- ECHO Manna Pantry**  
 160 Memorial Drive, Manistee  
**Monday & Friday** | 10am-2pm  
**Wednesday** | 1-5pm
- Feeding America's Mobile Food Pantry**  
 Armory Youth Project, 555 1st St., Manistee  
**March 24**, 11 a.m. Curbside pickup only. You may pick up for someone else as a proxy. Manistee County Dial-A-Ride will deliver groceries for free: 231-723-6525. Call the Manistee Friendship Society with questions: 231-655-3278 or 231-398-0434
- Manistee Friendship Society**  
 1475 US 31 North, Manistee, (231) 398-0434  
**Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri** | 9:30am-3pm
- Manistee Senior Center**  
 260 St. Mary's Pkwy, Manistee  
**Third Friday of month** | 9-11am  
 Recipients must be residents of Manistee County and at least 60 years old.
- Salvation Army**  
 471 Water Street, Manistee, (231) 723-6243  
**Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri** | 10am-4pm (preferably by appointment)
- St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
 254 Sixth Street, Manistee  
**Second Friday of month** | 10am-12pm
- Onekama**
- St. Joseph Comm. Food Pantry - Onekama/USCCB**  
 8380 Fifth Street, Onekama, (231) 864-2509  
**Fourth Friday of month** | 10-11:30am
- Scottville**
- CrossRoads Church**  
 1463 US-10, Scottville, (231) 757-2857  
**First Tuesday of month** | 10am  
 Arrive by 9am. Food Truck arrives about 10am.
- CSFP & TEFAP**  
 FiveCAP's Johnson Rd. Warehouse, Scottville  
 Commodity Supplemental Food Program for income-eligible seniors, 60 and over.  
**Wednesdays** | 9am-4pm  
 Feb. 10, April 14, June 9, Aug 11, Oct 13, Dec 8  
 Emergency Food Assistance Program for income-eligible families.  
**Thursdays** | 9am-4pm  
 March 4, June 3, Sept 2, Dec 2  
 Emergency Food Pantry to provide up to 30 days of food to families and individuals on an emergency needs basis. Contact your FiveCAP County Office for assistance.
- White Cloud**
- SFP & TEFAP**  
 FiveCAP Office, 434 N. Evergreen, White Cloud  
 Commodity Supplemental Food Program for income-eligible seniors, 60 and over.  
**Wednesdays** | 9am-4pm  
 Feb. 10, April 14, June 9, Aug 11, Oct 13, Dec 8  
 Emergency Food Assistance Program for income-eligible families.  
**Thursdays** | 9am-4pm  
 March 4, June 3, Sept 2, Dec 2  
 Emergency Food Pantry to provide up to 30 days of food to families and individuals on an emergency needs basis. Contact your FiveCAP County Office for assistance.



Above left. Bekka always wanted to be out in the snow, and would dig holes to sleep in. Photo by J. Cools. Above right. Gromit and Sammi on the deck. Photo by J. Cools. Right. "But Mommmy!!!" Photo by J. Cools.

Nikki took the bean bag chair from a young Shadow. Shadow was with us nearly 18 years. Photo by V. Brannon.

# Rescue Me!!

By JUDY COOLS

Our family has always advocated adopting rescue animals. Most shelter animals are of unknown pedigree, and many folks feel that makes the best pet. Virtually every breed also has a rescue organization, if you're looking for something specific. From retired racing greyhounds or sled dogs, to rescues from puppy mills or even from dog fighting, they all need homes.

While dogs are now our first love, our first pets were a pair of kittens, Snooker and Bobbin, named after our hobbies. They were destined to be wild barn cats if not adopted. One was regal, spoiled and well-suited to indoor life. His sister was a no-nonsense, tough-as-nails girl — yet they were best friends.

Nikki, a sled dog dropout, joined the family when the cats were getting older. He was our first dog, and we were his first family, so we had some learning to do on both sides. He was a wonderful animal, strong and gentle at the same time. After a while we started looking for a canine companion for him. We settled on one who was in foster care. She looked like a sled dog and everyone thought she was our sled dog's puppy. It was all a disguise — we're pretty sure she was mostly beagle underneath. Best mouser we've ever had.

As time went on, our family added a rescue from Traverse City. Micah was a beauty and after a little time he showed us the things he had learned. He could sit up like a squirrel and stay balanced like that for 10 minutes. His coveted items were hot dogs, pizza, and fried chicken. (A bachelor's dog?)

After that one, Shadow (the beagle mix) was our only dog. She was elderly, mostly deaf and mostly blind. We didn't expect a new dog to blend well with her senior needs, so we were content to keep her as an only pet.

Then one day at a local shelter we found Max, a goofy, black lab mix bundle of energy. I don't know what made us think he would work out with our little senior dog, but he did. He still had young dog energy, but always avoided disturbing Shadow, or knocking her down, or eating her food. They were good together.

After a break for some of our own medical issues, my husband Gary said he was ready to get another dog. He researched the internet and came up with Bekka from a shelter about 90 minutes away. She was strong-willed, a survivor and protected us with dedication.

Bekka was our "only" for a few years until Gary made one of those "just going to look" trips to the animal shelter. There he found Gromit. This blue-eyed boy is love itself. We say that he missed his calling as a service dog because he's so attentive.

Eventually Bekka was gone. As an only child, Gromit took on a different personality and became more confident and relaxed. We figured he would be a loner for the rest of his days. But then there was Sammi.

She appeared on Facebook as senior dog in need. Her owner had died and there just isn't a long line of volunteers to take in animals who are at the end of life. My heart went out to her at once, and we counted on Gromit's gentle nature to be able to accept her.

Their first meeting was stunningly uneventful. Gromit didn't even bark at her for being in his yard. They played

and slept, ate and came for cuddles. "Companionable" only begins to describe these two. Sammi relied on Gromit to make up for her diminished hearing. He was her cue for what was going on in the house.

Sadly, Sammi was only with us for a few months. We've heard many times how getting a senior pet "isn't worth it" due to their short time left on earth. I would argue. This poor, disoriented, frightened dog began to heal in just a few days. Her tail perked up, she learned where to eat and sleep, and she found loving care with her new family. When her time came to an end, she belonged. She was a fully blended member of our family. And we would do it all over again.

If you're looking for a pet, or even considering a pet, check out your local animal shelters. With a little patience and discretion, you can find a happy match among the too-many rescue animals looking for homes. The staff there wants the placements to work. The animals are genuine, looking for a chance to belong and homes of their own. The experience of helping the animals and the community is surpassed only by the feeling of love and loyalty that comes from your shelter pet.

Judy Cools said the Fontella Bass song "Rescue Me" was running through her head as she wrote this essay. She and her husband make their home in the woods near Ludington. Read more about Sammi on her blog post: <http://bitly.ws/bSDJ>

## LAKE COUNTY

**Lake County Animal Shelter**  
3390 Dog Track Road  
Baldwin, MI 49604  
231-745-3079  
<https://lakecountyanimalcontrol.wordpress.com>

Dogs and cats.  
Open Mon.-Fri., 8am-3pm

## MANISTEE COUNTY

**Homeward Bound Animal Shelter**  
(Manistee County Humane Society)  
736 Paws Trail, Manistee, MI 49660  
Donations to P.O. Box 144, Manistee  
231-723-7387

Facebook: @HomewardBoundAnimalShelter  
Animal shelter for dogs and cats.  
Open for adoptions  
Wed.-Fri., 12-4; Sat., 11am-3pm

### Repo's Rescues

Nonprofit in Manistee, with animals rescued from all over the U.S.  
231-398-7444  
Facebook @reposrescue and on Instagram

Adopt or donate to help a rescued animal.

## MASON COUNTY

**Mason County Animal Control**  
305 N. Meyers Road  
Ludington, MI 49431  
(behind Walmart)  
231-843-8644  
Facebook @Mason-County-Animal-Control

Animal shelter with cats and dogs.  
Open 6 days a week.

### Mason County Mutts

Facebook@Masoncountymutts  
A Facebook group to support dog lovers in Mason County. Rescues, rehoming, resources, fosters, etc. Sometimes has cats.

### Lakeshore Animal Friends

P.O. Box 503, Ludington, MI 49431  
231-794-7328  
Facebook: LakeshoreAnimalFriends  
Mostly cats and kittens, focused on affordable spay and neuter services. Not a rescue, foster, or emergency shelter. They also help a few dogs.

**Stapleton Realty**

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Shelly Lewis  
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**DAILY SPECIALS**  
Fish Fry Friday

**MARIE MARFIA FINE ART**  
AND THE  
**BONAFIDE GALLERY**

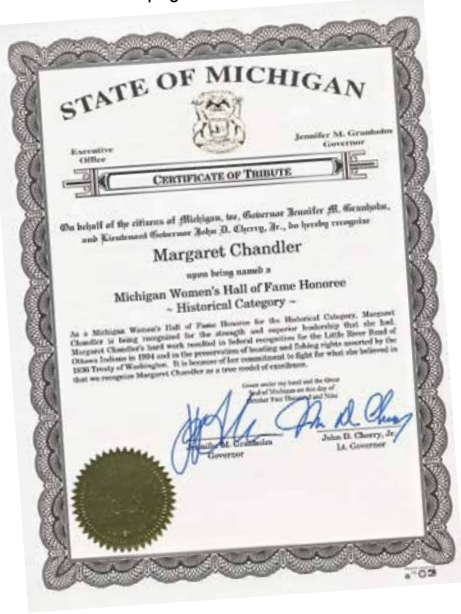
Working artist's studio and gallery featuring local landscapes, portraits and skeleton art.

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Hours by Appointment

**MarieMarfia.com • 904-566-4473**

# Chandler

continued from page 1



A Certificate of Tribute from the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm, recognizes Margaret Chandler for her hard work, "strength and superior leadership" in helping the LRBOI achieve federal recognition and the preservation of hunting and fishing rights under the 1836 Treaty of Washington.

lands containing their ancestral hunting and fishing grounds.

As NMOA Unit 7 secretary, and in other roles, she met with native members around the state to educate, build consensus, obtain funding, alleviate member hardships and provide social events to strengthen ties. She chaired the

Margaret and husband Dale Chandler.



Members of Margaret Chandler's family present for her induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

Indian education program. Her actions on the genealogical committee helped define an Ottawa as a person with at least one-fourth native blood, and she kept records of tribal members through her work on the Enrollment Committee.

The culmination of Chandler's life's work took place in late 1994, when President William Clinton signed into law Bill 1357 reaffirming the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians as a sovereign nation. Chandler was then seated on the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

Chandler wanted the tribe to preserve the land around Indian Village, located just outside Brethren along the Manistee River where she was raised, and it was returned to the Ottawa in 1996. As described in "A History of the Little River Band" by James McClurken, that same year Chandler was honored with an eagle feather plucked from over an eagle's heart "for all the work and dedication she gave from her heart to protect and preserve the tribe."

In 2009, Margaret Bailey Chandler was posthumously inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame for her leadership on behalf of the Ottawa people in the Manistee area.

Since reaffirmation, the tribe has reacquired thousands of acres of land, worked on environmental concerns, improved members' quality of life and taken steps to preserve Ottawa culture. These actions were made possible, in large part, by the persevering spirit of this remarkable woman.

Stewart A. McFerran shares stories from the northern communities of Manistee County, with a special emphasis on history

## A family's memories

By PAT STINSON and P.G. MISTY SHEEHAN

During her childhood, Margaret Chandler lived in Indian Village, outside Brethren, and rode in a horse-drawn sled to Brethren School.

In the 1930s, Margaret, her parents and siblings participated in an "Indian Village" set up temporarily for the Manistee Forest Festival. She later remarked to family that it was like "being on display" for the tourists, adding that it was just her family's way of life and they didn't know any other.

According to Margaret's granddaughter, Valerie Chandler, Margaret's mother Elizabeth Bailey was sent to an Indian boarding school, where she was abused for her Indian heritage.

"I do like to think my grandmother's perseverance came from her mother, because of the abuse and harshness, yet she continued on and did not let that experience change her entire life," Valerie said. "Elizabeth taught her children, including my grandma, how to make the best of what they had in order to survive."

To protect them from the same treatment, Elizabeth "didn't fully teach our traditions and culture to her children."

Elizabeth did teach her grandson Thomas (Margaret's third child) one traditional craft, basketmaking, and he taught some of those skills to his niece Valerie.

Though she didn't make baskets, Margaret enjoyed native beadwork and taught Valerie this skill.

"And she gave me my native name," Valerie said. "... I feel honored to have that connection with her."



Margaret Bailey Chandler, 9, with her family at the Manistee Forest Festival, around 1938. Her parents, the Baileys, set up a tepee display and dressed in Old World deerskin clothing.

Margaret was a catechism teacher at St. Bernard Church in Irons and belonged to the Spirit of the Woods Music Association. She gardened, cooked, canned and liked to pick blueberries.

Valerie said her grandmother worked hard, despite a kidney disease that required daily dialysis, and that "afterwards she would go to meetings, even if by wheelchair..."

She conducted business by phone on the day she died because, to her, hard work was its own reward.

Asked if Margaret's children or grandchildren followed in her footsteps by taking on leadership roles, Valerie said her grandmother's daughter Sandra is retired from serving our country in the Air Force. Margaret's son Dale, granddaughter Joan, and late granddaughter Georgia all became registered nurses. Valerie is currently the tribe's tax officer.

"Mom passed on to us that it was important to be honest in our dealings," said her daughter, Sandra Alford, "and she wanted to be known for her honesty and integrity!"

## McFerran sculptures in Frankfort show

From staff reports

Freshwater Reporter contributor Stewart McFerran is a featured artist in the "Walking Through: Steve Cattin, Stewart Allison McFerran, Nick Walsh" art show taking place at Elizabeth Lane Oliver Art Center in Frankfort through April 9.

McFerran will show his wood-cut sculptures and is joined by painters Cattin and Walsh.

"I reached out to Nick and Steve," McFerran said. "I thought that I would offer them an oak surface to paint on ... It is a bit of a gamble for them because, unlike a stretched canvas, a green piece of oak is quirky. As the oak dries it may split or warp in unpredictable ways. But they were game."

The painters will also display their paintings on other canvasses.

One of McFerran's sculptures resembles a Japanese Torii and is based on a gate he built at his home on the Platte River in Benzie County.

"This gate traditionally ... welcomes all to temples and, I think, to municipalities," he said. "The tradition includes the understanding that on one side of the gate is the sacred and the other, the profane."



McFerran built a potter's wheel in high school and took classes in ceramics at the Muskegon Community College. He learned silversmithing skills from a rock shop owner and in high school produced silk screens. He received North Muskegon High School's "Art Award" upon graduation. At Antioch College he studied photography, drawing and ceramics and graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies. He earned a certificate to teach art in Michigan after studying art education at Western Michigan University. He recently studied printmaking with Glenn Wolff at Northwestern Michigan College.

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## Women's History Month

# The Bird Lady of Michigan: Edith Munger

By P.G. MISTY SHEEHAN

Edith Munger (1865-1945) loved birds. She grew up in Whitehall and lived in Hart, Michigan with her husband, son and eventual grandchildren. Her desk at home was situated so she could look over her bird feeders as she worked to protect her feathered friends as a member of the Michigan Audubon Society.

"The first duty of every person is to do the finest thing by his own soul," she wrote. "Sometimes that comes through sacrifice and sometimes it comes through refusing to be sacrificed. In either case, the soul goes marching on!"

The Michigan Audubon Society was founded in 1904. Nine years later Munger became the organization's first female president, a post she held for 21 years.

Dr. Horesday, of the New York Museum, estimated that 60 percent of Michigan birds were destroyed from 1885 through 1900. Munger was shocked by the statistic and compelled to step up to protect her beloved birds. She condemned the practice of collecting bird eggs. She argued against hunting songbirds and game birds for food, fun and feathers. She called for a ban on the sale and purchase of colorful feathers used to make fashionable hats of the day. She sought to protect the plumage of snow-white egrets, bright-red scarlet tanagers, deep-blue indigo buntings, yellow goldfinches and orange-red Baltimore orioles.

During this time, Michigan's forests were being logged to provide wood to Chicago and beyond for new buildings to support swelling numbers of immigrants. Munger and her fellow Michigan Audubon Society members had the foresight to realize that the destruction of the state's forests could decimate Michigan's bird species.

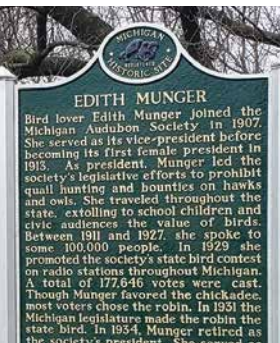
Munger felt it was particularly important to get her message to school-aged children so they would grow up learning to respect and enjoy songbirds, hawks and owls. Known as the Bird Lady, she traveled around the state, as far as Manistique and Marquette in the Upper Peninsula. By 1927 she had addressed 750 groups of school children and service clubs, reaching over 100,000 that year. As MAS president, she penned a regular column in the Michigan Sportsman's Association magazine.

In April 1928, she created a contest to choose a state bird for Michigan. Many birds we know were considered: chickadee, downy woodpecker, bobwhite, goldfinch, red-winged blackbird, cardinal and meadowlark. She preferred the chickadee, but the robin was chosen and remains our state bird.

The Michigan Audubon Society, under her lead, presented several bills before the state legislature. Some sought to control sport shooting. At the time, it was legal to kill hawks and owls because they raided chicken coops. Hawks and owls provide a huge benefit to farmers, as they kill thousands of voles, mice, and other small animals which wreak havoc in farmers'



Photo of Edith Munger courtesy of Oceana County Historical and Genealogical Society.



In December, the City of Whitehall installed this historical marker honoring Edith Munger for her bird conservation efforts in Michigan.

Photo by Brian Armstrong.

fields. MAS succeeded in repealing this law. It's also worth noting that the Northern bobwhite (quail) remained protected in Michigan under the organization. (Editor's note: Due to successful protection efforts there is now a three-week hunting period in counties in Southern Lower Michigan, per a MAS spokesperson.)

During Munger's tenure, MAS also proposed a state bill that would eliminate spring shooting, to protect birds during the period when they sought mates, established nests and raised their young. Hunters' licenses were at stake and the legislature felt the bill didn't recognize the Michigan rural farmer, who was also a hunter.

Cats were another of Munger's concerns, as they killed thousands of songbirds a year. She wanted cats to be licensed and proposed the humane killing of feral cats. To her disappointment, her efforts in these areas did not succeed.

In the 1920s, corporations looked to the sandy shores of Lake Michigan to harvest sand for use in glassmaking. Munger fought against the practice, arguing that the shores should become state parks and, in turn, bird sanctuaries.

Birds were not her only concern. She was conservation chair of the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs, active in the women's suffrage movement, a member of the League of Women Voters, president of the Hart School Board and active in the birth control movement.

"We all owe a substantial debt to people like Edith Munger," commented Doug Cook, president of the Benzie Audubon Club. "She was very forward looking when it came to conservation issues, particularly with respect to birds. Her work helping to repeal the bounty that existed at the time on birds of prey laid a foundation upon which later environmentalists could build. As a teacher, she understood the need to educate people on the issues about which she was passionate. More importantly, in her position as long-time president of the Michigan Audubon Society, she helped to establish the organization as an important voice for birds for decades to come."

Munger was recognized for her achievements and was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in October 2010. (See [www.miwf.org](http://www.miwf.org))

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

## Change coming to Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary

By PAT STINSON

MANISTEE TOWNSHIP - A portion of the Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary, between Orchard Beach State Park and Bar Lake Outlet, soon will be under new ownership, according to a spokesperson for Lake Bluff Farms, the receiver.

LBF Treasurer William "Bill" Zielinski said a deed for 7 acres of the 75-acre property is "in the mail" and transfers ownership of the smaller parcel and existing buildings from Michigan Audubon Society to Lake Bluff Farms, a nonprofit organization.

MAS currently retains ownership of the balance of the property, which includes more than 1,500 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline and a series of trails running through hardwood forest, fields and an old orchard.

Lake Bluff Farms was founded to respond to a request for proposals in 2018 from the Michigan Audubon Society. MAS sought to find an organization with the ability to maintain the buildings on the property.

LBF's mission is to raise funds to restore and preserve Lake Bluff's historic structures, to maintain the natural surroundings and to educate visitors. The organization was chosen as the best candidate to fulfill its conservation mission.

The Manistee-based nonprofit is seeking donations from those who remember walking through the two-story home, arboretum, gardens and visitor center, or who recall seeing the Arabian horses in Manistee parades or taking riding lessons at the stable. Zielinski said funding and in-kind donations are critical to restore the structures to their former grandeur and preserve their historic importance to the community.

Lake Bluff Farms intends to transform the former Gray family home into a Retreat Center, with rooms for overnight guests and meeting space. LBF also plans to expand the parking lot adjacent to the stable building.

The 75-acre Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary (also known as Lake Bluff Audubon Center) was donated to Michigan Audubon in 1988 by M.E. and Gertrude Gray. The property is located along Lakeshore Drive and is a designated Important Bird Area. The site is currently 1 of 19 bird sanctuaries in Michigan, 18 managed by MAS.

For more about Lake Bluff Farms, or to make a donation, go to [lakeblufffarms.com](http://lakeblufffarms.com) or visit the organization's Facebook page.

**Get next month's issue for more of this exclusive coverage or read it online at [freshwater-reporter.com](http://freshwater-reporter.com).**

Champion trees  
Rare birds  
Historic homestead  
Lake Michigan views

What do you remember most?

## Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary

A portion of this Manistee Community Landmark will soon change hands.

**We are Lake Bluff Farms, a Manistee nonprofit organization.**

Our members share fond memories of Lake Bluff and were selected by Michigan Audubon to take over the ownership and care of the properties.

Our 501(c)3 will own 7 acres of the sanctuary, including the Manor house, visitor center, surrounding gardens, lake overlook, and stables.

**Our mission is to provide a place where all of nature and history is valued, with a focus on conservation, education and preservation.**

Please join us in protecting and maintaining this special place, to keep the buildings and grounds looking exactly as you remember and to preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

For those who have not visited, Lake Bluff is a designated Important Birding Area located 100 feet above Lake Michigan. Several Michigan champion trees dot the lush landscape. Historic features include a grand old Manor house and former Arabian horse stables.

**Your donation is critical to our effort to restore and preserve this important part of Manistee's heritage and to continue to provide services to visitors at Lake Bluff.**



**Please help us provide many more generations of cherished memories.** Lake Bluff Farms is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit charitable organization. Your tax-deductible gift in any amount will help us preserve this beautiful farm, stables and homestead. Donations may be sent to: **Lake Bluff Farms, P.O. Box 247, Manistee, MI 49660** or donate online at [www.lakeblufffarms.com](http://www.lakeblufffarms.com).

# Barred Owl

continued from page 1

me and I reached for my pen and jotted “Barred Owl 1.”

I first learned my birds in high school and, at that time, I had always thought of Barred Owls as being a bird of the northern forests. In camping and backpacking trips in the Upper Peninsula, Nordhouse Dunes and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park, it was the Barred Owl that made me feel as though I was sleeping in the wild. Yet, in Kauffman’s “Lives of North American Birds”, the author states, “The rich baritone hooting of the Barred Owl is a characteristic sound in southern swamps...”. Harriet Tubman, the abolitionist, led hundreds of slaves to freedom by locating and communicating with them in the southern forests using Barred Owl calls.

Barred Owls are a northern species, too. Their range extends from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, but they can live just as well in forests from Texas to Florida. They are most often seen in Florida, where they are much tamer and habituated to tourists using boardwalks in Corkscrew Swamp and the Everglades.

When I was an undergraduate at Michigan State University, I acquired a reputation as the guy that could call up owls. After joining the wildlife and birding clubs there, I led small groups out to the Rose Lake Wildlife Center to show them owls. It was a great way to meet girls for a shy guy like me! The key to finding owls was to go to the large, lowland forest there at dusk and call them in first, before a Great Horned Owl would come in. The key to impressing the girls was to not be too much of a nerd while calling them in.

When calling Barred Owls, you can sometimes be witness to a most bizarre event: a cacophony session. While in college, I went backpacking with some friends on a trail in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. On the way to Chapel Beach, my friends stopped along the cliffs



This Barred Owl was intent on watching chipmunks carry beechnuts across a two-track near Grand Marais in the Upper Peninsula. Photo by Mark Videan.

at sunset to roll boulders into the lake and watch their explosive splashes far below. I was a little concerned about the erosion but was overruled and decided to head off to make camp before it got dark. I could hear the guys descend the trail into camp as I made dinner and got a great fire going underneath the towering pines. Then, as we sat around eating dinner, my friend Chris asked me to call in the owls. Soon, several Barred Owls came in and my friends were amazed at the racket. Screams, hoots and cries echoed off the cliffs, and we had fleeting glimpses of the large, round-headed owls lit by campfire light as they careened in the pines above. I got a lot of high-fives for the entertainment of the evening.

Although Barred Owls are quite large, they have exceedingly small talons and are unable to catch prey larger than squirrels or defend themselves against the stronger, large-taloned Great Horned Owl. Barred Owls mostly catch mice, shrews, frogs and some birds. If I am calling in smaller owls — like Screech Owls or Saw-whet Owls, potential prey of Barred Owls — I avoid



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calling in Barred Owls at the same time. This protects the smaller owls. Conversely, I never call in Great Horned Owls when I attempt to call in Barred Owls.

When people ask me about the owls they have heard or seen in the area, a great majority of the time it turns out to be the large and vocal Barred Owl. Barred Owls are very trusting and will often respond to even a poorly rendered imitation of their “who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all” call. Try it if you find yourself out at dusk or night in any mature, lowland hardwood or pine forest of 10 acres or more. Be patient. They seem to wait until you are just about ready to give up and head out before they ramp up their response. Hopefully, this spring, if the pandemic ends, I will be able to do more owl walks and will post them on the Manistee Audubon website and Facebook page, and in the Onekama Parks’ website: [www.onekama.info](http://www.onekama.info)

One night, after my family moved into our house in the forest north of Manistee, I heard the Barred Owls calling right in

the yard. It was the middle of the night and I thought my two elementary school-aged boys were sound asleep. There was a rap on the bedroom door. My youngest son entered and in a tired, quavering voice asked, “Dad, since you’re the one that wanted to live here, could you please get the owls to shut up?”

Both boys, now grown, have moved to large cities downstate. They hope to move back up north, home to the Barred Owl, as long as their dad refrains from calling them into the front yard. I’m hoping some evening soon my two boys and my two-year-old grandson, who calls me “Aha”, will join me outside on a full-moon night. I picture him hearing — with his tender, young ears — the Barred Owls call back first, and he’ll say, “Aha, it sounds like Barred Owls!”

Dr. Brian Allen is an optometrist and a long-time birder and bird researcher based in Manistee County. Reach him at [manisteebirder@gmail.com](mailto:manisteebirder@gmail.com).

## Seeing the Bright Side: A conversation with Pamela Lynch, O.D.

By RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS

I became the patient of a new optometrist in Manistee after my previous eye doctor went into semi-retirement. So, with trepidation — don’t we all worry about new medical providers? — I visited the Coastal Woods Vision office at 384 1st Street. I was rewarded with a friendly and proficient examination by owner Dr. Pamela Lynch, with follow-up visits to her after my eye surgery in Traverse City. I wanted to learn more about her, beginning with her path to optometry.

**FR: When did you decide to become an optometrist?**

PL: I always knew I wanted to go into the healthcare field. Originally, I started college with the intention of going into pediatrics medicine. Then I started to explore other related career paths. After seeing my hometown optometrist for years, I took an interest in the eyes, and I also appreciated the flexibility and work-life balance the career seemed to provide.

**FR: Where did you study?**

PL: Growing up in small town Michigan, I stayed somewhat close to home for college. I received my Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences from Central Michigan University. From there, I attended the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University and received my Doctor of Optometry in 2012.

**FR: Do you plan to return for more studies?**

PL: At this time in my life, I do not have



Optometrist Pamela Lynch, of Coastal Woods Vision in Manistee, with her family at the beach — one of their favorite local places to play. Photo by Alissa Saylor.

plans to pursue another formal degree. We have two toddlers and a new business which take priority! However, one thing I love about this field is that there are always new treatment options and technology to learn, so I am constantly reading and reviewing articles and training videos to expand my knowledge and improve my patient care. Also, to maintain my optometry license in Michigan, I need to attend 40 hours of continuing education every two years.

**FR: Have you worked in your profession in other places?**

PL: I have been practicing for almost nine years now as an optometrist. I have been very fortunate to gain experience in a variety of settings — from a large medically based ophthalmology practice, to fill-in

optical retail settings, to specialty niche private practices — prior to taking on this private practice owner venture. All of these experiences have helped form my ideals for best patient care, customer service and practice culture. It is all a constant work in progress, and we are loving it!

**FR: What’s your favorite part of your job?**

PL: I get to see a wide variety of patients of all ages. In the morning, I can build rapport with a 95-year-old veteran while monitoring his age-related macular degeneration. Later, I may get to improve the quality of life for a 48-year-old woman by fitting her in new multifocal contact lenses. Then, at the end of the day, I could get to prescribe first-time glasses for a 7-year-old boy to help him see at school to learn. All in a day’s work!

**FR: How has the coronavirus affected your work?**

PL: Our office was closed for routine eye care for about 10 weeks last spring. We were open for emergencies only. Even now, all office visits, even eyeglass dispenses and repairs, are scheduled by appointment to limit the number of patients in the office at one time and ensure social distancing. While the office closure was definitely a stressful time as a new business owner, I look at that extra time we got to spend at home with our children as a blessing. I feel like now we are settled into our “new normal” at the practice, with an emphasis on staff and patient safety during this ongoing pandemic. Our biggest complaint is the constant fogging of lenses during testing these days.

**FR: Do you have a mentor, book, or a favorite quote you can share?**

PL: My favorite saying lately is “Choose Happy.” So many times in our lives, we can choose to be negative and complain or gossip. Or you can choose to put on that infectious smile and think positively. Whichever outlook you choose affects the people around you. I choose to encourage that happy.

**FR: What about your hobbies or a place you’d like to travel?**

PL: We love to spend time outdoors with our family and dog, during all seasons. You can often find us walking through our neighborhood trails or playing at the beach. We definitely have future dreams of travel! The world is such a big place, and we love to explore.

**FR: Is there anything else you’d like to share about yourself or your profession?**

PL: My husband and I feel very fortunate to be able to live and work close to our families and where we grew up. I feel so honored when previous teachers, distant relatives or neighbors choose and trust us for their eye care needs. The local support and encouragement keep us going in the difficult times. Thank you.

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. This is the first in her series of Q&A’s with area medical practitioners.

My guitar sits on its stand and sings to me. Time to pick it up again. Selfie photo by the author.

# My Old Friend

Story and photo by KEVIN HOWELL



Pandemics are not fun, but they can be useful to get reacquainted with an old friend. For nearly 50 years, I've been in a love/lazy relationship with a good friend of mine, a guitar my father bought me for Christmas back in 1973.

When I'm in lazy mode and my guitar, an old Hohner Contessa six-string acoustic, sits in its stand in our little music/library room, it sings to me.

Sooner or later when the song it sings seeps into my brain, I remember that I love playing my old guitar and snap out of lazy mode, walk in the room, throw the strap over my shoulder and play along. Between the two of us, my guitar is the one that consistently sings in key.

I've had long spells of not playing at all, but through the years I've had spurts when I play on a regular basis and manage to develop nice callouses on my fingertips. Any serious guitar player knows that if you don't keep your callouses it's a pain to rebuild them.

Prior to the pandemic, after a long hiatus of not playing, I heard my guitar singing to me and picked it back up.

My sessions were slow at first. I played occasionally, once a week ... maybe.

Then the pandemic arrived. The playing picked up and the callouses re-emerged.

I also became reacquainted with the music of John Prine, an artist I heard and loved in the mid '70s. His songs were a favorite: poignant, folksy, humorous, sardonic and slightly sarcastic, with a feel for human emotion. My kind of artist.

I've known a lot of musicians over the years and have played with them in small, informal gatherings. The songs we played were mostly folk, rock and country from the '60s and '70s. Many were written by Prine, something I didn't realize back then.

In the fall of 2019, after my callouses re-emerged and I felt a little more confident in my playing, I bought my wife a ukulele so we could play together. Then the pandemic

hit. As we isolated, the uke proved to be a useful purchase to pass the time.

About then, John Prine re-emerged from his own long hiatus, so to speak, and multiple battles with cancer. We heard and watched him on video perform "In Spite of Ourselves". My favorite version is a duet with Iris Dement.

The song is about a couple who know each other well and stick together, despite their foibles. Except for a couple of the more colorful quips, it pretty much fits us.

John Prine passed from the virus, unfortunately, but he left us that song. We learned it well enough that, despite my inconsistent ability to hold a tune, we managed to pull it off.

One evening during the early days of the pandemic and after a few craft brews, we got up the nerve to make a YouTube video to share with our sons, who were lying low back in Indiana.

They loved it, these two gray-haired old people croaking away on video.

After another brew or two, we shared it publicly there and on Facebook. The video is still online, somewhere in YouTube land.

Reacquainting with my old friend and playing that song with my wife of so many years have been two of the highlights of this pandemic.

As for my wife and I, after almost a year of staying in and tolerating each other's quirks, "In spite of ourselves, we'll end up a'sittin' on a rainbow/Because, Honey, we're the big door prize".

Though my playing has slacked a bit again, my guitar still sings to me ... and I'm listening.

(Credit to John Prine: I borrowed your words John. Hope you don't mind!)

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



The Roy Orbison Museum is an unassuming building in the small town where the singer-songwriter and guitarist grew up. Photo by Gordon Berg.

# Goin' Up Around the Bend

By GORDON BERG

Editor's note: This is the first of two parts. Look for part two in our April edition or find both parts online in March at Freshwater-Reporter.com.

There is an ad for Airstream Trailers that hangs above my desk. Few ads call to me like this one. The headline reads: "Dream. Travel. Explore. Live." Quoting Wally Byam, Airstream's founder, "...strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit."

The ad copy inspires readers to discover the world around them.

"When we awaken our venturesome spirits, we come alive. We feel hopeful. Passionate. We not only feel inspired, but we want to inspire others...It's the exploration not only of places and spaces, but also of people and ourselves. It's an invitation to ... stop ... and breathe."

Ooofda! These words are a cure for what ails me. Isolation Fever from the last 12 months has me bouncing off the walls. Cabin Fever induced by this winter's Arctic blasts leaves me chilled to the bone. Spring Fever makes me wanna jump-start summer...now!

For me, the only cure for this dis-ease is a road trip. My wife and I are aching to hit the road again. No Airstream for us. No Viking River Cruises. We just pack the Jeep with essentials, plug "Somewhere Else, USA" in the GPS, start the car and go.

And if you're like us, you're a sucker for one-of-a-kind attractions. Like driving past Jamestown, North Dakota a while back.

"Honey, did you see what's at this exit?! The biggest buffalo statue in the world! Let's go!"

After driving past a couple of mom-and-pop motels, a nail salon, and McElroy Park ... there it was. The mother of all buffalos. Well...father, in this case. Twenty-six feet tall and embarrassingly anatomically correct.

Or the time we took the backroads from Odessa, Texas to make an unplanned pilgrimage to Wink — home of the Roy Orbison Museum. When Roy died in 1988 at the age of 52, the community was heartbroken. So they created a museum in his honor and filled it with donated memorabilia. This is no grand Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame museum. It's like the rest of Wink. Small, but proud. A pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps kind of museum.

The museum volunteer, a sweet older woman who had the day off from driving oil trucks, met us outside.

"C'mon in," she said, welcoming us with her melodic Texas accent. "Bring your dog, too!"

A dog-friendly museum. That was a first!

Once inside, she proudly talked of Roy and showed us around the museum. There was his high school yearbook with the illustrations he drew for it. She showed us a picture of one of the young girls in town who used shoe polish to dye his blond



Gordon Berg, wearing a pair of Roy Orbison's memorable glasses, stands next to a cut-out of the crooner and musician in a Texas museum devoted solely to him. Photo by Lauren Berg.

hair black. She told us the story behind the framed canceled check, a gift to Roy from a retired couple. They believed in his voice and wrote him a \$100 check so he could make his way to Nashville to follow his dreams.

Then she reached behind the counter and pulled out an object wrapped in a Roy Orbison Festival t-shirt. "I think you might like this," she said.

As if uncovering a religious artifact, she carefully removed the t-shirt to reveal a case with Roy's iconic glasses in it.

"These were donated to the museum by his wife, Barbara. He wore these in 1963."

I was stunned. There they were. The single-most iconic accessory that gave Roy Orbison his trademark look — his black-rimmed glasses with the distinctive darkened lenses.

"Wanna try 'em on?" she asked.

Huh?! Really?! In 1963, these were the glasses through which he saw the world as he toured with The Beatles and later with The Beach Boys and still later with The Rolling Stones. These are the glasses through which he would have witnessed all the news that stunned the world of President Kennedy's assassination. I was going to look through these same lenses. Or try to.

"Go ahead and stand next to that cut-out of Roy so your wife can take your picture," she said. "But, don't put 'em on before you get over there. Those glasses are so strong you'll fall right over!"

It's a moment I'll never forget.

Gordon Berg is a descendent of Manistee's Bergs, Swansons and Martinsons. His debut book "Harry and the Hurricane" is about his father's life as a young boy and how he survived The Great Miami Hurricane of 1926. Ask for it in your local bookstore or go online to www.HarryandtheHurricane.com

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# Fun in a Bun

By KEVIN HOWELL

*“I’ll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today.”*

That line uttered by Wimpy in the old Popeye comic strip always comes to mind when I’m in the mood for a good burger, Wimpy’s favorite food.

I don’t mean the production line burgers at fast food joints. I’m talking a real, fresh-cooked, fully loaded burger you can only find in small diners and neighborhood restaurants and taverns.

It’s nice to be able to sit in a cozy neighborhood bar with a great burger and a cold beer — one of my favorite burger toppings — and enjoy the ambiance. But with the pandemic still around, and limited indoor dining, I’ve satisfied my burger cravings with takeout. My stomping ground of Mason County includes several establishments that meet my high (well, moderate) standards for a well put-together piece of rounded ground beef between the buns.

There’s a sandwich/pizza shack on the west end of Scottville, along U.S. Highway 10, called “The Ville”. It’s a small place offering carryout and some indoor seating and is close enough to home that the burgers were still warm when we ate them. Wife Jean’s toppings included cheese, American in this case, grilled onions and tomato. I like a little more than that, so I chose cheese, onions, tomato and lettuce — your basic deluxe cheeseburger.

I was surprised at the size of the burger; I’m guessing a third of a pound, cooked. And the brioche-style bun was light and a little fluffy. It fit the burger perfectly, not undersized and not overpowering the burger with bread.



Brenda’s Burgers of Scottville offers 20-plus different burger styles, in quarter- and half-pound sizes. Photo by Pat Stinson.

The cheeseburger was listed for \$9.99, which I thought was just a little overpriced. Then I noticed it included a nice helping of crunchy French fries and a pickle spear. The menu also lists a Mushroom Swiss Burger, an Olive Burger and a Fried Pickle Burger.



Jean Howell enjoys a burger picnic at Ludington State Park in February, just before temperatures plummeted the next day. Photo by Kevin Howell



Burgers from The Grand in Ludington make for a great picnic. Photo by Kevin Howell

Hmm. I don’t usually “go” for too many weird or fancy toppings, but sometimes you have to try something a little different.

I remember as a kid in East Detroit, our family would go to a neighborhood restaurant. (Sorry, I don’t remember the name). The menu offered a choice of bleu cheese as a topping, and I loved it. I found something similar at The Grand, located at 301 South Rath in Ludington. A day before the polar vortex hit this part of Michigan, we decided to grab a couple burgers and head to Ludington State Park for a sunny winter picnic. The Grand’s choices included a regular Ground Beef Burger; a Cheeseburger with a choice of American, Swiss or homemade bleu cheese dressing; a Rath burger, including bleu cheese dressing, sautéed mushrooms and bacon; and an Olive Burger. I split the difference and ordered toppings of bleu cheese dressing and sautéed mushrooms. Jean went with Swiss cheese and grilled onions, both served on brioche-style buns.

The burgers were nice sized and juicy, without being too greasy, and were loaded with our chosen toppings. Yum. We found a sunny, snow-free picnic table at the park to enjoy them. Menu price for the burgers is “Market Price,” but the two burgers plus a side of fries cost a reasonable \$14.50.

Over the course of the pandemic, we also sampled the cheeseburgers at a small bar/restaurant in Walhalla, Riley’s Rendezvous on U.S. 10. Riley’s is close to home for us, and the burgers stayed nice and warm on the ride home. Our usual toppings there are typically cheese, lettuce, tomato and onion. The burger is a good-sized half a pound, served with chips and a pickle or in a basket

with fries and slaw. Others on the menu are Mushroom Swiss, Olive Swiss, Black and Blue burgers and more. Prices are \$8-\$9. Add \$2.50 for a basket.

When you’re on the trail for a burger, and run into a place with burger in the name, it seems silly to pass it up, right? So, when we ran across Brenda’s Burgers in Scottville, we just had to try their patties. Brenda’s, at 124 South Main, is a cozy little eatery with a half-dozen or so booths on one side, and the grill and order window on the other. We sampled their burgers pre-pandemic and enjoyed the food and friendly service.

They offer a line of specialty burgers that includes such fare as the Breakfast Burger topped with cheese, bacon and an egg cooked to order; the Kahuna, with Swiss, grilled pineapple, bacon and homemade sweet and sour sauce; and the Cowboy, with cheddar, grilled onions and BBQ sauce. There are more than 20 varieties of burger on the menu, all made daily from local beef in quarter-pound patties for \$6-\$7, or half-pounders for \$9-\$10.

The places mentioned here, and their menus, can be found on Facebook.



Redneck Yacht Club, of Wellston, serves burgers indoors or outside around a firepit. Lots more menu items here. Photo by Pat Stinson.

Do you have a favorite spot for a great burger? Please send it along to me, because sometimes you just want a burger ... and it oughta be a good one!

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

## Burgermeisters of Manistee County

Compiled by Kevin Howell and Pat Stinson

### Tom Buchanan

Brewer Emeritus at Ludington Bay Brewing, said his last burger came from a place in Manistee. “I’ve only had one takeout burger in a year,” Buchanan said. “I got a deluxe cheeseburger with extra Mayo from (Chopo’s) Northside Bar in Manistee — it was good. I ate it with a few beers at the beach.”

**Chopo’s Northside Bar**  
132 Monroe St., Manistee

### Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas

Forest Service retiree and Freshwater Reporter contributor. “I tried the Bungalow (Inn) Bourbon Burger and I don’t even like bourbon. The crunchy onion sticks, sauce and meat combo is delicious. I cut it in half to share, with onion rings. Yum!”

**Bungalow Inn, 1100 28th Street, (US-31 South), Manistee**

### Tricia Bouche

This Kaleva mosaic artist just completed her third mosaic panel, depicting scenes from the Kalevala, as gift to the village. She recently posted on Facebook: “Burger perfection from Kaleva Tavern. Yummy! Medium rare, grilled onions and sweet tater fries.”

**The Kaleva Tavern, a.k.a. K.T.’s., 9289 N. Walta St., Kaleva**

### Pat Stinson

Editor, Freshwater Reporter. “I was delivering papers last month and stopped to eat a burger in the parking lot of Redneck Yacht Club. Pretzel bun, lettuce (that wasn’t iceberg!), onion and tomato on a patty with mustard and ketchup, exactly as ordered. A great grab-and-go sandwich served with a bag of potato chips.”

**Redneck Yacht Club, 19327 Caberfae Highway, Wellston**

### Stewart McFerran

Contributor, Freshwater Reporter. “I had the T-ville (half-pound) burger at Geno’s Sports Bar and Grill. It had bacon, (thick slices) swiss cheese and mushrooms. I added lettuce and tomato and it was a good thing I was hungry. The fries were hot. My favorite thing about hamburgers is fresh beef and the Geno’s burgers have that and are served by a staff that’s on top of things. You can’t go wrong with a Geno’s burger!”

**Geno’s Sports Bar & Grill, 14848 Thomson Ave., Thompsonville**

### Diana Six

Retired graphic artist. Visiting Traks: “I get my burger well done, with sweet potato fries with ranch dressing and a beer. Wayne (husband) gets a medium (cooked) burger with the free potato chips and a mixed drink. Always delicious and if Janelle is the server, we have lots of laughs with her. Aaron too.”

**Traks, 5073 High Bridge Road, Brethren**

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## FRESHWATER REPORTER

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