

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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Do you know who she is?

Mystery Girl

By GORDON BERG

Has anyone ever said something to you that came so completely out of the blue that their comment stopped you cold? This happened to me a few years ago. I was talking with James Kieszkowski, the driving force behind Manistee's Oak Grove Cemetery, before he passed away in 2021. He had helped my father and me find the unmarked grave of my great-grandmother, Anna Martinson, and place a beautiful gravestone on it.

When we were all done, Jim asked me, "So, who's the infant girl in your great-grandmother's grave?"

"Huh?!"
Everything stopped. Our family's unfinished business had been resolved when Jim served up a new one.

So, climb out on this branch of my family's tree with me. Hang on. Let me tell you a story.

Maxwelltown settlers

Anna and Nels Martinson were my great-grandparents. In the late 1800s, they emigrated from the Skåne region in southwest Sweden to live in the U.S. They were young parents with big dreams, yearning for a better world for themselves and their children. Nels was a skilled blacksmith and had heard Manistee was a good place to make a living during those

legendary logging days. They settled in Maxwelltown, close to all the logging mills around Lake Manistee at the time. In 1892, Anna gave birth to their last child, a son they named Harry. This boy would become my grandfather.

Two years later, in March 1894, tragedy struck. Here is the story from the Manistee Daily News, May 14, 1894:

COMES TO THE SURFACE AFTER BEING IN THE WATER TWO MONTHS. MRS. MARTINSON'S BODY IS FOUND.

One night, nearly two months ago, Mrs. Nels Martinson, of Maxwelltown, while suffering from the grip, arose from her bed and wandered from the house in her night cloths (sic). Since then no trace of the unfortunate woman could be found. Search was made, the little lake was dragged, all to no purpose. This



morning, as Charles O'Neil, a riverman in the employe (sic) of Babcock & Son, was walking over the logs, he discovered a body floating in the water of the boom. Coroner Cris Cron was at once notified and an investigation proved it to be the body of Mrs. Martinson.

Anna, my great-grandmother, was only 29 years old.

Over time, all the pain from that tragic night had been laid to rest ... or so it seemed. Back in those days, people who died by suicide were buried in unmarked graves. This was the case for Anna, too. Swept beneath the rug of history.

Oak Grove Cemetery

Fast forward 80 years. My wife and I would often take Harry, now my grandfather, to Manistee to visit friends and family.

continued on page 2

Area Events

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

APRIL

- 6 Classic Movies, Manistee**
10am & 7pm. \$2. "A League of Their Own", (1992). Unconfirmed. The Vogue Theatre, 383 River St. Movie schedule: 231-222-5199
- 6 Feldenkrais: Exercise Class, Kaleva**
11am-12pm, \$5, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 6 Humankind series**
7pm. Free. "The Current Impact of Automation on the American Workforce," Zoom presentation by WSCC Professor of Information Technology Kellon Petzak. Go to: bit.ly/humankindwinter2022.
- 7 Senior Meals, Kaleva**
12pm, Free for Manistee County residents. \$3 donation optional. Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 7 Easter Centerpiece Workshop, Arcadia**
6pm. \$40, registration required: 517-449-7615. Trinity Lutheran Church, 17191 3rd St. Victoria Mekas of Victoria's Florals, Benzonia
- 8 Easter Egg Hunt RSVP Due**
Circle Rockin' S Children's Farm, Free Soil. See April 12 event for details.
- 8 Ludington Area Catholic Fish Fry**
4:30-6pm or until sold out! \$12 Adults (8-piece) /\$8 Kids (4-piece). Drive-thru fish fry. Dine-in option. Ludington Area Catholic School, 700 E Bryant Road. Enter on Bryant, exit on Monona.
- 8 Lenten Fish Fry, Baldwin**
4:30-7pm, \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, free for under 4. St Ann's Senior Center, 690 9th St.
- 8 Live Music at the Brewery with Gabriel James**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 8 Live Music at St. Ambrose Cellars with Barefoot**
6pm, Free, 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 8 The Accidentals live in concert, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts**
7:30, \$25-35 for adults, \$10 under 18. 101 Maple St., Manistee. WSCC Performance Arts Series.
- 9 Birdwatching Series, Crystal Mountain**
8-9am. Meet at Michigan Legacy Art Park trailhead. See Facebook page for cancellations. 7300 Mountainside Dr., Thompsonville
- 9 Annual Midwest Crane Count**
Volunteers visit local marshes to count Sandhill and Whooping cranes. More at: <http://cranecount.org>
- 9 Feeding America Food Truck, Fountain**
10am, Drive Thru, Sherman Township Hall, 3854 Main St.
- 9 Live Music with Ourselves at St. Ambrose Cellars**
6pm. Free. 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah

continued on page 8

Someone dim the lights, please

By KEVIN HOWELL

It's a gorgeous night. Standing on my front porch, I look to the sky to soak in the view of constellations, stars and planets. Out of the corner of my eye, I can't help but notice the neighbor's shining porch light and, down the street, the glare of an overhead light.

I can still see some stars, brighter planets and the round moon in the sky. But so much of the neighborhood's night sky is lost from an overabundance of unnecessary, bright,

artificial light. Bummer.

My disappointment aside, losing a better view of the night sky is not the only problem. I decided to investigate after one

of our Freshwater Reporter readers (thank you, Susan!) suggested sharing information to coincide with International Dark Sky Week, April 22-30.

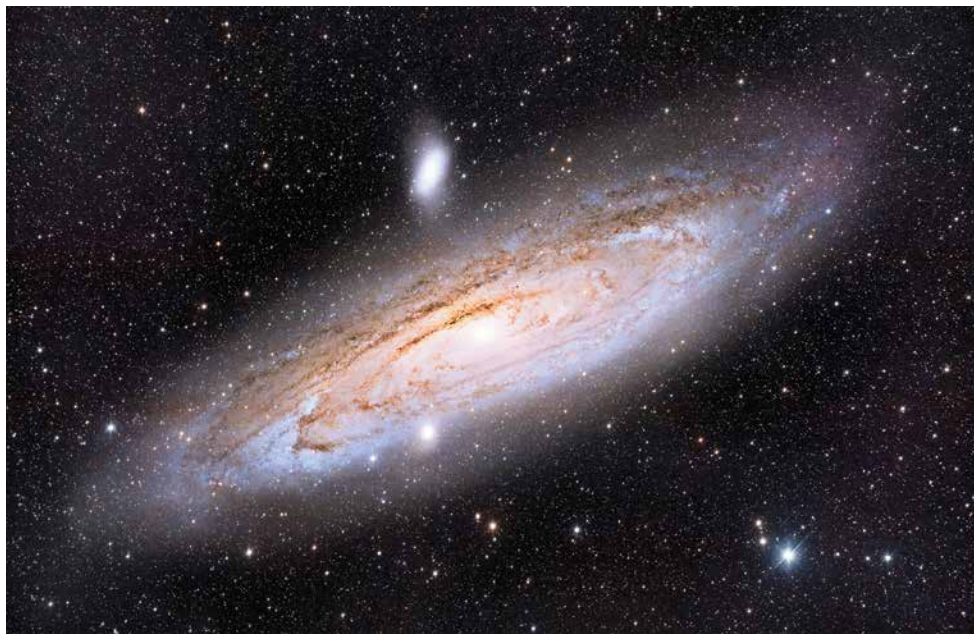
To learn more about the effects of artificial light, I reached out to several experts.

According to Professor Sally Oey, University of Michigan Department of Astronomy, artificial light is linked to a number of diseases and disorders in human beings, and affects wildlife as well.

"The artificially brightened sky can cause sleep disorders for humans and other creatures," Oey said. "In humans, you can refer to the AMA (American Medical Association) report stating that light pollution-caused sleep disruption is linked to cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and more recently we also know that sleep issues are linked to dementia."

She also noted that migrating birds, which use the moon and stars to navigate, can be confused by artificial light and end up colliding with buildings. Overly

continued on page 6



Andromeda Galaxy. Photo by Dan Dallolmo, of Traverse City.

Mystery girl

continued from page 1

A trip to Manistee was never complete without stopping by Oak Grove Cemetery. He'd pause by various markers and tell us humorous stories of those beneath our feet. And, every time we drove out of the cemetery, he would ask me to stop the car by the low-rising hill on the south as we approached the gates. He would quietly stare up at the knoll and then say, "Okay. We can go now."

After the third such visit, I finally asked him, "Grandpa, what's up there?"

"My mother," he said, tears welling up in his aging eyes. "My mother's up there on that hill somewhere, in an unmarked grave." And bits of the story spilled onto his cheek.

Grandpa died in 1984. About 10 years later my father and I began a quest to make sure that Anna Martinson would not be forgotten to time. We were grateful to Jim for helping us make that happen. Times had changed. She deserved it. It was the least we could do to honor her short time on this planet. We owed her so much more.

Unanswered questions

But what about the infant girl who shares the grave with my great-grandmother?



Photo by Gordon Berg, assisted by Lauren Berg. Flowers by Lavender Florals, Manistee.

Why? Who were her parents? Why an unmarked grave?

Here's what I learned from Oak Grove Cemetery documents. Her name was Amanda A. Anderson. Seven months old. Female. Cause of death: meningitis. Buried April 25, 1895. "N.S." – No funeral

service. Really?! Why?

To learn more, I sat down with Mark Fedder, executive director of the Manistee County Historical Museum. He's an amazing historian. He found the article noted above. But Amanda eluded even him. He suggested I visit the County

Clerk's office to check for birth and death certificates to learn the identity of her parents. Their records go back to 1867, but they had nothing about Amanda either. It was as though this little girl didn't exist.

But she did. And, she needs a marker of her own. Every life, even a forgotten one, deserves to be remembered. To the extent possible, I owe it to Amanda to provide as much information as possible on that stone. After all, for 127 years she and my great-grandmother have been softening each other's pain. A timeless act of love.

So, I am asking the readers of Freshwater Reporter to help me. My skills as a gumshoe historian are limited here. Perhaps one of you can shed light on this story and help me write a fitting end to it.

If you have any clues, tips or suggestions about who Amanda A. Anderson may be, please contact me through the Freshwater Reporter email address: editor@freshwater-reporter.com.

Amanda deserves a stone. If we don't do this for her, who will?

With deep gratitude, G.B.

Gordon Berg is a descendant 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 survivor of the Miami Hurricane of 1926. www.harryandthehurricane.com

OPINION

When the internet fails rural areas, who loses?

By JOSHUA ELIE

Do you care if you are getting what you are paying for? I do. Say you are making monthly payments on a truck promised to get you more than 25 miles to the gallon, when, in fact, you are only getting 9. That is basically what I am getting for my monthly internet payments.

Almost everyone is paying every month for cell phones and computers, and every internet service provider promises high speed. But is it, really? The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines "High Speed" as more than 25 Mbps download speed. Mbps (megabytes per second) or "meg" is basically the rating of how fast your "device" (cell phone/tablet/computer) is working online. I strongly suggest everyone take a moment and go to speedtest.net to see if you are getting what you are paying for. I was promised over 25 Mbps, and I'm only getting 9 Mbps on a good day — and this is with the best connection available in my area. At this speed, online video isn't an option, so no video chat, no online TV/movies, and no Zoom for the kids to go to online school during the quarantine.

Now, I'm an if-it-ain't-broke-don't-fix-it kind of guy. I'm not big on video chat, online TV/movies, don't have kids, and I'm definitely not a "gamer." However, mid-May last year, my internet service flat out broke 3-4 days a week. Basically, I only had service half the week until mid-November.

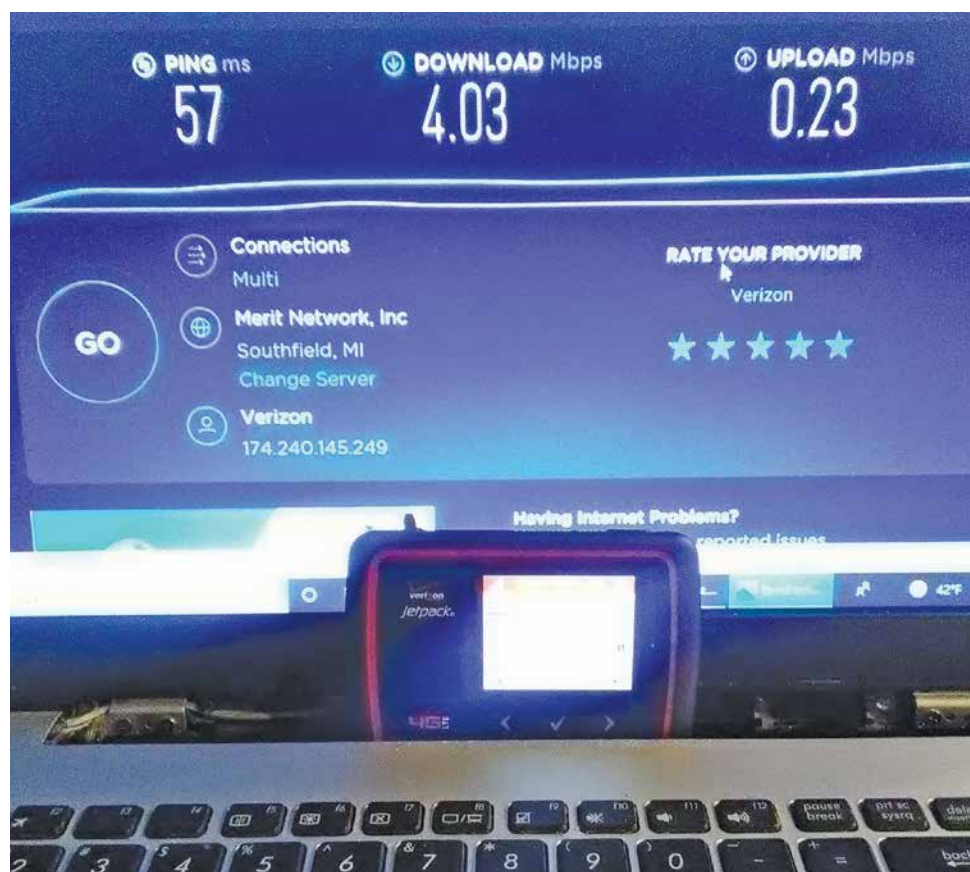
For me, satellite service isn't an option. Satellite service relies on a clear pathway (no tall trees or other obstructions) from satellite coordinates in the sky to your dish equipment. This connection can be lost when a big storm cloud passes overhead and when snow and ice accumulate on the dish, forcing you to brush it clean.

There are only two non-satellite options

in my area: Verizon and AT&T. Both provide about the same service, and both have their weak spots. I chose Verizon, offering two cell phones, three computers, and three Wi-Fi connections in my package. First, it took a month to figure out how to navigate Verizon's automated telephone answering system and find an actual person to talk to, then even longer to find the person I wanted to talk to, then a brick wall. The brick wall is no cell/internet tower close enough to my area.

Cell towers are what our devices connect to. The techs at Verizon told me the closest tower to my location was 70% beyond capacity. I wanted to offer my own property for them to build another tower, and each time I contacted them with my offer I was told I would get a response within five days. I did this every week for months, with no response from their "Real Estate" team. Those are the people who decide when and where to build. Eventually, I got in touch with the office of state Sen. Curt VanderWall, who represents the 35th District, including the counties of Benzie, Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason and Missaukee. It was a month before his office received a response. Finally, on Dec. 2, they did. Verizon has no interest in upgrading anything in my area.

Here, in a tourist destination, this is an economic disaster. When the internet goes down, area businesses have a difficult time transacting business. Without an internet connection for credit card machines, businesses cannot receive approval for



A quick visit to speedtest.net can show you how fast your internet connection is. Photo by Joshua Elie.

card purchases. ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) rely on the internet. Lack of access to ATM service means businesses cannot withdraw cash needed to make change for customers. With so many businesses depending solely on cash sales during "down" times, our area banks had to start limiting how much change each business could withdraw per day. I went to a new club in town to shoot pool and couldn't get four quarters for a dollar. For residents and visitors, out-of-service ATMs mean no cash to make purchases. Bridge Cards require electronic approval. Without it, card users cannot buy food or access cash.

If you're a Verizon customer and you want to talk to a real person there about connection problems, or anything else you pay them for, have your account pin number ready and call 1-800-837-4966 between 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. When the automated system asks your reason for calling, say "customer care." Do not say "customer service" because their system

does not recognize the word "service" and will send you back to the directory. The automated "voice" will ask again for something specific, and you answer again, "customer care." If you say anything other than "customer care" — or if the system hears your TV, radio, or just people talking in the background — you will be put back into the directory. After answering correctly, you will be given a wait time, and you may opt for the call back if you're unable to wait. A real person will call you back and will either help you or send you to the right person. Last year "customer care" was happy to credit \$150 to my account for my lack of service.

I am sure you have noticed how often I have used the terms "I," "me," and "my," and it shouldn't be like this. It should be "we," "us," and "ours" because it "is." We are all in this together.

Joshua Elie is retired building contractor, a musician, and now enjoys life as a homesteader.

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The buzz about beekeeping

By **CARMELITTA TIFFANY**

I've always had a special place in my heart and on my palate for honey. In addition to being better for you than sugar, honey contains properties that help curb allergies, especially when sourced from local apiaries (bee colonies kept by beekeepers).

One cool spring day a few years ago, I noticed a few bees in my home's mudroom. I shoed them outside and went about my routine. Later that day, I heard humming; it seemed to come from the basement. I followed the sound into my root cellar and found a huge swarm of bees hanging from the light fixture I had inadvertently left on. Fortunately, a beekeeper I know came immediately to collect them. He told me the swarm was attracted by the light and warmth of the bulb and had entered through a hole in the siding. I patched up the hole and made sure the light was off from then on.

That up-close experience with bees intrigued me, and I became an admirer of the little pollinators.

Recently, the Scottville Beekeepers of Mason County held a day-long workshop to educate the community on the importance of raising bees. The workshop included explanations of equipment needed to host a hive and the process of beekeeping, from setting up a hive to harvesting honey.

About 80 interested "probies" (newbies, in bee speak) attended the workshop. Many wanted to know the cost and care involved in starting their own apiary. Some in the audience were farmers hoping to increase pollination in their fields and orchards. Others were interested in harvesting their own honey and beeswax, and some were seeking ways to protect our dwindling bee population.

The seasoned keepers explained how to get started in the beekeeper business, with an average cost of \$500 for the hive boxes,



Above. Beekeeper Anne Maurer, from Victory Apiary, inspects one of their hives during a seminar held at their operation. Photo by Carmelitta Tiffany. Right. An electric bee fence, at Walhalla Honey, protects hives from hungry bears waking from hibernation. Photo by Joan Riise.



inner panels and bees. That doesn't include the cost of installing an electric fence around the hive boxes when there are bears in the area. Bears will do anything to get a taste of honey.

Detailed presentations covered the anatomy of the hive and three types of bees that work together to make it successful. The Queen bee is the sole female able to reproduce, with sterile female worker bees tending to the hive and collecting the pollen. Male drone bees exist solely to fertilize the queen, and it's not as easy a life as it sounds. The Queen will be fertilized by about fifty drones, but, once they have done their job, they die. If they are lucky enough not to "hook up" with the Queen, they are kicked out of the hive in fall by the worker bees. This conserves the hive's resources.

Bees communicate in two ways, by emitting pheromones (scents) and vibrating inside the hive. The Queen has her own distinct pheromones and can sense other queens in the hive. During the laying season, the queen produces up to 2,000 eggs a day. The fertilized eggs will become workers, and those not fertilized will become drones. The workers tend to the newly laid eggs and emerging larva. They even prepare "royal jelly" for eggs destined to become queens.

Worker bees also act as foragers, leaving the nest to gather pollen, nectar, resin, and

water. Here's an interesting fact: As bees fly, they become charged with static electricity. This makes pollen adhere to their bodies as they visit flowers.

For more information, visit www.scottvillebeekeepers.org. The Scottville beekeepers meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at Scottville United Methodist Church, 114 W. State Street. For more about the group, email Lenny Feldberg at ifneedbee10@gmail.com. Members are excited to share their love and experience and would be glad to mentor beginning beekeepers.

Carmelitta Tiffany resides in Mason County, where she spent the last 30-some years enjoying the blessings of rural life. She is a semi-retired journalist who serves those needing "wordy" advice through her business, West MI Editorial Services.



Candace Ginn and Michelle Tiles explain the anatomy and biology of bees during last month's beekeepers workshop. Photo by Carmelitta Tiffany.

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Learn to plant a bee garden

The Scottville Beekeepers of Mason County will discuss pollinator gardens at 6:30 p.m., April 28, at Scottville United Methodist Church, 114 W. State Street.

For those, like myself, who prefer to leave beekeeping to the experts, planting a pollinator garden is a fun way to help preserve our bee population. And help is needed. Eighty percent of our food is dependent on pollination by honeybees and other insects. Farmers and orchardists hire beekeepers to maintain colonies in the vicinity of their crops, to ensure proper pollination. Many who grow food crops are now aware of the role pesticides play in harming bees.

Even if you only have a flowerbed or two in your yard, you can choose pollinator varieties of plants to help bees collect pollen, nectar, resin and water. Water cools the hive in summer. Pollen becomes bee bread (used for body building), nectar is dried to become honey (used for energy), and resin becomes propolis (bee glue) and is used to combat disease and plug holes in the hive.

The list of pollinator plants is extensive. Try cultivating herbs, such as **lavender, catmint, sage, cilantro, thyme, fennel and borage**. Grow perennial flowers: **crocus, buttercup, aster, hollyhocks, anemone, snowdrops and geraniums**. Annuals to plant include **calendula, alyssum, poppy, sunflower, zinnia, cleome, and heliotrope**. Not only do they make great pollinator gardens, some of these attract hummingbirds.

For help planning a pollinator garden, visit www.pollinators.msu.edu.





Pre Judge Us and Dis Crime In A Nation

Prejudice and Discrimination in the United States of America

Editor's note: April is Diversity Month. Our writer shares childhood recollections of being "different."

By **RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS**

A little girl version of myself had a new coloring book. On one page was a pretty lady who looked like a princess or Snow White in a cartoon. I asked Mommie what it said under the picture. "It says, 'The good princess,'" she replied. I colored the dress two kinds of blue, with a yellow collar. Then I asked her, "What color is 'good'?" She just smiled and said that good doesn't have a color. So, I made her face a peachy orange and her hands yellow, to match the collar. I hadn't learned yet. My crayons didn't stay within any lines.

Jump forward a few years. I heard someone in the kitchen talking about a "racist." I thought that was cool, driving race cars. Maybe like the ones I could hear at the fairgrounds, on a big track, or like ones that crashed into each other at the derby. I lived in a larger Montana city. What I saw was my world, and my world looked like me, except that I had freckles. I'd never heard of white privilege. We were okay, our clothes were clean, even if they were hand-me-downs. We never went hungry; mom could stretch a pound of meat. A rare treat was a takeout bag-o-burgers or a pizza brought home. We never went to a restaurant. There were seven of us kids at home.

In my high school, kids hailed from two junior highs, so there were new students to meet. Two of them had big, really curly black hair that I wanted to touch. One boy had long hair he pulled back into a ponytail, like me. One day I sat at his lunch table. Ben was lighting matches and staring into the flame until he almost burned his finger.

I asked him, "What are you doing?"
 "I'm looking for God," he said. Then he tried to explain, "I am a Kiowa."

Well, I was still not very enlightened. Someone else asked me later, "Why were you talking to that Indian? He's a no-good redskin."

I replied, "Well, I think he's nice."
 My inner child wondered: What color is "nice?"

Ben stopped coming to school that fall. His skin wasn't red, and I never saw him again. Other students who were different stayed in school. One joined the same club as me. I got to know Veronica well. She invited me to a celebration at the air force base. That was my first taste of sweet potato pie and of being the only "white" person in the room. Everyone was kind and friendly at the event; what color is kind? Another student was fun, with a baritone voice and a folk guitar. Andre still plays at gigs all over the Pacific Northwest. Both my friends keep in touch via social media. What color is friendship? Fortunately, for many people, friendship is a kaleidoscope of colors, tastes, smells and connection. I'm so glad for my full box of crayons!

As an adult, I've lived in places where I didn't look like everyone else. They didn't care and neither did I. We worked, played and lived together: young, old, able, less able, richer, experienced and neophytes. We shared and learned and grew. I wish the same for you all. When we remove the label, the fruit is still sweet, tart or bitter. Added together, the salad is delicious. Embrace our differences and our sameness as you smile at a stranger today.

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

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Grove of Ash Trees treated for Emerald Ash Borer

Map details: Baldy Dune, Grove of Ash Trees, Baldy Trails, Chestnut Loop, Baldy Trailhead, St. Pierre Trailhead, Overlook Trail. Distances: 0.1 mi, 0.2 mi, 0.3 mi, 0.4 mi, 0.5 mi, 0.8 mi, 0.9 mi.

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Map of the treated ash tree grove along the trail at Arcadia Dunes. Courtesy image.

For Future Generations

By **VIC LANE**, Senior Conservation Project Manager, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Emerald Ash borer (EAB) is a non-native, invasive, insect pest that originated in Asia. Its larvae feed on the living tissue of numerous species of ash trees, quickly cutting off the flow of vital nutrients and water. Arriving in southeast Michigan in 2002, it was met with early quarantine and eradication efforts that were unsuccessful. Over the last 20 years, the borer has spread throughout Michigan — killing tens of millions of ash trees, primarily green, white and black ash. EAB is now having similarly devastating effects on much of the rest of the U.S. and Canada.

As early as 2004 and 2005, EAB was found in Manistee, Benzie, and Grand Traverse counties. It is suspected that larvae were transported north in firewood that included infested ash trees.

During summer of 2013, EAB arrived at the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's Arcadia Dunes Nature Preserve, which straddles the county line between Benzie and Manistee.

While efforts to protect trees at the forest scale are not feasible, individual trees could be treated with an insecticide that kills the ash borer. The conservancy selected nine healthy white ash trees, along the edge of the "Big Tree Loop" trail, to treat and manage as legacy trees. This effort is meant to ensure future generations of families, naturalists, and school children will have access to mature ash trees in a natural forest setting. Within a decade, many of

these trees will be approaching 30 inches in diameter.

To continue to protect our northern Michigan Forests for future generations, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy is preparing to launch its "Regional Forest Protection Program" this year. The program seeks to promote resilience of our region's forests to threats of invasive pests, changes in climate, and fragmentation through prioritized and coordinated efforts of private landowners and partners. Using the tools of voluntary land protection, forest stewardship, demonstration, and connecting landowners to existing resources, GTRLC is working to secure a legacy of healthy forests for future generations.

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Treated ash tree with close-up of its ID tag and injection port, Arcadia Dunes, Manistee County. Photo by Paula Dreeszen.

Trails left by emerald ash borer larvae under ash tree bark. Photo by M. Videan.

Saving an Ash Grove

Editor's note: The below information will be included on a new interpretive sign to be installed along the trail next to the treated ash grove in Arcadia Dunes.

Although never a dominant tree species like maple, beech, and hemlock, White Ash was an important component of this mesic northern forest. But in 2013, the Emerald ash borer arrived here, killing nearly all the ash trees at Arcadia Dunes.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan in 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. The insect makes quick work to kill the trees — often it takes only a single season.

In anticipation of emerald ash borer, the conservancy contracted an arborist to treat nine large ash trees along the scenic "big tree" loop to Baldy. These lucky trees were selected for their size,

proximity to the trail and likelihood of survival. They are intentionally clustered in one section of the trail for easy, cost-effective treatment. Treatment involves injecting an insecticide directly into the trunk of the tree. Trees are retreated every couple of years.

The conservancy plans to treat these trees for as long as there are funds and hopes that an alternative solution is found to curb this invasive species. As of 2021, researchers are pursuing biological control with tiny parasitic wasps which prey on emerald ash borers.

So far, this grove of ash has survived the attack and continue to thrive. The intention of the treatment was not to save the species, but rather to provide an opportunity for us to remember, and for our children to see, what a 30-inch diameter ash tree looks like.



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Dark Skies

continued from page 1

bright roadside lighting can create glare for motorists, who may also end up crashing into something.

Insects are affected, too.

“The ‘insect apocalypse’ has been linked in part to light pollution -- populations of insects are plummeting,” she said.

And don’t forget plants.

“Trees drop their leaves in the fall later if exposed to artificial light at night,” Oey explained.

So artificial light doesn’t just mess up my view of the night sky, it affects the entire nocturnal ecosystem.

Using artificial lighting tends to affect the pocketbook, too.

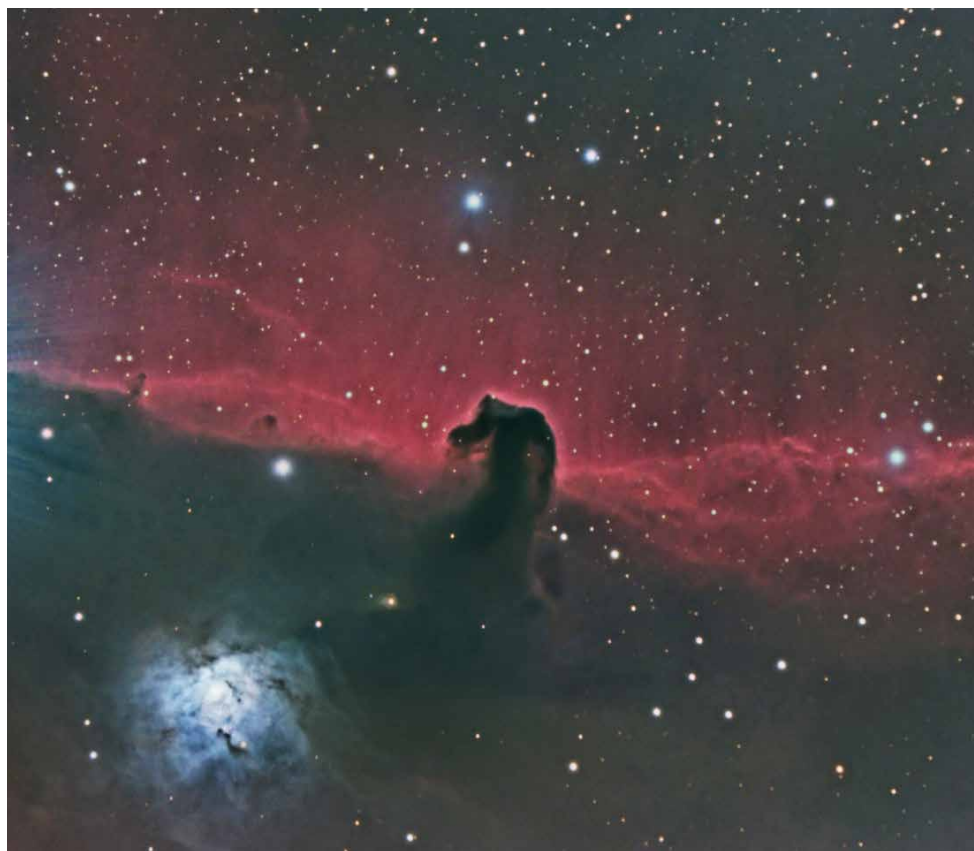
Phyllis Rebori is a member of the Dark Sky Committee of Leelanau Energy, a Leelanau County-based nonprofit. The committee works to educate the public about light pollution and find ways to reduce its negative effects. Some of their suggestions include using indirect lighting and lighting shields, and changing from bright white or blue lights to soft whites and yellows.

“In addition to the health, wildlife and plant issues, there is the fact that light pollution wastes energy and money — for citizens and municipalities,” Rebori said. “IDA figures about \$3 billion per year of energy is lost to skyglow.”

IDA stands for International Dark-Sky Association, the authority on light pollution.

People can experience the effects of reduced or no artificial lighting, and the beauty of the universe’s dark sky canvas, by visiting designated dark areas around Michigan.

Two designated International Dark Sky Parks — there just 195 official Dark Sky places in the world — are in Michigan. One is the Headlands International Dark



Horsehead Nebula. Photo by Rick Boudah, of Northport.

Sky Park, west of Mackinaw City, the other is Dr. T.K. Lawless International Dark Sky Park in Cass County, in southwest Michigan.

Robert Parrish is a founder of Dr. T.K. Lawless and an advocate of the International Dark-Sky Association.

“Our hope is two-fold,” Parrish explained. “One, to bring back the splendor of the night sky. One wouldn’t purchase a home with a beautiful view of the ocean and then block that view by the planting of trees and shrubs.”

“We also hope to stop the misconception that we are in favor of eliminating outdoor lightings. Rather, we hope to educate people towards the use of intelligent lighting that reduces their carbon footprint and only lights the ground. This can be accomplished by employing fully shielded lighting that prevents stray light from escaping vertically upward, and limits horizontal light transmission that creates glare. Motion detected devices and timers are also encouraged.”

Jerry Dobek, astronomy professor at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, is a founding member of the International Dark-Sky Association. He works with municipalities in Michigan, as well as nationally and internationally, to develop lighting ordinances to reduce light pollution.

“I’m currently working with Beaver Island and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on the designation of Dark Sky preserve and/or park areas,” he said. “The City of Traverse City is one of my ordinances. I have also worked with

Empire and have spoken with Arcadia and Frankfort concerning ordinances.

“I have not done anything yet with Ludington, Manistee, or Cadillac, but they are on my lists,” Dobek added.

He said he’s been working on light pollution issues since 1988 and has developed 53 lighting ordinances in Michigan.

Emmet County’s outdoor lighting ordinance states, among other requirements, that “all outdoor luminaires shall be fully shielded lighting fixtures to minimize artificial sky glow, all outdoor lighting fixtures shall be placed to prevent light trespass or glare beyond the property line, and all outdoor lighting shall be of a type, and placed, to prevent any light above the horizontal plane.”

These actions and efforts will benefit us all, and they would most certainly make my night-time stargazing, and yours, much more pleasurable.

For more information on the effects of light pollution, go to:

www.darksky.org/

www.leelanauenergy.org/dark-sky

www.cwenergyusa.com/blog/light-pollution-and-animals

sites.lsa.umich.edu/darkskies/the-problem-michigan.gov/darksky

Kevin Howell is a freelance writer currently residing in Mason County. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes, people and, especially, Michigan craft beers – not necessarily in that order!

Michigan’s designated dark sky areas

Compiled by **KEVIN HOWELL**

If you’re unable to visit one of the following, try to find a place away from city or neighborhood lights – the top of a sand dune along the lake shore or a spot in the woods with an open canopy. Lie back and enjoy the beauty of the night sky.

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARKS

Headlands International Dark Sky Park – Emmet County Park
550 acres of woodlands, two miles of undeveloped shoreline, Event Center

Dr. T.K. Lawless International Dark Sky Park – Cass County Park
850 acres, including inland lakes and streams

DARK SKY PRESERVES

Lake Hudson Recreation Area – Lenawee County
Rustic campground, no-wake lake

Negwegon State Park – Alcona County
4,118 acres, sandy beach on Lake Huron

Port Crescent State Park – Huron County
Three miles of Lake Huron shoreline

Rockport Recreation Area – Presque Isle County
Lake Huron nature preserve, 5,000 acres of sand dunes

Thompson’s Harbor State Park – Presque Isle County
Six miles of trails, 5,000 acres of dunes, upland and marsh

Wilderness State Park – Emmet County
10,000 acres, 26 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, campsites



Waiting for sunset at Headlands International Dark Sky Park in Emmet County. Photo by Jean Howell.

MI BACKYARD

Stinging nettles: friends, not foes

By JENNIFER DEVINE

One of the first spring greens to pop up, nettles can be found in wetlands, swamps, nitrogen-rich soils, riverbeds, stream banks, old barns, moist areas, disturbed forests and in your own garden.

The nettles family Urticaceae includes about 500 species worldwide.

Nettles found in different parts of Michigan include Clearweed; Bog clearweed, which is often confused with Clearweed; False nettle; Wood or Canada nettle; and Pellitory.

Feel the burn

Our stinging nettles are *Urtica dioica* (Stinging nettle), *Urtica dioica gracilis* (a subspecies of *dioica* known as Selander or American stinging nettle), and the far less common non-native *Urtica urens* (European stinging nettle). Nettle is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning “needle,” and its Latin name *Urtica* means “to burn.”

Stinging nettle leaves and stalks bear trichomes containing formic acid which produce the sensation of an ant or bee sting. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov), those little needle-like hairs on the leaves also contain histamine, acetylcholine and serotonin. Reactions can be delayed or present right away and last up to 12 hours.

Both of Michigan's native stinging nettles are found all over the state, mostly near willows. These 3-foot- to 8-foot-tall perennial powerhouses have a ton of uses. Leaves are rough, dark green, opposite, and up to 4 inches long — with toothed edges. Use gloves and scissors to harvest. In the wild, stinging nettle is the most fuzzy and prickly of Michigan's nettles; you may also find large patches of jewelweed and goldenrod growing nearby. Jewelweed sap is beneficial as a rash reducer for poison ivy and stinging nettle.

The young nettle leaves are heart shaped and edible. Pick from and trim this plant like you would an herb. The plant will continue to sprout new young tops with this method, much like mint (a cousin plant) and basil. You can grow nettle in the garden as an edging, to keep rabbits and other wildlife from further nibbling your yummy fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. (Caution: Nettles spread easily.) Plant it purposefully near your spinach and kale because it is high in nitrogen. Nettles attract aphids, which may help draw the bugs from your other garden plants.

To make nettle tea fertilizer, simply



Photo of Stinging Nettle by Robert W. Smith, courtesy of Michigan Flora Online, <https://michiganflora.net>

pick a pound of your older nettle plants — and the longer, tougher leaves near the bottom — and place them in a 1-gallon bucket of water, (5 pounds for 5 gallons). Add a lid, then use a stick to stir the mixture daily for about a month or until bubbles stop rapidly coming to the top when you stir. This means the mixture has fermented enough to use as a natural garden insecticide, a powdery mildew/fungal spray, and a “miracle” type of fertilizer rich in potassium. Your tomatoes will thank you! Simply dilute your garden tea with about 10% water before spraying and pouring.

Human uses, too

Nettle plays an important role in the lifecycle of butterflies, such as red admiral, small tortoiseshell and comma — just as milkweed is important to monarchs. Beneficial to insects, stinging nettle is useful to humans, too. Rinse fresh leaves (hands still in gloves) and use them steamed, fried or fresh. (When using fresh leaves, be sure to rub them during washing to remove their “needles.”) Try them as a spinach substitute in quiche, soups, pastas, sides and more. Stinging nettles can also be dried in a dehydrator, which also cuts the sting, and chopped and placed into an airtight freezer-proof container and stored for later use. Grind it into a powder and use it in smoothies, or bake with it.

It seems the usefulness of stinging nettle cannot be overemphasized. USDA and other studies confirm the leaves are rich in

vitamins, minerals and healing properties. A blog post on the North Cascades Institute's website states that Indigenous Peoples wound fibrous stalks into rope or fishing nets, and stalk fibers have been used as a cotton substitute in fabric for many years. During WWII, Germans used the plant to dye their fabrics green. In Roman times, Caesar's troops stung themselves to stay alert. France used it to make paper. Back at the National Institutes of Health's medical library, we find that stinging nettle is a popular wild edible in Nepal, Romanians use it in sour soup, and Ancient Egyptians reportedly used an infusion for the relief of arthritis. This site, and others, explains stinging nettle is high in energy, proteins, fats and fiber. In fact, Mother Earth News writes, “...more than 100 chemical components have been identified in nettle, including:

Minerals — iron, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, manganese, copper, boron, strontium; Vitamins — A, C, K, and B; (and) Phytonutrients — chlorophyll, beta-carotene, lutein, zeaxanthin, quercetin, rutin.”

I hope you befriend stinging nettle and get to enjoy all its amazing benefits.

Jennifer Devine is a homesteader living on 20 acres. She and her husband are licensed to sell black cherry, white oak and white pine trees. They and their children live off grid and have chickens, ducks and rabbits, a large garden and a lot of woods.



Jenna Stensland



Pixabay

Ode To Mud

Most Grand Soggiess,
the silent ground has meditated all these months
with the stillness of monks, until now, lowly singer
of spring, you swing us slowly toward lilacs
and loosening, O, Rhapsody of Mud!
Revelation of worms, our 5-hearted saviors
who nurture the dirt; ancestral household
of bulbs who flourish in your fertile darkness.
We place one pastel foot with grace, to stay clean,
only to slip in a plotch of softened earth
and we come fumbling into your wet wisdoms.
High musician of murk, teach us to move deftly
as a jazz player's fingers on a fretless bass
through your moist improvisations
while winter's kittens in the fresh outdoors
explore mysterious paw-disturbing grass
before they sneak with legato stealth
through indigo thickets of April's iris.
The grand divas of mud-country, pigs,
play your twelve-tone textures on their bristly backs,
sodden-swaying cows sink deep in the fluent fields
while a crowd of Michigan Bigfoots slog
each wet step heavy, heavier,
toward flirtatious maples whose
pure-flowing crystal tastes like bliss!
O, Divine Lowliness,
reservoir of rain in the park
where a child dressed in violet boots
and a pale blue sky tries out her first mud-legs
while we release our winter sorrows
and shadows from the clutch of ice
before the torch-song sun warms you to dust
we surrender to your humid delights.
O, rapture of mud!
We return to a full-bodied waltz
in your damp embrace.

- Louisa Loveridge Gallas

Area Earth Day events planned

From staff reports

Invest In Our Planet (And Build a Prosperous and Equitable Future) is this year's Earth Day theme, and two area nonprofits plan to observe the event with activities held April 22-23.

Earth Day celebrations kick off in Manistee County with a family-friendly, free event at 6 p.m., April 22, hosted by Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club at its nature preserve on Coates Highway, one mile west of Brethren. A Blessing of the Rods for area anglers will commence at 6:30 p.m. Music and snacks will be provided. See updates on Facebook: @SpiritoftheWoodsConservationClub.

On April 23, AFFEW (A Few Friends for the Environment of the World) will host its

annual Earth Day event, a day-long series of free programs at the United Methodist Church of Ludington, 5810 E. Bryant Road. Doors will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Attendees may choose one of two hour-long programs offered at 11 a.m.: “Green Investing” with Tanya Lesinski and Mike Heckman or “Meet the Grand Slam of Michigan Turtles” with biologists Jim and Carol McGrath of Nature Discovery in Williamston. They plan to bring all 10 species of turtles found in Michigan.

Tours of the U Dig It Community Garden will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A guided 40-minute hike with Dave Dister, area birder and biologist, begins

at 12:15 p.m. Scheduled programs for 1-2 p.m. are “Building a Bluebird House” and “Vermicomposting for Your Garden.” Local ukulele group, the String-A-Longs, will perform for one hour, beginning at 2 p.m. Two programs follow at 3 p.m.: “Green Burials” and “Energy Transition and Solar Power for Your Home.”

Ludington pastel artist Marie Marfia will be working on a landscape painting throughout the event, and a silent auction of her completed work will be held.

Informational booths will be available all day. For details about the event or more about AFFEW, visit www.affew.org.



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Kevin Castel

Community Calendar

To be included in our May 18 printed edition, please submit your announcements by May 6. Email your calendar events or press releases to: editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Always check with the venue about upcoming events. Some events listed in our calendar may change or be canceled due to weather, schedules or COVID-19. Despite our best efforts, errors may occur. This calendar is continuously updated online at freshwater-reporter.com/calendar-2

- APRIL**
- 9 Made in Michigan FUNdraiser, Cadillac**
7-9pm. Tickets: \$7-\$15. Annual Gopherwood Concert Series fundraiser at Elks Club. Details/Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/4mr47sc5>
- 9 Gin Blossoms live in concert at the Little River Casino and Resort**
8pm, \$35-50, Little River Casino, 2700 Orchard Hwy., Manistee
- 10 Easter Cookie Decorating with Dani Jo, Beulah**
2-5pm. Tickets \$45, includes materials. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S Pioneer Road
- 11 Snippets; Fabric Art Class, Kaleva**
1-4pm, \$20, bring a rotary cutter and cutting board. For info call 231.362.2136
- 11 Shifting Landscapes – Lecture Series at LACA and on Zoom**
7-8:30pm, Free, "Innovation & Government." Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Available via Zoom at mcdl.pub/sl-zoom. Register: mcdl.pub/sl-register.
- 12 Invasive Plant Species Program & Work Bee, Ludington**
10am-Noon. Free. Learn about, treat & remove invasive species. Bring water. Wear long pants & sleeves, closed-toed shoes & work gloves. Meet @ Ludington Central Bark Park, end of Rath Ave. www.affew.org
- 12 Easter Egg Hunt, Free Soil**
1pm SHARP. Free. For Special Needs people. Bonnet contest, Ukrainian egg painting (bring 2 hardboiled eggs). In the barn: Circle Rockin S Children's Farm, 5487 N. Tuttle Rd. Must RSVP by April 8 to 231-462-3732 or circlerockingsfarm@att.net
- 13 Classic Movie at The Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm. \$2. "Miss Potter", (2006). Unconfirmed. 383 River St. Movie schedule: 231-222-5199
- 13 Feldenkrais: Exercise Class, Kaleva**
11am-12pm, \$5, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 14 Senior Meals, Kaleva**
12pm, Free for Manistee County residents (\$3 donation is optional). Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 14 Seder Passover Meal, Arcadia**
5pm. Interactive event for adults & children over 10 years with adult. Trinity Lutheran Church, 17191 3rd St. Reservations required. Call 231.889.3620 or email trinityarcadiami@gmail.com
- 15 Live Music at the Brewery with Kyle Brown**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 16 2nd Annual Ace Run Disc Golf Event, Ludington**
9am-12pm. \$40, includes 2 discs & decal for the tournament at Tinderbox 5906 W. Chauvez Rd. Call Grip N Rip Disc Golf, 231-425-3488
- 16 Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Arcadia**
11am. Free. In case of rain, we'll move indoors. For children up to age 11. Bring a basket. Blaine Christian Church, 7018 Putney Rd., corner of Joyfield.
- 16 Community Easter Egg Hunt, Ludington**
2-3pm. Free. Cornerstone Baptist Church 121 Nelson Rd. For children aged preschool through 5th Grade. Bags for eggs provided. 231-845-1285
- 16 Live Music with John Paul at St. Ambrose Cellars**
6pm, Free. 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 18 Shifting Landscapes – Lecture Series at LACA and on Zoom**
7-8:30pm, Free. "Long-standing Ideas in New Times." Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Register: mcdl.pub/sl-register. Or via Zoom: mcdl.pub/sl-zoom.
- 20 Classic Movie at The Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm. \$2. "Ball of Fire", (1941). Unconfirmed. 383 River St. Movie schedule: 231-222-5199
- 20 Feldenkrais: Exercise Class, Kaleva**
11am-12pm, \$5, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 21 Senior Meals, Kaleva**
12pm, Free for Manistee County residents (\$3 donation is optional). Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 21 Outdoor Book Walk, Ludington**
3-7pm. Free. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr. Teaching families the importance of early literacy.
- 22 Earth Day with Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club**
6pm. Free family-friendly event. All invited. At the club's nature preserve on Coates Hwy., 1 mile west of Brethren. 6:30pm Blessing of the Rods for anglers. Music, snacks.
- 22 Live Music with Jesse Jefferson at St. Ambrose Cellars**
6pm. Free. 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 22 Live Music at the Brewery with the Carl Webb Band**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 23 23rd Annual Ludington Lake Jump**
11am-12pm. Registration begins 10:30am. Stearns Park Beach, Downtown Ludington. Benefit for Childhood Cancer Camping <https://www.facebook.com/lakejump>. Contact Tom Ezdebski 231-631-7435
- 23 Crystal Classic Golf Scramble, Thompsonville**
12pm. \$70/person. At Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. 4-person. 18 holes w/cart, 2 beverage tickets & food. Prizes. Register by 4/20. <https://tinyurl.com/32zu9t7e>. Pro Shop: 888-968-7686 ext. 4000.
- 23 CPL (Concealed Pistol License) Class, Copemish**
8:30am-5pm. \$50 deposit. \$85 day of class. With Alicia Polatta, Jim's Gun and Rifle Range, 20330 13 Mile Road. Bring a handgun & 50 rounds. Gun can be provided. Bring/wear ear protection, safety glasses. Call 231-633-6699
- 23 Earth Day 2022 | Invest in our Planet, Ludington**
10:30am-4:30 pm. Doors open 10 am. FREE. Donations welcome. United Methodist Church of Ludington, 5810 E Bryant Rd. affew.org. See story, page 7.
- 23 Stretchy Bracelet Class for Kids, Kaleva**
2pm, First 1 free, additional bracelets \$5, kids under 8 need parent. Maple Grove Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 23 Live Music with Chris Michels at St. Ambrose Cellars**
6pm, Free. 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 23 Dokken & George Lynch live in concert at the Little River Casino and Resort**
8pm, \$35-50, 2700 Orchard Hwy., Manistee
- 24 Barter Fair, Green Lake Township Park, Benzie Co.**
Time and details to be announced.
- 26 Port City Documentary Film, The Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
7pm, Movie TBA. 383 River St. Movie schedule: 231-222-5199
- 26 Raptors LIVE, Manistee**
6pm. Free. Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary's Parkway.
- 26 Invasive Plant Species Program & Work Bee, Ludington**
6-8:30pm. Free. Learn about, treat & remove invasive species. Bring water. Wear long pants & sleeves, closed-toed shoes & work gloves. Meet @ Ludington Central Bark Park, end of Rath Ave. www.affew.org
- 27 Classic Movie at The Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm. \$2. "The Bridges of Madison County", (1995). Unconfirmed. 383 River St. Movie schedule: 231-222-5199
- 27 Feldenkrais: Exercise Class, Kaleva**
11am-12pm, \$5, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 28 Senior Meals, Kaleva**
12pm, Free for Manistee County residents (\$3 donation is optional). Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 28 Manistee Civic Players at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts**
7:30pm, \$15-30 Adults, \$10 kids under 18, "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running"- 4 short comedic plays about couples. 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 29 Live Music with Blake Elliott at St. Ambrose Cellars**
6pm. Free. 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- 29 Manistee Civic Players at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts**
7:30pm, \$15-30 Adults, \$10 kids under 18, "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running"- 4 short comedic plays about couples. 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 29 Live Music at the Brewery with Benjamin Paetz "Ukelele Guy"**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 30 Manistee Civic Players at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts**
2pm & 7:30pm, \$15-30 Adults, \$10 kids under 18, "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running." 4 short comedic plays about couples. 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 30 Quarter Paddle Auction, Onekama**
4pm, Manistee County Fairgrounds, Lions Den. 7587 First St., Onekama. Paddles \$5 ea. No item more than \$1. Food, cash bar avail. Proceeds to Onekama Lions Club. For info./donations: 231-690-5790.
- 30 Live Music with Dave Barth at St. Ambrose Cellars**
6pm. Free. 841 S. Pioneer Rd., Beulah
- MAY**
- 1 Community Swap, Arcadia**
11am-1pm. Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3585 Glovers Lake Rd. Kids/maternity items. Donations: Anita 626-271-2475.
- 1 Manistee Civic Players at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts**
2pm, \$15-30 Adults, \$10 kids under 18, "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running"- 4 short comedic plays about couples. 101 Maple St., Manistee
- 2 Mosaic Window Class, Kaleva**
10am-12pm, \$225, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St. Email: glasswindow@gmail.com.
- 6 Live Music at the Brewery with Fremont John**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 7 Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Turandot (Puccini)**
1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 students, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee. Family Opera Days: \$20. www.ramsdelltheatre.org
- 7 Hats and Horses Kentucky Derby Benefit Event, Thompsonville**
3-8pm. \$100 + \$7.72 online fee. Ticket sales end 5/1. Iron Fish Dirt Road Derby. Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibaneck Rd. Details/tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/5d5jr5k9>
- 7 Live Music with The Special Consensus, Ludington**
7pm. \$20 advance/\$25 door. For tickets, go to <https://tinyurl.com/5n75t7fk>. Ludington Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison.
- 7 Brews and Beats, Pentwater**
12-5pm. \$25 advance, \$30 at door. The Village Green, 231 S Hancock Street. Details/tickets: www.pentwater.org/brewsandbeats
- 9 Mosaic Window Class, Kaleva**
10am-12pm, \$225, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St. Email: glasswindow@gmail.com.
- 9 "Together For Ukraine" Benefit Concert**
7pm. Tickets: \$20-\$50. Ben Traverse, Jake Allen, Bo White & The Bluezers, The Downtowners & Friends. Ramsdell Theatre, 101 S. Maple St., Manistee. ramsdeltheatre.org
- 13 Live Music at the Brewery with Tim Krause**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., Ludington
- 14 Birdwatching Series, Thompsonville**
8-9am, Meet at Michigan Legacy Art Park trailhead. Check Facebook page for cancellations. 7300 Mountainside Dr., Thompsonville
- 14 Wanderlust Festival, Baldwin**
See Fresh Water Cannabis ad, page 4.
- 14 Ludington Area Catholic Golf Tournament**
8:30am-2pm. \$340/team. Registration begins 8am. Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 1527 N. Lakeshore Dr. 4-person: 18 Holes w/cart, hole events, lunch.
- 14 Gala Evening to Cultivate Emerging Artists, Manistee**
Begins 5:30pm. Tickets \$100. Ramsdell Regional Arts Center, 101 Maple St. Reservations. <https://tinyurl.com/mr3u6zfr>. RSVP by 4/18 to xverna@RamsdellTheatre.org or call 231-398-9770. www.ramsdelltheatre.org
- 14 Live Music with Michael Clem, House Concert, Cadillac**
7pm. \$7-\$15. Gopherwood Concert Series. For tickets and location info, go to <https://tinyurl.com/bdet2eda>.
- 14 Great White & Slaughter live in concert at the Little River Casino and Resort**
8pm, \$40-55, Little River Casino, 2700 Orchard Hwy., Manistee
- 15 Wildflower Tour, Crystal Mountain**
10-11am. Meet at Michigan Legacy Art Park trailhead. 7300 Mountainside Dr., Thompsonville.
- 15 Blessing of the Bikes, Baldwin**
9am, gates open. 1:15pm, Blessing. \$5 entry. Baldwin Municipal Airport, M-37, south of town. NO alcohol/pets. Bruce: 616-893-3542, Tracy: 616-585-1348.
- 16 Mosaic Window Class in Kaleva**
10am-12pm, \$225, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St. For info, contact glasswindow@gmail.com.

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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