

# FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

Vol III, No. 6

freshwater-reporter.com

June 9 - June 29, 2021

**FREE**

## Let's talk golf!

By GAIL TOOLEY

Editor's note: Look for more in our series on golf courses in Manistee, Mason, Western Lake and Western Wexford counties. We begin with Manistee County. (Are you a golfer or know someone who is? We're seeking contributors with knowledge of courses in the other counties. Please contact the editor for more information.)

*Every Tuesday, weather permitting, you'll find me on the links, participating in a "senior rotator" league — senior by age and rotating the courses played each week. With one exception, I've played the courses listed here. All offer public play and are placed in three categories: Resort, 18 holes and 9 holes.*

### Resort Courses.

Qualifications for a "resort course" are 36 holes of play, a practice area, a restaurant, a bar and lodging.

#### Crystal Mountain

12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.  
Thompsonville  
crystalmountain.com

Pro Shop: (231) 378-3914

Front Desk, Lodging/Dining:  
(231) 378-2000

Number of holes: 36

Courses: Betsie Valley and Mountain Ridge



Photo by Academiagolf, Pixabay

Highlights: Golf School, Spa, Children's activities, Michigan Legacy Art Park  
Special Rates: Midweek Players Pass, Monday Madness, Golf/lodging packages

Player's commentary: These courses are always well maintained, with a nice mix of elevations, sand traps and water hazards. Betsie Valley is the workhorse course; Mountain Ridge is the attraction course. As conferred by their names, Betsie

Valley includes more open fairways, while Mountain Ridge has steeper elevation changes and is more challenging. Pace of play is reasonable for an experienced golfer. I've enjoyed good food and drink in both the bar (Wild Tomato, Inn at the Mountain) and the restaurant (Thistle Pub & Grille). Crystal Mountain also has a spa for those inclined to work out the kinks after a day on the links.

continued on page 8

## What's up, Dock? Dock crews get 'er done

By STEWART A. MCFERRAN and PAT STINSON

Many enjoy strolling on their docks to the lakefront, where a wide array of watercraft is moored. Not many think about who installed those docks and the effort involved.



Two members of the Glen Lake Property Management crew lay out dock sections prior to assembly. Photo by Don Sielaff.

### Cottage Pros

Cottage Pros is based in Beulah. The company's crew keeps busy installing docks on lakes where they have accounts: Portage, Arcadia, Herring, Platte, Crystal and others. They wade into inland lakes to bolt together the dock sections that make the platforms.

Owner Chris Howard said the goal is for all docks to be assembled by Memorial Day, and they will make their goal this season.

"We got a jump start this year," he said. "It has been a nice spring."

Howard founded Cottage Pros five-and-a-half years ago "with a few college kids doing it all by hand."

"I remember when we had 30 docks and hoists," he said. "Now we have 300, so that's why we needed to update our equipment."

One piece of equipment is substantially larger than the others.

"The 'barge' is a 30-foot flat-bottom

continued on page 5

## Events Calendar

Some events may change or be canceled due to weather, schedules and COVID-19. Always call ahead.

### JUNE

Thru **Frankfort-Elberta Restaurant**

June **Week**

**13** Special pricing at local restaurants

Thru **Art Exhibit: Ron Gianola, Cara**

June **O'Brien, Diane Zoellmer**

**18** Free, Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort

Thru **Art Exhibits: Ellen Nelson's**

June **"The Infinity Between Zero & One" & "2021 LGBTQ Art Show"**

**25** Tuesdays-Fridays 11am-4pm, Wednesdays 11am-6pm, Saturdays 11am-2pm, free, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington

Thru **Simply Give: Support the Manistee**

July **Senior Center food pantry**

**3** Buy \$10 Simply Give donation cards at the Manistee Meijer Store. June 19 is double match day. Sponsored by Manistee Council on Aging and #MeijerGives

**9** **Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Bill Frary**

5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah

**9** **Summer Music Series with Luke Warm**

6-8pm, free, Purchase Pavilion, 301 N. State St., Luther

**10-12** **7th Annual Jet Pilot Spring Fling Rally**

Presented by the Lake County Modelers and Flyers Association. Pilot fee \$45, free for spectators. Free onsite dry camping for Rally participants. Plane storage tents available. Food service delivery for lunch. Spectator hours are typically Thursday 12-5pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-5pm. Bring a chair and cooler. Baldwin RC Park, 7668 S. M-37, Baldwin.

For more info contact [LenTodd@att.net](mailto:LenTodd@att.net), call **907.903.3569**, or go to [www.lcmfa.com](http://www.lcmfa.com)

**10** **Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Wink Solo**

5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah

**11** **Native Plant Sale Event**

11am-3pm, Black Cap Farm, 5265 Crescent Beach Rd., Onkama. Partners of the event include the Manistee Conservation District, Plant It Wild and Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network. All will have educational materials and native plant experts onsite to answer questions. Multiple raffles will be held throughout the event.

**11** **Ludington Farmers Market**

3-7pm, N. James St. Legacy Plaza, Ludington

**11** **Onkama Lions' Community Dinner**

5-8pm, donations appreciated, no reservations required. Historical stories and games. Onkama Village Park, Portage Ave., Onkama

**11** **Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Barefoot**

6:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville

continued on page 2



# Events Calendar

Some events may change or be canceled due to weather, schedules and COVID-19. Always call ahead. **Email your July calendar events or press releases by June 18 to:** editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Or snail mail them to: Freshwater Reporter, P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI, 49660.

continued from page 1

## JUNE

- 11 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with Grayson Barton**  
On the lakeside deck. 7-11pm, free. Multi-instrumentalist, folk, rock, blues. 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 12- Small Works, Big Impact community collage project**  
Aug
- 28 Sale of 200 6"x6" donated canvases** done by local artists to benefit Art Center operations impacted by Covid-19. Finished canvases may be purchased for \$40/each starting June 28. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort
- 12 Citizen's Sportsmen's Club of Fountain Annual Summer Fishing Tournament**  
Held during Free Fishing Weekend. For info, go to their Facebook page.
- 12 40th Annual Lakeside Half Marathon/5K/10K**  
8am, Registration and package pick-up at Lakestride Central Tent at the center of Stearns Park Beach, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington.  
**For more info, maps, prices and online signup, go to: ludingtonlakestride.com**
- 12 Manistee Farmers Market**  
9am-12pm, parking lot on the corner of Memorial Dr. and Washington St., Manistee
- 12 Downtown Scottville Farmers Market**  
10am-2pm, sidewalks of Main St., Scottville
- 12 Ludington State Park Stewardship Volunteer Workday**  
12-2pm, free. Help protect the park from invasive species. Meet at the small parking area, Piney Ridge Rd. & 19th. Plant I.D. lesson then pull plants near the trailhead. Long-sleeved shirts, long pants & closed-toed shoes recommended. Registration required. Email LeslieE1@michigan.gov
- 12 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Ted Alan & Friends**  
2:30-5pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 12 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Patty Pershay**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 12 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with Frantic Kingdom Band in Lahey's Pub**  
8-11:59pm, free. Funk, rock, R&B, folk, soul and blues. 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 12 S.S. Badger Shoreline Cruise**  
8:30-11pm, \$42/person, children 4 & under are free. Cruise will sail rain or shine.  
**For more info and tickets, go to: ssbadger.com**
- 12- Free Fishing Weekend throughout Michigan**  
All fishing license fees will be waived for the weekend. All fishing rules and regulations still apply.
- 13 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Keith Scott**  
3:30-5:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 14 Honey Bee Market**  
1-7pm, free. Numerous arts, crafts, and other goodies for sale by local vendors. On the grass at St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd. Beulah
- 14 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Pat Niemisto**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 16 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Bill Frary**  
5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 16 Summer Music Series with Mike Schmuck the Ramblin Man**  
6-8pm, free, Purchase Pavilion, 301 N. State St., Luther

- 16 AFFEW Friends for the Environment Beach Sweep**  
7-9pm, free. Gloves and garbage bags provided. Join other volunteers to clean the beach and dunes west of the playground. Masks required until participants disperse. BYO green drinks for after the cleanup. No glass. Stearns Park, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington
- 17 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Wink Solo**  
5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 18 Ludington Farmers Market**  
3-7pm, N. James St. Legacy Plaza, Ludington
- 18 Onekama 150th Anniversary Event History and Evolution of North Point Park**  
2-3pm, free, North Point Park, Onekama.  
**For reservations: Parks@OnekamaTwp.org**
- 18 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Devyn Mitchell**  
5:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 18 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with Barefoot in Lahey's Pub**  
7-11pm, free. Soulful tunes and acoustic vibes. 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 18 Stargazing Event on Fifth Avenue Beach**  
9:30pm, free. Join NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Brooke Edwards for a fun evening of celestial sightings, telescope provided. Meet at the Fifth Avenue Beach, Manistee. For more info, contact Brookeofstars@gmail.com
- 19 Manistee Farmers Market**  
9am-12pm, parking lot on the corner of Memorial Dr. and Washington St., Manistee
- 19 Downtown Scottville Farmers Market**  
10am-2pm, sidewalks of Main St., Scottville
- 19 Fish Day, at Mason-Lake Conservation District**  
655 N. Scottville Rd., Scottville. 11am-1pm Buy fish for your pond. Order online at harriettahills.com or call 877.389.2514 at least 7 days before the event. Rainbow Trout, Hybrid Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Fathead Minnows. Min. order 25 of any species. Cash/checks only. Bags provided to transport fish. Bring a 5-gallon bucket for every 25 fish ordered. MDNR permits may be required and are the buyer's responsibility. Hosted by Mason Lake Conservation District and Harietta Hills.
- 19 Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival, Brethren**  
1-6pm, Dickson Township Park. Donation requested. 43rd annual festival sponsored by Spirit of the Woods Music Association. Performers: Annie & Rod Capps, Breathe Owl Breathe, The Nephews, Ruby John with John Warstler, Barefoot. Find them on Facebook.
- 19 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Ted Alan & Friends**  
2:30-5pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 19 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Snacks & Five**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 20 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Rhett & John**  
3:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 21 Honey Bee Market**  
1-7pm, free. Numerous arts, crafts, and other goodies for sale by local vendors. On the grass at St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd. Beulah
- 21 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Soul Patch**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 22 Manistee Shoreline Showcase Summer Concert Series with Wendell Harrison**  
7-9pm, free, classic jazz, R&B, funk and soul. Douglas Park Gazebo at First Street Beech, Manistee. Wind/rain site: Armory Youth Project, 555 First St., Manistee

- 23 Kids Fish hosted by the Manistee County Sport Fishing Association**  
9-10:30am, free for children 12 and younger (accompanied by an adult). Each fisher receives a free T-shirt. Prizes include fishing rods, reels and tackle boxes. Man Made Lake, Manistee
- 23 Manistee Public Library Youth Summer Reading Program featuring Clark the Juggler**  
3pm, outdoors at the Wagoner Center, 457 River St., Manistee
- 23 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Bill Frary**  
5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 23 Summer Music Series with Bristol Flats**  
6-8pm, free, Purchase Pavilion, 301 N. State St., Luther
- 23 LACA Summer Concert Series with Wendell Harrison**  
7-9pm, free, classic jazz, R&B, funk and soul. Waterfront Park, 300 W. William St., Ludington
- 24 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Wink Solo**  
5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 25- Summer Member Art Exhibition**  
July  
Free, Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort
- 25 Ludington Farmers Market**  
3-7pm, N. James St. Legacy Plaza, Ludington
- 25 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with The Lofteez**  
5-8pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 25 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Nick Andrew Staver**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 25 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with Ben Traverse**  
7-10pm, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
- 25 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with the Broom Closet Boys in Lahey's Pub**  
7-11pm, free. Power trio covering popular tunes across the decades. 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 26 Manistee Farmers Market**  
9am-12pm, parking lot on the corner of Memorial Dr. and Washington St., Manistee
- 26 Downtown Scottville Farmers Market**  
10am-2pm, sidewalks of Main St., Scottville
- 26 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Ted Alan & Friends**  
2:30-5pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 26 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Chris Sterr**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 26 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with Blake Elliott & the Robinson Affair**  
7-10pm, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
- 26 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with Grayson Barton**  
On the lakeside deck. 7-11pm, free, multi-instrumentalist, folk, rock, blues. 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
- 27 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Pete "Big Dog" Fetters**  
3:30-5:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 28 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Cousin Curtiss**  
12-2pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
- 28 Honey Bee Market**  
1-7pm, free. Arts, crafts, and other goodies for sale by local vendors. On the grass at St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd. Beulah
- 28 Portage Lake Association/Onkama Concert in the Park with Miriam Pico & David Chown**  
7-9pm, Onkama Village Park, Portage Ave., Onkama

- 29 Manistee Shoreline Showcase Summer Concert Series with Holly McGuire and Chicago's Kevin O'Connell Trio**  
7-9pm, free. Pop, rock, R&B, jazz and blues. Douglas Park Gazebo at First Street Beech, Manistee. Wind/rain site: Armory Youth Project, 555 First St., Manistee
  - 30 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Bill Frary**  
5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
  - 30 Summer Music Series with Michelle Grim and Friends**  
6-8pm, free, Purchase Pavilion, 301 N. State St., Luther
  - 30 LACA Summer Concert Series with Holly McGuire and Chicago's Kevin O'Connell Trio**  
7-9pm, free. Pop, rock, R&B, jazz and blues. Waterfront Park 300 W. William St., Ludington
- ## JULY
- 1-5 Manistee National Forest Festival**  
**For info, go to Manistee forestfestival.com**
  - 1-5 Carnival, Flea Market, Whispering Pines Petting Zoo & Timber Art**  
Douglas Park and First Street Beach, Manistee
  - 1 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Wink Solo**  
5:30-8:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
  - 1 Poetry and Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with Emily Pittinos and Rowan Niemisto**  
6-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
  - 1 Live Music at the Wagoner Community Center with Cousin Curtiss**  
7-9pm, \$10, food trucks will be onsite, 260 St. Mary's Parkway, Manistee. Tickets available at the Senior Center (Wagoner) or call 231.723.6477
  - 2 Ludington Farmers Market**  
3-7pm, N. James St. Legacy Plaza, Ludington
  - 2 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with DJ Batz**  
4:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
  - 2 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with Brian Oberlin & The Journeymen**  
7-10pm, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
  - 2 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with Big Daddy Fox in Lahey's Pub**  
7-11pm, free. Electrifying blues. 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama
  - 3 14th Annual Lud Ludwigson Memorial at the Manistee Golf and Country Club**  
8am, \$60 for nonmembers, \$20 for members plus cart fee. Three flights: Women's, Mixed & Open, shotgun start, 4 person scramble, 50/50 raffle, proximities on every hole. Call 231.723.2509 to sign up. Manistee Golf and Country Club, 500 Cherry St., Manistee
  - 3 Manistee Farmers Market**  
9am-12pm, parking lot on the corner of Memorial Dr. and Washington St., Manistee
  - 3 Downtown Scottville Farmers Market**  
10am-2pm, sidewalks of Main St., Scottville
  - 3 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Barefoot**  
5:30pm, free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
  - 3 Live Music at Iron Fish Distillery with the Bootstrap Boys**  
6:30-8:30pm, free, 14234 Dzuibanek Rd., Thompsonville
  - 3 Live music at Northern Natural Cider House & Winery with The Accidentals and special guest Treeskin**  
(Treeskin 5pm), 7-10pm, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva
  - 3 Live Music at Portage Point Resort with Big Daddy Fox & Friends in Lahey's Pub**  
7-11pm, free. Soulful tunes and acoustic vibes. 8567 Portage Point Dr., Onekama





Painted Lady Saloon is on the corner of Eighth and Kosciusko streets in Manistee. Built in the mid-1880s, the building has housed a bar since the 1890s. Photo by Kevin Howell.



A view of the Maxwelltown mill district. Photo courtesy of Manistee County Historical Museum.

# Maxwelltown and the Painted Lady

Story by Kevin Howell

Bob Venne was sitting at the bar of the Painted Lady Saloon, nursing a pint of beer with his buddy David Teasley, when I walked in and took the seat next to him.

"We had this place for nearly 30 years," Venne told me. "We bought it in 1993. My wife (Linda Venne) managed it for a couple years before that."

The Painted Lady is one of a handful of businesses in a part of old Manistee known as Maxwelltown. I recently "discovered" the area on a lakeshore excursion with my wife. We enjoyed a good lunch at the saloon, and out of a nagging curiosity, I returned to Manistee to learn more about both Maxwelltown and the Painted Lady.

That curiosity led me to the Manistee Historical Museum and its director Mark Fedder, who pointed me to Susan Wolken and Jeff Bladzick, current owners of the Painted Lady Saloon. It turns out Wolken is Venne's daughter.

Wolken said her father, who just turned 80, "knows a lot more than I do; he remembers everything and has a memory like an elephant, basically."

That's how I came to be sitting at the bar on the corner of Kosciusko and Eighth, on Manistee's east side, with Venne and his buddy.

"Right now, it's the oldest bar in the county that's still operating pretty much as it was," Venne said, as he ran through some of the history of the Painted Lady Saloon and Maxwelltown, in general.

"The lot next door (now vacant) was the Hi-Way bar," he began. "They caught the arsonist and it's coming to trial pretty quick."

The Hi-Way Inn burned last August, leaving the Maxwelltown area with three bars where once a half dozen or more stood.

The Painted Lady was named G and L Bar when the Vennes bought it. Wolken explained how her mother made the name change.

"They had a contest with the customers, and they all threw a name in a hat," Wolken told me, laughing. "There were some names in there, but I think my mom ended up picking the one she wanted anyway."

Venne worked at the Hardy Salt Company until it closed, like so many other industries in Maxwelltown. He said that, at 53 years old, buying the historic (and popular) tavern in his hometown seemed the right thing to do.

"We figure this (building) was built in 1885, and it was a bar, for sure, in 1894; (a) guy named Daniels bought it," Venne said.

Teasley added, "When Daniels bought

it, it took him a year to renovate and then opened it up in 1894."

According to Venne, Daniels and a partner owned a brewery close to where the American Legion is now. (OldBreweries.com lists the Charles Daniels and Joseph Gambs Brewery, 1884-90, and later the Chas. H. Daniels Brewery, 1911-1919.)

"It was a saloon then, but when prohibition came along in 1920, they turned it into a drug store," Venne continued, adding:

"I'll tell you something interesting about Prohibition. Drug stores used to sell a half a pint of raw alcohol; it was legal for medicinal (use). Well, hell, you could go in, your brother could go in, your uncle. They could have a hell of a party."

He laughed as he related this, then told me that after prohibition it became a bar again.

"There's been one here ever since," he said. "When I was a kid, it was Zeggers Tavern."

Pointing in different directions from his bar seat, Venne said, "There was another bar there, a barber shop there, a barber shop there, a pool hall over here, a couple stores, an army surplus down the road — it was a little village."

When I met with Fedder at the museum, prior to talking with Venne, he had given me some of the history of Maxwelltown. Though use of the name has been generalized to include almost the entire east side of Manistee, Fedder said it began as an eight- or ten-square block section from 12th Street to 16th Street and from Vine Street to Main Street.

"Maxwelltown is basically a small section of the east side of the city of Manistee named after a guy named John C. Maxwell," Fedder explained.

Maxwelltown was established in the mid- to late-1870s, according to Fedder, not long after Manistee became a city in 1869. (Point of interest: Manistee was called Manisteetown before it was incorporated.) Fedder explained that "Mr. Maxwell," a sawmill owner, briefly lived in Manistee. He had a couple of partners.

"He purchased the property which encompasses a small portion of today's Maxwelltown," Fedder said, "but as the years have passed the name has encompassed the whole east side of Manistee."

It was a working-class area, whereas historic downtown Manistee was settled

by lumbermen and owners of industry who lived near the business district. Old U.S. Highway 31 ran through Maxwelltown until the mid-1950s, when it was re-routed to its present location beside the historic district.

By then the lumber industry was drying up and the mills closed, leaving Morton Salt Company and a few businesses in Maxwelltown.

According to Wolken, "There's this place and next door there's a little restaurant called Two Slices, then there's a bar called Bill's Place, then there's Stu's Pub.

"There's a flower shop over on 5th Street, there's a cleaning service down here at the end of 8th Street — you know, it's just a little area, there's not a whole lot of business down here, but there's some. No stores or anything like that; there used to be, but not anymore."

Many of the old buildings from the late 1800s and early 1900s are still there, though mostly vacant and waiting to be reclaimed someday.

There has been some attempt to re-energize the area and bring attention to it. Pre-pandemic, the bars and businesses held a St. Patrick's Day parade which Wolken said drew a good crowd. Plans were made (and scrapped) to do it again in 2020. They hope to bring it back as the pandemic slows.

Before the Hi-Way Inn burned, its owner, the owner of Stu's Pub and Wolken went together to rent a billboard highlighting Maxwelltown. The sign was along U.S. Highway 31, south of Manistee.

Back at the Painted Lady, Venne talked about former lumber mills around Lake Manistee, furniture factories once found in Maxwelltown, the 60-year-old Century Boat Company that went belly up in the 1980s or so, foundries and machine shops. ("If you wanted anything made here, you could get it made.")

By the time Venne and I parted company my curiosity had been pretty much satisfied, but I look forward to another visit to the Painted Lady Saloon to soak up the history of Maxwelltown.

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@ytci.com.

Bob Venne (front), former owner of Painted Lady Saloon, and his friend David Teasley, the saloon's maintenance/repairman, enjoy a cool beer at the bar. Photo by Kevin Howell.

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**WING WEDNESDAY**  
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**DAILY SPECIALS**  
 Fish Fry Friday



# Planetary trio: Here's lookin' at June

By BROOKE EDWARDS

*With warmer evenings, now is the perfect time to head outside and observe the beauty of the night sky. In June, three planets will stand out among the stars: Venus, Mars and Jupiter. These are the brightest planets in our sky and always a treat to see.*

**V**enus becomes visible just above the western horizon right after sunset. Be sure to look early or you may miss it. The planet will appear as a bright "star," but since it's a planet, it will shine as a steady light that does not twinkle.

Mars will appear higher in the sky at dusk than Venus and more toward the southwest. Mars is easy to notice, as it sports a red hue. It's exciting to think that in the coming years humans may visit the planet. Until then, don't forget to keep up with the Perseverance rover, which is currently exploring an area of Mars for signs of ancient life. The rover is also conducting experiments, such as producing oxygen from carbon dioxide, that will benefit future human explorers.

Jupiter will rise in the eastern sky after

midnight, approximately 2 a.m. This bright and hard-to-miss planet makes a dazzling show for those up before sunrise. Look at Jupiter with good binoculars, and you may even spot a few of its many moons.

Lastly, the International Space Station appears frequently overhead. Find out when and where to see it over Northern Michigan at [Spotthestation.nasa.gov](http://Spotthestation.nasa.gov).

Be sure to take advantage of clear skies on summer evenings while they last!

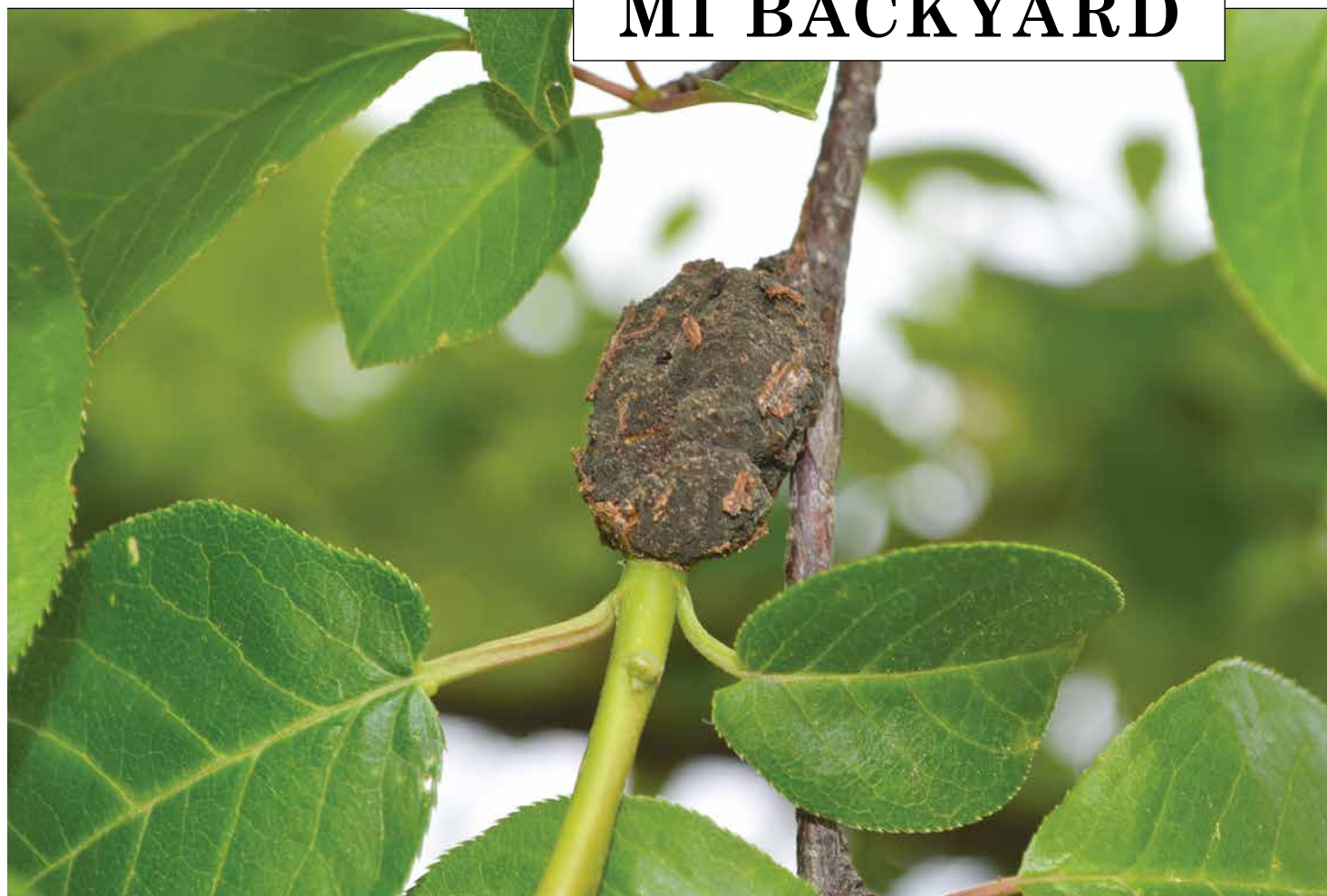
My next public stargazing event, weather permitting, is 9:30 p.m., June 18. We will meet at 5th Avenue Beach in Manistee. Contact me: [brookeofstars@gmail.com](mailto:brookeofstars@gmail.com).

Brooke Edwards is our area's NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. She lives in Manistee.



This image of Venus (the bright light above Earth) was captured from the International Space Station by JAXA astronaut Kimiya Yui in December 2015. Photo credit: NASA/JAXA

## MI BACKYARD



Left. Black knot on a fruit tree. Above. The mature black cherry tree is easily spotted due to its scaly bark. Photos by P. Stinson.

# Stop! That's not Chaga

By JENNIFER DEVINE

Editor's note: This article recently appeared as a post on the Facebook page of Michigan Survival and Homesteading Guide, an informational blog written by the author. An edited version is reprinted here by permission.

### Black Cherry Tree

Step outside and see our northwest Michigan landscape in the process of changing from brown to green. Most trees (except pine, now filled with growing pinecones) are leafing out.

But there is one tree that has been leafing out for weeks: the deciduous black cherry tree. Do you see it? Interspersed with all the pine, oak, birch, maple and poplar are skinny-trunked and skinny-limbed trees lined with bright and smooth elongated green leaves. The base of these leaves, if you look closely, come from a red "hair." You may even see the beginning of a cluster of flowers 5 inches long at the end of leafy twigs in spring, with numerous third-of-an-inch white flowers with five petals that, if

pollinated, will bring a harvest of delicious wild black/purple cherries. Chokecherries are similar, however more shrub-like, and the leaves are far more rounded.

Look closer still and you may see what I always called "tree poop." Yeah, that's not the scientific name, but I bet you've thought it too!

Black knot (*Dibotryon morbosum* or *Apiosporina morbosa*) is a fungus that affects cherry, apricot, plum and chokecherry trees in North America. Do not confuse this with the very edible chaga, a mushroom which grows on the trunks of birch trees and looks similar. Black knot affects the limbs, rarely the trunk, of fruit trees, encircling the limb and literally suffocating it.

In spring, two winters after initial infection, the fungus produces sexual spores called ascospores. The ascospores mature during the spring of the second season and are forcibly discharged into the air during rainstorms. They are distributed short distances on wind currents and through rain splashing and infecting young saplings and wounded limbs. The anamorph, or sexual stage, produces abundant olive-green fungus spores or "conidia" during the summer on the surfaces of one-year-old knots. If not treated, the next year you will see gnarly black knots.

Is the tree completely covered with black knot? It's probably best just to get rid of the whole thing, as it is already dead. There's no coming back.

Is your tree still salvageable? If there are green leaves and other healthy limbs, the answer is YES! All you need to do is grab your pruning shears, a garbage bag and 70% rubbing alcohol or bleach. Dip the shears in the alcohol or bleach to sanitize them, prune the infected limb about 8" below the black knot toward the trunk, and put it in the bag. Careful not to cause too much disturbance or more ascospores will spread. Repeat as needed, sanitizing between cuttings. After trimming, do a heavy sanitize on your tools.

The fungus does not affect our health, so you could use those limbs in your bonfire or burn barrels. Just be careful, again, not to spread the disease. Do not compost them unless you know your compost temperature is 160 degrees or hotter!

Now, sit back and enjoy the beautiful color, the perfume in the air and, later in summer, some sweet wild black cherries.

Get out there and enjoy MI backyard.

Jennifer Devine is a homesteader with 20 acres of trees. She has a license to sell black cherry, white oak and white pine. She lives off-grid and has chickens, ducks, rabbits and a large garden. She homeschools her two young ones; it's an adventure.





Cottage Pros' owner Chris Howard, on the "barge" and ready to install docks and hoists in Arcadia. Photo by S.A. McFerran.

# Docks

continued from page 1

work boat with a 250 horsepower Evinrude motor on it," Howard explained. "It has down riggers on the back that are 25 (feet tall), that will go 25 feet down. They hold the whole thing stable. It's got forks that also extend out 25 feet in front of the barge so we can, in most cases, set the hoists right on the shore in the fall, and then in the springtime we pick them right back up and take them back to the water," Howard said.

The crew was recently moving and installing boat lifts at Arcadia. The three-man crew included Howard, "Nathan" and "Reed." Reed backed the 30-foot barge down the launch ramp into the lake. Howard started the motor and deployed the downriggers.

When asked the length of their longest dock, Reed replied: "Forty-two sections; those are 10-foot sections. It's on the Deadstream sandbar (on Big Platte Lake) and runs 36 sections, straight out."

"We will stay busy," he said. "We sell dock and hoist, we have lawn crews, we are a full-fledged construction company."

Howard said they can build a deck or a new cottage.

"We are busier than busy."

## Carie's Marine & Home Construction

Carie's Marine has been installing docks and boat lifts in the Ludington area for 21 years, ever since Carl Carie, Sr. bought the business. He said he "inherited" the dock installations from the previous owner and continues to service about 80-plus dock accounts, but the company primarily constructs seawalls, boathouses and decks.

"We do virtually all types of construction, and I sell docks and lifts," he said, adding that they also build garages, sheds and walkways.

The company also does home renovations and remodeling, everything but new home construction.

"We are State of Michigan licensed builders," Carie said.

They are also Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals "trained in the use of natural landscaping technologies and bioengineered erosion control for the protection of Michigan inland lakes," according to the Michigan Clean Water Corps, which provides the training.

"It's getting harder and harder to obtain a permit to put a seawall in," Carie said.

He explained that a seawall needing replacement must be a "working seawall" and not "two posts and a cross piece" which could be replaced with materials such as riprap (rock and stone) or "bio" (bioengineered) logs, if the structure has deteriorated.

"We can make the determination," he said. "The homeowner can dispute it and apply for a permit with EGLE."

Carie's crew of five, all in their 30s, start dock installations at the beginning of May, but "weather is always a factor." They use their 24-foot barge with a hydraulic crane to help with installations. They mainly service Hamlin Lake, but Carie said he has gotten calls from Pentwater and Bass Lake, and the crew completed a job on Harper Lake (in Lake County) and a challenging demolition on a river in Manistee that connects to Lake Michigan.

"We'll look at anything; we'll take on virtually anything, if it's a job of substance," he said.

When calls come in for smaller jobs, he said he tells them: "We can't even look at it until next year."

## Glen Lake Property Management Group

Don Sielaff lives close to the eastern shore of Glen Lake in Leelanau County. He works for Glen Lake Property Management Group, recently purchased by Will and Kirsy Chatfield from former owners Tom and Sue Flerlage.

For 11 years, Sielaff's job has taken him outdoors to install docks on Glen Lake, do fall/spring cleanups of yards, snowplow driveways and lots of what he calls CHS (carry heavy sh\*\*).

Sielaff sold his restaurant business when he was 55. He bumped into Sue Flerlage while grocery shopping one fall and thought the idea of working in and around Glen Lake sounded "romantic." He began taking out docks that September, initially wearing what he called a "shortie wetsuit" and a pair of boots.

"Charlie Stairs, Bill Champion (now retired), and I wore the wetsuits," Sielaff said. "The other guys clunked around in big, sloppy waders. We were like the cool kids 'cause we looked all slick and everything. But when you're in a wetsuit all day, you're wet. You have to peel it off, and you're all pruny."

This year, Stairs — the company's longest-serving employee — bought a pair of waders, and their boss wore a pair that fit nicely and covered him almost to his neck. Sielaff followed suit.



Carie's Marine & Home Construction, of Ludington, installed this flow-thru dock with dual boat lifts. Courtesy photo.



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"When you're done, you drop it and you're dry," he said, with obvious relief.

Only twice this season did the crew have to wear their wetsuits. One of those times was during a six-hour installation of a dock with 5 hoists and 62 sections, 40 of them laid in a straight line into the water 320 feet. Four people began the installation and two more joined them.

"It's somethin'," he said, of the work involved.

Sielaff, now 67, obviously enjoys his work, taking satisfaction in a job well done. In this case, that means installing 48 docks that are perfectly level.

"Docks we put in are straight as an arrow and flat as a pancake ... it's kind of one of our signature things."

He also appreciates working outside.

"I clock in on Glen Lake every day," he said. "You know, some of the early spring mornings when the lake is covered in mist and the loons are calling ... I love it. I absolutely love it."

He said the crew began installations two weeks early, in mid-April, because the weather was so nice. But, what about when it's cold and rainy? "I don't love it so much," he admitted. To keep on schedule, the crew works through cold and sleet. Waves don't deter them, either, except on the largest jobs.

To help the new owners, Sielaff said he signed up for one more year of doing docks.

"The other thing is, it keeps me in shape," he said. "My young poker friends tell me, 'You're in the best shape of any of us.'"

S.A. McFerran coined the term "dockaquacology" after riding along with a crew installing docks on Long Lake. He wrote an article with that title which appeared in Grand Traverse Journal, July 9, 2018.

Pat Stinson is editor of Freshwater Reporter and owns a small dock that sits on land, due to high lake levels the last three seasons.



Don Sielaff, of Glen Lake Property Management, wearing his new slimline waders. Courtesy photo.



# From Turnersport to Pierport and beyond

By MILTON F. WHITMORE

Today's Pierport is a rather interesting little niche on the Lake Michigan coastline, about 15 miles north of the city of Manistee. Between the coastal villages of Onekama and Arcadia, Pierport includes summer cottages and year-round homes which comprise the central core of the area. There are no business amenities and, other than a gushing spring called Old Facefull — yes, the water is icy-cold and sweetly delicious to the tastebuds — there are no named “sights” to visit. Of course, the beach is the main draw, but that is limited by private property to the north and south edges of the right-of-way. Such a demure, unhurried posture was not always so.

However, we are jumping ahead in too much of a hurry, and in Pierport “hurry” is not in the dictionary.

Pierport? Where is the pier? Where is the port? The Lake Michigan coastline in the area offers no refuge for ships of any size. While all of this is true, at one time Pierport was indeed a port. In 1866 a businessman by the name of Turner settled in what was to become Pierport. His idea was to construct a pier stretching into Lake Michigan to transport lumber, fruit, grain and other staple products to Lake Michigan's growing coastal towns. Finished goods would be brought into the pier for transport to Bear Lake and eventually Arcadia, Frankfort and Onekama. In August 1868, a post office was established with the name of Turnersport. Four years later the name was changed to Pierport.

In 1876 a horse-drawn tram railway was built to facilitate the shipment of goods. The tracks were maple, sheathed in steel strapping. They led to Hopkins Pier, a few yards to the north of the present-day public

beach. While this sounded like a good idea, it was soon apparent that the tram could not be well controlled as it traveled down the steep slopes leading to the lakeshore. The tram, cargo and all, would regularly come off the track, spilling merchandise all over the hillside. A better way had to be found, and in 1882 a narrow-gauge railroad was constructed that led to a new pier a few hundred yards north of Hopkins Pier. This allowed for much greater cargo capacity.

During these years, a shrewd businessman named C.W. Perry came to town. Through beneficial land purchases and loans to others for their development plans, Perry was able to accumulate the means to further build Pierport into a thriving community. In several instances Perry was able to foreclose on loans, thus gaining more property. He was no business fool. Back in the 1880s the community boasted of a general store, post office, school, Methodist church, stave/barrel factory, grist mill, blacksmith and a physician. Telegraph poles were set and a twice-weekly horse-drawn stagecoach



Hopkins Pier, with train. Photo courtesy of Historic Arcadia, Michigan.

made a run to Frankfort. The population was about 225 folks in 1882, larger than Arcadia to the north.

Still found in the Arcadia/Onkama/Bear Lake area are names of early settlers: Matteson, Eckels, Johnson, O'Rorke, and Hopkins being just a few. Katie O'Rorke Stedman lives in Pierport. Her father Tom O'Rorke could trace his roots back to the early days of the village.

The demise of the town as a commercial area began in the mid-1880s as sandy soils in surrounding farms became less fertile, causing fruit and potato crops to produce less than they had in the past. Coupled with this was the over-harvesting of timber, mainly hardwoods, so lumber was no longer a staple. In 1887 typhoid fever cast its lethal spell over the community and many residents, several members within families, passed on.

By the turn of the century, the vitality of Pierport as a small business center was virtually gone.

There is little evidence in 2021 of the thriving village and commercial center that once was. However, there is still a



Children play on the beach, near the watery remains of Hopkins Pier. Photo courtesy of Historic Arcadia, Michigan.

community and I'm sure the ghosts of Pierporters long gone still hover and smile gently at the peace, quiet, and serenity that is Pierport today.

Milton Whitmore lives in the Arcadia area with his wife Mary Grace and their four-legged canine companion. He taught middle school science and math in Onkama until his retirement. He is active with the Arcadia Lions Club and Arcadia Area Historical Society.

## From the Farm: Spring greens and growing roots

By NICOLE MEZESKE.

Photo courtesy of Z&N Farm, Bear Lake.

*You know what I love about living in Northern Michigan? Each season provides us with new and abundant gifts for the senses.*

I've spent most of my life in places without four seasons. Where growing seasons are year-round, but food systems are so disconnected that I was unaware of what was in season. When I met Zac and heard the stories of Northern Michigan, I was smitten — with him and this place. He told me about picking asparagus and morel mushrooms in spring, fresh strawberry shortcake and tart cherry pies in summer, the crispest sweet apples and the “fall color tour,” and the smell of a freshly cut Christmas tree in winter. The tastes, smells, textures and incredible views make this among the most beautiful places I've ever been. When I visited Bear Lake for the first time, I knew right away that I wanted to live here, that I wanted to raise our children here.

And several years later, here I am, co-owner of Z&N Farm. The screen door is open and I'm listening to the birds sing, watching and smelling the apple and cherry trees blossom. When the farm came alive with spring greens, a customer of ours said that our salad greens were becoming a new sign of the turning of the season. What an honor it was for me to hear that, to feel so connected to a place, a community, a season.

I was raised in a military family, so I



never stayed in one place for more than a few years. I don't have a hometown in the traditional sense of the word. To be given the opportunity to grow roots in this wonderful place means more than I have words to express. I watch my daughter [2-and-a-half years old] picking morel mushrooms in the woods that her great-grandparents foraged and holding fresh asparagus with the biggest smile, as she proudly says, “I LOVE ASPARAGUS.”

### Spring into summer chores

We are over here growing hearts, roots and lots of veggies. My daily commute consists of a quarter-mile trail through century-old apple trees with farm dogs and a toddler at my side. We are greeted by robins and killdeer in the fields.

By the time I arrive at the farm with our

toddler in tow, Farmer Zac has already been down at the farm for a couple hours, working by the first light of the rising sun. Every morning the crops, especially those in the greenhouses, need watering. Currently, we are nursing transplants that are not yet ready to plant in the fields. They require hand watering and careful attention not to dry out, especially with the hot spring days we have had.

This time of year, our lives revolve around prepping beds by cultivating (removing weeds), top dressing with compost, transplanting or direct seeding. All our amendments (compost or organic fertilizers) are added by hand. All the transplanting is done by hand, and direct seeding with hand tools. Much of the work is physically demanding, and the planting requires precise spacing to be able to

cultivate and water efficiently for optimal growth.

As charming as a life of farming may seem, it also requires a high level of resources and dedication. Much time, thought and research are put into the planning and implementation of each crop. But I am regularly amazed at the beauty and magic of how a tiny seed grows into food that nourishes our bodies and how these plants are so perfectly designed to provide for us.

Our soundtrack for the farm consists of the birds singing, farm equipment humming, and the sweet ticking of sprinklers working properly. Each day we must be prepared for the unexpected; we start each day with a plan, but what the farm needs can often change by the minute. Whether that be a broken sprinkler or tractor needing repair or specific crop requiring more water than another. Life on the farm keeps us on our toes, there is never a dull moment, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

A true sign of the season for us is marked by the start of farmers markets. The hustle and bustle of harvest: wash, pack, market, repeat. Surrounded by other talented farmers, bakers and makers who constantly inspire and amaze. There is so much dedication, passion and creativity in this community. No doubt, all of us inspired and fueled by the gifts of this shared place we call home. Want to see for yourself? Head to your local farmers market!

Meet Nicole at the family's Z&N Farm booth on Thursdays at the Elberta Farmers Market and on select Saturdays at the Manistee Farmers Market. Details at: [www.zenfarmllc.com/farm-stand](http://www.zenfarmllc.com/farm-stand)



## THAT'S THE SPIRIT

By CHELSEA WHITE



### In the Weeds

In the service industry, there will always come a moment when you have too many guests, too many drinks to make, too much food to run. Table one needs more ketchup, table two was just seated and needs to be greeted and have waters dropped off, and booth four needs their check so they can leave, (and then that table can get seated again, perpetuating the cycle). Meanwhile, you're stuck at table six giving the equivalent of a Ph.D. dissertation on the two different types of stout beers you have on draft. Inevitably, they'll order an IPA instead. In this moment, you'll have an out-of-body experience, where you float above your panicked, adrenaline-filled body and realize, "I'm in the weeds. And I may never make it out."

Then your shift ends, you're out of the weeds, you count your money and laugh at the ridiculousness of your day. Or you go home and curl up in a tiny ball and rail at your loved ones for a bit and then laugh at the ridiculousness of your day. Regardless, all the frantic racing around, the juggling of a million thoughts and requests bouncing around in your mind, they eventually melt away — until the next time, of course. And there will always be a next time.

When I began writing this column, I didn't fully appreciate the multitude of parallels I would be able to draw between life and the service industry. I didn't realize until recently how many lessons I've learned from my career that have served me so well in my daily jaunts into the world. But this is a big one to me.



COVID juice photo by Nathan Dumlao, Unsplash.

We all end up in the weeds in our lives. Admittedly, these moments typically last longer than one 8- to 12-hour shift, but the concept is sound. Who hasn't needed to get their car in for an oil change, get to work on time, meet a deadline, get the dog to the vet or the kids to the doctor and still figure out what's for dinner?

Even more so are the big moments that seem to pile on all at once. I navigated filing for a divorce on my own while entering a pandemic, being unemployed, and supporting my children. I was most decidedly in the weeds then. That shift is finally over, and for the moment, my problems aren't overwhelming. Everything is a season, though, so I'm sure at some point my shifts of being weeded won't just be confined to work again.

The problem with being in the weeds is that it's so incredibly difficult to remind yourself that this state can't last forever. It feels like an eternity in the moment, truly, it feels like it will never end. In the middle of the most brutal of shifts, I have looked around and thought in disbelief to myself, "This is it. I live here now, in this unending loop of a moment. There is no blood left in my veins, only adrenaline,



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coffee and despair." (We service industry folks do tend toward the dramatic from time to time.) I rarely manage to convince myself that it will all be over eventually. Honestly, I don't even know if it would help if I could, because it wouldn't change that, in that moment, my hair is on fire and the world is burning down around me. (Dramatic, remember?)

I guess the ultimate point to all of this is that I may not gain peace from the knowledge that the hard moments end eventually, but at some point, I DO gain peace. I'm usually tired and sore, but I walk away a little proud that I survived another shift. I think we all walk away from our time in the weeds with varying levels of this feeling of accomplishment, and even if it seems like an impossible feat in the moment, maybe it's something to find a glimmer of hope in. So, take it from this seasoned bartender: the shift always will end.

#### The Shifty

The Grey Ghost in Detroit has the perfect representation on their menu of what most of us service industry folks want in a cocktail: a can of beer, a shot of whiskey, and a slider. Sometimes when you're tired, simplicity is best. For your beer, search out Altes, a classic lager from Detroit, and I recommend Bulleit Bourbon for your shot. Grill yourself a simple burger and practice a little self-care in the form of slightly unhealthy indulgence. Cheers!

Chelsea White grew up working in her parents' former restaurant on Beaver Island. She's been behind the bar on and off since she was 20 and is passionate about all things alcohol. When she's not working or on the beach, you can find her homeschooling her daughters, dabbling in writing or experimenting with new cocktails at home.

## The final flight of the Passenger Pigeon

By P.G. MISTY SHEEHAN

*When I can shoot my rifle clear  
At pigeons in the skies  
I'll bid farewell to pork and beef  
And live on pigeon pies.*

From the Mason County  
Record, March 1868

When Europeans first came to Michigan in the 1600s, passenger pigeons (a.k.a., wild pigeons) were the most common bird in the region if not the most common in the world, according to the American Bird Conservancy. In 1914, the last passenger pigeon died in the Cincinnati Zoo. Her name was Martha, and she was 29 years old.

Barry Yeoman in Audubon Magazine relates that in 1850 Potawatomi Chief Simon Pokagon, while camping on the headwaters of the Manistee River, said, "As I listened more intently I concluded that instead of the tramping of horses [I heard] it was distant thunder; ... While I gazed in wonder and astonishment, I beheld moving towards me in an unbroken front millions of pigeons."

John Jacob Audubon suggested that there could be 1.1 billion of the birds in one flight he witnessed. Several sources put their total numbers at 3-4 billion. In North America, their home was Eastern and Midwestern U.S. and Canada.

According to Project Passenger Pigeon, many bodies of water in Michigan were "likely" named for them, including Pigeon Lake in Oceana County and Pigeon Lake in Benzie County. In her book, "Memorial of a Half Century", Bela Hubbard described

an enormous nesting of passenger pigeons in Benzie County in 1874.

The slate-blue birds came south after the snow melted and mated, usually resulting in one egg per female. They nested in Michigan forests, most notably along the lakeshore. Beech, maple, and hemlock trees were crammed with so many nests that branches would snap off and tree trunks fall. A diary from Crystal Lake states that the writer could take a stick to low hung branches and get enough birds for his family's dinner. For many years, the flocks were thought inexhaustible.

In September, passenger pigeons filled farmers' fields with their numbers and filled their bird bellies with grain. Capturing pigeons was added to hunting and fishing as a side means for farmers. A tale from the Ludington area, by Rose Hawley, relates how the pigeons were caught. First, a space on the ground, about 15 feet by 30 feet, was cleared between the nesting and feeding areas, and a net was put down. (It was illegal to place a net near nesting areas.) Next, the ground was baited with grain and salt. The hunter hid in a blind made of tree branches, called a "bough house." A stool (live decoy) pigeon was tied to a string that was tied to a springboard. The board was bounced up and down to make the stool pigeon flap its wings and entice others in the flock. (Hunters spent time looking for a good stool pigeon.) When the net was judged full, it was drawn closed, and the birds trapped. A good catch was 6-10 birds; at market each brought about \$2.50, a significant amount at the time.

The trapped birds were killed by pinching



Mounted male passenger pigeon at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Photo by James St. John. Creative Commons by 2.0.

their necks with a pair of tweezers. They were placed in barrels with ice. With the development of the railroad after the Civil War, the birds could be transported to Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston for pigeon pies or to be used by shooting clubs for targets.

The invention and spread of the telegraph also helped lead to the bird's demise. Reports of their whereabouts and numbers could be quickly communicated.

As stated on the Project Passenger Pigeon website: "Michigan became the first and only state or province to ban all killing of the passenger pigeon. Unfortunately, the law was passed in 1898, way too late to save the bird but (it was) a significant moment in passenger pigeon history none the less."

Trapshooting and commercial slaughtering killed the birds off too rapidly to restore the flocks.

By 1880, the nesting sites became smaller and a site along the Platte River saw the last significant nesting. In the 1890s wild flock sizes had diminished to dozens. Then they disappeared totally. Various theories about their demise, besides the loss from hunting, have surfaced. One maintains that the destruction of nesting habitat in Michigan, due to lumbering, also had a major impact on the bird's declining numbers, but none of the other theories can explain fully the bird's extinction.

People have written elegies about the pigeon. Simon Pokagon (1830-1899), chief of the Potawatomies, said, "It was proverbial with our fathers that if the Great Spirit in His wisdom could have created a more elegant bird in plumage, form and movement, he never did." Author and conservationist Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) wrote, "Men still live who, in their youth, remember pigeons, trees still live who, in their youth, were shaken by a living wind. But a few decades hence only the oldest oaks will remember, and at long last only the hills will know."

The Passenger Pigeon, like the forests of massive pine trees that once covered Michigan, are gone forever.

See a Michigan State Historical Marker about the passenger pigeon at Oden State Fish Hatchery, north of Petoskey, on U.S. Highway 31.

P.G. Misty Sheehan is a retired professor of humanities and former executive director of the Benzie Area Historical Society Museum. She lives near the lakeshore and enjoys seeing and hearing birds.



# Golf

continued from page 1

## Arcadia Bluffs

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Arcadia

arcadiabluffs.com

Pro Shop: (800) 494-8666

Lodging: (800) 494-8666

Dining at The Restaurant at Arcadia Bluffs: (231) 889-3009. Main dining room has a dress code. Lakeview Bar and Room is more for the après golf scene.

Dining at The Restaurant at the South Course: (231) 889-7707

No. of holes: 18 at The Bluffs, 18 at The South Course

Highlights: Drinks in the Adirondack chairs overlooking Lake Michigan (The Bluffs). Complimentary airport shuttle service for lodging guests. Practice range, short-game facility, Senior tees, GPS-enabled carts or caddies.

Special Rates: Senior Tuesday, Ladies Wednesday, Twilight All-You-Can-Hit Practice Area. Lodging with golf "add-on" rates.

Player's commentary: The Bluffs Course is a bucket-list destination experience for golf fanatics, domestic and foreign. This course is most often compared to those of Ireland or Scotland, mostly because of the dune grass rough areas. (Also, Big Water views.) So, if you play safely in the fairway, you'll have an enjoyable round. The red tees make this quite possible, BUT if you end up in the dune grass rough it may be difficult to get it back to fairway play. Also, beware when a course terms their sand traps "bunkers" and provides ladders to safely access your ball. Many times, playing "back" is the only option to get out. The pace of play is strictly enforced, with warnings to speed-up play coming over your in-cart screen and enforced by the very active rangers. With tee times set every 8 minutes, the ranger's job is to keep the balls (and players) moving. As a result of the maxed-out booking schedule, this course is inclined to show a bit of wear-and-tear by midsummer. Nonetheless, this course is fun, challenging, breathtaking and definitely worth doing!

Arcadia Bluffs – The South Course. Located south of The Bluffs, at 13637 Northwood Dr. (M-22), with a Bear Lake mailing address. Built to provide the additional 18 holes to make resort status, this is the workhorse course to The Bluffs' attraction status. Or, as the website states: "...the goal is to capture the simplistic nature of the courses from the early days of golf." What it lacks in standout Lake Michigan views, The South Course makes up in playability. You'll find a more relaxed pace of play, less rough roughs, and sand traps more likely than bunkers. Still a challenging course, however. A more laid-back feel than The Bluffs — even when visiting the bar and restaurant, where you are likely to find golfers and locals rather than the well-dressed resort crowd.

## Manistee National Golf & Resort

4797 Grant Hwy. (US-31)

Manistee

manisteenational.com

Pro Shop/Lodging/Dining:  
(231) 398-0123

Number of holes: 36. The Retreat (formerly Cant-Hooke Valley) and The Revenge (formerly Cutter's Ridge).

Highlights: Golf School, Practice Facility, Driving Range, Putting Greens

Special Rates: Twilight, Junior, Senior, and Replay after 18

Player's commentary: The Retreat is the workhorse course and the first course where I ever participated in league play. This is a very nice players' course where repeated play leads to a lower score. Despite the volume of players, greens and fairways are always in good condition, and pace of play and enforcement depend on the number of players on the course. New owners took over management of the courses three years ago. Their primary goal: getting the courses back to their designated configurations. This entailed brush and tree removal to increase air flow, which also reduced the "bugginess" factor, especially in still low-lying areas. Drainage was improved and some sand traps added. One golfer friend says they did this to speed the pace of play. If your ball is in the trap, you are not spending time looking for it in the woods. The added traps are very playable, and sand is part of the game!

The Revenge is the attraction course, with woods and wetlands. The new owners have improved the playability of this course by adding bathrooms and a concession stand at the driving range, as you turn from the front nine to the back nine.

The dining and bar areas (The Grille and The Lounge) have nice indoor/outdoor seating (well before COVID-19), and there's a tent for events, tournaments or overflow seating. Expect good menu choices and usually a Michigan beer on tap.

### 18-Hole Courses.

This section starts with an obituary. After rumors circulated for more than three years, news is The Heathlands in Onkama has been sold to Consumers Energy and is closed to all golfers. This saddens me, as it was my home course. Its closure forces players to choose other courses.

### Bear Lake Highlands

11685 Chippewa Hwy. (US-31)

Bear Lake

bearlakehighlands.com

Pro Shop: (231) 398-3980

Number of holes: 18

Highlights: Pretty ponds, shade trees, forested boundaries, Bear Lake view

Special Rates: Twilight, Juniors Daily, Children under 10 play free with a paid round. Season passes.

Player's commentary: The front nine is fairly open with a good mix of water and sand. There is a lovely view of Bear Lake from the T Box on hole number 9 ... a



Dawn breaks over hole number 6 on Retreat, one of two 18-hole golf courses found at Manistee National Golf & Resort in Manistee. Courtesy photo.

good moment to reflect on Northwest Michigan's golf bounty. The back nine encompasses more dog-legged layouts. All the par 3 holes are deceptive and tricky. Overall, a good player's course with changes coming! I'm told 2021 will be a short season with the course shutting down in September, after Labor Day. This is necessary to do some serious course reworking. The management team expects to be done with the makeover and be ready in mid-July for the 2022 golf season. In the meantime, enjoy the course and don't forget the grab-and-go hot dogs and snacks in the Pro Shop.

### Manistee Golf & Country Club

500 Cherry St.

Manistee

manistee golfandcc.com

Pro Shop/Dining at Knickers Pub:  
(231) 723-2509

Number of holes: 18

Highlights: Lake Michigan views, established 1901

Special Rates: Weekday, Twilight, Sunset, Junior

Player's commentary: The layout of this course offers several holes with a view of Lake Michigan. The fairways appear deceptively simple, but repeated play on this course makes me believe they are actually domed, graded to slope down from either side of center. There are only a couple holes with water hazards, but the one on the front nine (#5) seems to have a magnetic draw for your ball. This is also true for the road holes (#7, #8) along Cherry Street. All can be avoided if you keep the slice out of your drive! The back nine has more elevation, since the holes are cut around the sand dunes along the Lake Michigan shore. Created in the 1900s, this is truly Manistee County's heirloom course. A club dress code for players bans cut-offs, and collared shirts are preferred.

Après golf in Knicker's Pub offers a nice variety of grab-and-go, turn-the-corner food choices or sit-down fare with some tasty specials. Non-members ordering alcoholic beverages must purchase a \$5 Social Membership first.

### The 9-Hole Course.

Smaller courses can be friendlier, but just as challenging, and sometimes offer perks the larger ones are too busy to add.

### Fawn Crest Golf Course

553 Seaman Road

Wellston

fawncrestgolf.com

Pro Shop: (231) 848-4174

Number of holes: 9

Highlights: Surrounded by Manistee National Forest, True Family-Friendly Recreational Course.

Special Rates: Twilight, Senior, Veteran and Youth

Player's commentary: I haven't played here, but after hearing praise and testimonials from others, I intend to give this course a try! Hearsay: the course is enjoyed by experienced golfers as well as family groups and learners. There is a snack bar, and you're allowed to bring a cooler. On holidays, they often fire up the grill for hot dogs. I'm told they're working on putting together a couple of scramble leagues.

Wherever you choose to play this season, I hope this overview will help you select a course suited to your group's level of play. Everyone is expecting a busy golf season, so call ahead, make a time, and be on time and be ready.

Enjoy, and ... PLAY GOLF!

Gail Tooley is a self-described "well-educated beach bum." After spending years down island, she is happy to be home in Onkama and enjoying golf, tennis, Tai chi on the beach, walking her dog Lincoln and gardening.



The Betsie Valley Course at Crystal Mountain is stunning in June. Courtesy photo.

## FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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