

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

FREE Vol IV, No. 5

freshwater-reporter.com

May 18 - June 14, 2022 FREE

May bursts with blooms at Loda Lake National Wildflower Sanctuary

By KEVIN HOWELL

Plant identification markers peek from the forest floor along a wooded trail winding among mixed hardwoods, past a small lake, and across a boardwalk over spring-fed wetlands. Here, at Loda Lake, small blossoms and green things can be spotted as this hotbed of wildflowers begins to wake up at the end of April.

For my navigator Jean and me, walks in the woods are some of our favorite things to do, especially when the weather is a bit cool and the seasons are changing. Loda Lake was our destination on this sunny day.

Spring arrives in Michigan when it's good and ready, and it was slow coming this year, for sure. But we headed out to explore, anyway, in Newaygo County, with hopes of catching a few early bloomers.

About 40 miles south of our home, in the Huron-Manistee National Forest, Loda Lake National Wildflower Sanctuary is the only wildflower sanctuary in the



Wild Columbine. Photo: Karen Motawi, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.-Big Rapids.

National Forest system, according to www.fs.usda.gov. The name "Loda Lake" piqued our interest. Formerly known as Bass Lake, the name was changed in the early 1940s. Loda, or Lonidaw, was the

wife of Potawatomi Chief Simon Pokagon.

Before making the trip there, I had contacted Karen Motawi, a member of the Big Rapids Garden Club branch of

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Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival marks 44th year

By RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS

What comes around every third Saturday in June? Father's Day? Almost, but not quite. The Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival? Ding, ding, ding! We have a musical winner.

A diverse gathering of performers — some from other states and countries — crafts and food trucks are highlights of the 44th annual folk festival to be held June 18 at

Dickson Township Park in Brethren. This year's motto is: "Keep it simple, keep it safe." To that end, organizers have reduced festival hours and added a second stage.

The festival begins at noon and gallops along until 7:30 pm. The cast of participants changes yearly, but organizers annually strive to invite a variety of musicians. It shows in this year's line-up.

HuDost describes themselves as "an electric-folk, world-rock musical duo who adore collaborating with other musicians, touring the world, and working for social and environmental justice through music, advocacy, and art."

Hailing from Chicago, Donna Herula and Tony Nardiello perform "traditional acoustic blues (and have) a passion for performing Delta and Country Blues, early Chicago Blues, folk, roots, and Americana in addition to original songs."

Gavin Mendonca, a musician and composer from Guyana, weaves his cultural background with rock-and-roll to create

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"Groupies" dance to music by the Mudskippers at the 2019 Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival. Photo by Stewart McFerran.

Area Events

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

ONGOING ART EXHIBITIONS (Daily events follow.)

Thru **Three Artist Exhibitions, LACA, Ludington**

28 Charles LaRue's "Light & Shadow Forming Structure" - Main Gallery
Marion Riedl's "Exploration & Experimentation" - Performance Hall
Lobby Gallery. West Shore ESD's "Creative Stars" - Unframed Gallery
Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison.

Thru **Haan, Kowaleski, McNamara Exhibit, Frankfort**

10 Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Road.

MAY DAILY EVENTS

18 Classic Film Series at The Vogue Theatre, Manistee

10am & 7pm. \$2. "Paris When It Sizzles" (1964), Romance/Comedy starring Audrey Hepburn, William Holden & Noel Coward. 383 River St.

Feldenkrais: Exercise Class, Kaleva

11am-12pm, Free, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St

19 Senior Meals, Kaleva

Noon, Free to seniors (optional \$3 donation), Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.

Embroidery Class, Kaleva

6-7pm, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.

Open Mic Night, Beulah

6-9pm, Free, St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 Pioneer Rd.

20 Blood, Sweat & Gears Extreme RC Event, Ludington

12-6pm. Mason County Fairgrounds, 5302 West US-10 in the grandstands. 3 days of RC competitions, RC swap meet, etc. Onsite camping/food. Host: Ludington/ Manistee Hobbies. tinyurl.com/2p8j7e88

Live Music with Barefoot, Thompsonville

5:30-7:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.

Folk Artist Ben Traverse - CD Release Party, Manistee

6-7:30pm. \$10. Release party for Traverse's "Old Time American Music" CD at Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Traditional folk ballads. Tickets incl. \$1 off 1st drink at North Channel Brewing.

Live Music at the Brewery with Gabriel James, Ludington

6-9pm, Free, Our 5-year party! Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St., and in the Social District is **Michigan Mafia String Band**, 6-9pm, Free

21 Petunia Parade (Planting) - Ludington

7am-12pm. Plant petunias along Ludington Ave. and the Municipal Marina. Meet at Rotary Park (City Park) 500 W Ludington Ave.

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Community Calendar

Tell them you saw it in Freshwater Reporter!

To be included in our June 15, 2022 printed edition, please submit your announcements by June 3. Be sure to include the address where the event takes place, for visiting readers. Email your calendar events or press releases to: editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Email anytime for our online calendar. **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.

- 21 Aerobic Exercise Class, Kaleva**
8:15-9am, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- Live Music with Lynn Callihan, Thompsonville**
5:30-7:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- Mushroom Appreciation Day, Kaleva**
10am-5pm. \$20, limited capacity. Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Road, Kaleva. 10am-2pm, Mushroom Gardening, Build your own Oyster Mushroom Tote, Learn basic shiitake culture. 12-4pm Vendors/Info booths; 12-3pm Open Mic: Share your love of shrooms thru song/poetry, etc. 3-5pm, Local mushroom experts present. Pre-register: 231-889-0064.
- Chairlift Rides – Crystal Mountain**
10am-3pm. Ages 6 & up: \$10/person. Children ages 3-5 free with paying adult. Views of 3 counties. Signed waiver forms required. Purchase in person at Crystal's Mountain Adventure Zone, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville. May purchase online.
- Blood, Sweat & Gears Extreme RC Event, Ludington**
12-6pm. Mason County Fairgrounds, 5302 West US-10 in the grandstands. 3 days of RC competitions, RC swap meet, etc. Onsite camping/food. Host: Ludington/Manistee Hobbies. tinyurl.com/2p8j7e88
- Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Lucia Di Lammermoor (Donizetti), Manistee**
1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 students, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.
- Live Music at the Brewery with John Merchant & Greg Miller, Ludington**
6-9pm, Free, Our 5-Year Party! Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St.
- 22 Blood, Sweat & Gears Extreme RC Event, Ludington**
12-6pm. Mason County Fairgrounds, 5302 West US-10 in the grandstands. 3 days of RC competitions, RC swap meet, etc. Onsite camping/food. Host: Ludington/Manistee Hobbies. tinyurl.com/2p8j7e88
- Live Music with Rhett DuCouer, Thompsonville**
3:30-5:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 23 Open Sewing, Kaleva**
1-4pm, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 24 Great Start Playgroup for Preschool, Kaleva**
9:30-11am, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 24- Enchanted Forest Art Exhibit, Manistee**
July
9 Tues-Fri 1-5pm, Sat 12-3pm, Free, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Opening reception June 25, 5-7pm
- 25 Classic Film Series at The Vogue Theatre, Manistee**
10am & 7pm. \$2. "King Creole" (1958), Musical/Drama starring Elvis Presley, Dean Jagger, Paul Stewart, Walter Matthau and Carolyn Jones. 383 River St.
- Feldenkrais: Exercise Class, Kaleva**
11am-12pm, Free, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- 26 Farmers Market, Elberta**
8-12pm, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.
- Artisans Market, Ludington**
2-6pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.
- Embroidery Class, Kaleva**
6-7pm, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- Open Mic Night, Beulah**
6-9pm, Free, St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 Pioneer Rd.
- 27 Farmers Market, Ludington**
3-7pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.
- Live Music with Chris Sterr, Thompsonville**
5:30-7:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- Live Music at the Brewery with Serita's Black Rose, Ludington**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St.
- 28 Aerobic Exercise Class, Kaleva**
8:15-9am, Maple Grove Township Community Center, 9208 Kauko St.
- Manistee Farmers Market Opening Day**
9am-noon, NEW location: Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Parkway. 21st annual season. New partnership of Manistee Community Kitchen & Manistee County Council on Aging.
- Michigan Beer & Brat Festival, Thompsonville**
4-8pm. \$50 if purchased before May 27. \$60 at the door. VIP \$75. General admission includes (1) 8-oz. beer glass and 10 event tickets. Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Drive.
- Live Music with Bootstrap Boys, Thompsonville**
5:30-7:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- Live Music at Guardian Angel Church, Manistee**
6pm, Nikita Sokolov will perform his favorite works by Tchaikovsky and Mussorgsky on grand piano. Kelly Niles will debut the newly constructed Cymbala. 371 Fifth St.
- 28- Memorial Weekend at Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville**
30 Crystal Cup 36-hole Ryder Cup format golf tournament, chairlift rides, live music, North Mitten Half Marathon, 5k, 10k, pool party, family movie. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville. For more info: crystalmountain.com
- 29 Blessing of the ORVs, Irons**
10am, Park opens. Skinner Park, 4074 W. 10-1/2 Mile Road. \$5/ride. Free re-entry with sticker. 12pm, Blessing, post-blessing, Law Enforcement workshop. 3pm Cornhole Tournament, 6pm Live music. Vendors, food, DNR officials, help from trail experts, MFO clothes & products.
- Live Music with Wink, Thompsonville**
3:30-5:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 31 Port City Documentaries, Manistee**
7pm, "The Automat", Vogue Theatre, 383 River St.
- JUNE DAILY EVENTS**
- 2 Farmers Market, Elberta**
8-12pm, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.
- Artisans Market, Ludington**
2-6pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.
- 3 Native Plant Sale, Onkama**
11am-3pm. Manistee Soil Conservation District & Black Cap Nursery sale. First-come, first-served. Experts & handouts, prizes. Black Cap Nursery, 5265 Crescent Beach Road (M-22)
- Farmers Market, Ludington**
3-7pm. Under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.
- Live Music at the Brewery with Benjamin Paetz "Ukulele Guy", Ludington**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St.
- Live Music with Monte Pride, Thompsonville**
6:30-8:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 3- Frankfort-Elberta Restaurant Week**
10 Special pricing at local restaurants
- 4 Manistee Farmers Market**
9am-noon, NEW location: Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Parkway. 21st annual season.
- Scottville Farmers Market**
9am-12pm, 202 N. Main St.
- Lake County Garden Day, Baldwin**
10am-12pm, \$5. Experts & Master Gardeners. Growing/preserving garden vegetables. Plans & seeds to take home. Lake County Historical Museum, 915 N. Michigan Ave. Register: at door, call 231.745.2732 or go to: events.anr.msu.edu.lakecountygardenday2022/
- Water Safety Days, Ludington**
11am-2pm. Loomis Street Boat Launch, 905 Loomis St. Water safety info. Sponsored by Ludington Police Dept.
- Live Music with The Cold Leather Seats, Thompsonville**
6:30-8:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 4-5 Gold and Tempered Glass Mosaic Two-Day Workshop, Kaleva**
11am-3pm. \$165 for both days. Class limited to 6. 2-day workshop. Maple Grove Community Center, 9208 Kauko St. Includes materials and tool use. Email Tricia Boucha to reserve your spot: glasspaper13@gmail.com.
- 5 Live Music with Pete "Big Dog" Feters, Thompsonville**
3:30-5:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 7 Author Heather Shumaker of "Saving Arcadia"**
6:30pm. Free. Arcadia Lions Club fundraiser. Talk & book signing. Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd, Arcadia. Also find signed books at Lily Pad Gift Shop in Arcadia or MacBeth in Onkama.
- 9 Farmers Market, Elberta**
8-12pm, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.
- Artisans Market, Ludington**
2-6pm. Under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.
- An Evening with Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt, Ludington**
6:30pm Doors open. 7pm Performance. \$10 advance/\$15 at door. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison. Advance tickets in gift shop or go to: <http://www.ludingtonartscenter.org>
- 10 Farmers Market, Ludington**
3-7pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.
- Lakestride Fun Run, Ludington**
6-7pm, Stearns Park Beach, 421 N. Lakeshore Dr.
- Live Music at the Brewery with Carl Webb Band, Ludington**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St.
- Live Music with Sam and Bill, Thompsonville**
6:30-8:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 11 Lakestride Half Marathon, 10K & 5K Races, Ludington**
6am-1pm, Stearns Park Beach, 421 N. Lakeshore Dr.
- Manistee Farmers Market**
9am-noon, NEW location: Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Parkway.
- Scottville Farmers Market**
9am-12pm, 202 N. Main St.
- 11 Native Plant Sale, Ludington**
9:30-12pm. Presented by AFFEW and Birdsfoot Native Nursery. Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.
- Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Hamlet (Brett Dean), Manistee**
1pm, \$20 adults/seniors, \$10 students, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.
- Live Music with Jason Locke, Thompsonville**
4-6pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 11- Free Fishing Weekend throughout Michigan**
12 All fishing license fees will be waived for the weekend. All fishing rules and regulations still apply.
- 12 Interlochen Public Radio Live, "The Mad Angler Meets the Mad Cellist", Thompsonville**
3-4pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- Live Music at Guardian Angel Church, Manistee**
5pm, Mrs. Pat Richardson performs classic and contemporary works on the pipe organ. 371 Fifth St.
- 13 Live Music with Mike Struwin, Thompsonville**
3:30-5:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 16 Farmers Market, Elberta**
8-12pm, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.
- "Birding by Ear" Special Bird Walk, Onkama**
8:30-10am. Free. North Point Park, Seymour & Greenway. With bird researcher Brian Allen. Reserve a spot: Parks@OnkamaTwp.org
- Artisans Market, Ludington**
2-6pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.
- Empty Bowls, hunger-fighting fundraiser, Ludington**
6-8pm, Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 1527 N Lakeshore Dr, Ludington. \$50 includes locally made empty ceramic bowl, local food, drinks, live music. lakeshorefoodclub.networkforgood.com/events/42839-empty-bowls
- 16 Live Music with Drew Hale, Thompsonville**
6:30-8:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 17 Farmers Market, Ludington**
3-7pm. Under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.
- Live Music at the Brewery with Fremont John, Ludington**
6-9pm, Free, Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St.
- Live Music with Anna P. S., Thompsonville**
6:30-8:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.
- 18 Manistee Farmers Market**
9am-noon, NEW location: Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Parkway. 21st annual season.
- Scottville Farmers Market**
9am-12pm, 202 N. Main St.
- Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival, Brethren**
12-7pm. Free. Free will donations. Afternoon of world/national/local music on two stages at Dickson Township Park. For line-up/make a donation: www.spiritofthewoods.org
- Live Music with Steve Leaf, Thompsonville**
6:30-8:30pm, Free, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibane Rd.



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Karen Motawi, of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.- Big Rapids chapter, shared photos of some of the wildflowers typically blooming at Loda Lake a little later in May: Hepatica, Trailing Arbutus, and Wild Geranium.

Loda Lake

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Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. This group oversees the sanctuary in conjunction with the Forest Service. Motawi also serves as Loda Lake's sanctuary chair. She cautioned me it was a little early for flowers. A NPS employee also told me drought-like conditions in spring can affect the blooms. "Since it's been cold so far in April, you probably won't see many blooming wildflowers until May," Motawi said. "While this is a wildflower sanctuary, there are many species of other native plants to enjoy, such as shrubs, ferns and ground pines."

That there are. We spotted some tiny ground pines popping up, and buds on numerous shrubs and other plants were looking healthy.

Loda Lake is a combination of nature walks and cultural trails within 72 acres of forest. A 1.2-mile wildflower trail loops through woods of oaks, white and red pines, cypress and other tree species. The trail heads up and down gentle sand hills and beside wetlands. Along the way are intersections with cultural side trails which share the history of the land.

Once home to the Potawatomi, this spot was logged and later farmed by Thomas E. Hunt, an acquaintance of a Mr. Hanson, the owner. Remnants of the original farmhouse, barn and outbuildings remain. Interpretive signs explain their history.

Hanson's daughter sold the property to the Forest Service, and the exchange caught the eye of someone else.

"The idea of the sanctuary started with a woman named Grace Votey, who was the MGC conservation chairman during the late 1930s," Motawi told me.

"She knew about the famous New England Wildflower Conservancy and felt there should be one in Michigan. Other Garden Club members were aware of the diversity of wildflowers in the Loda Lake area, and together they began exploring the idea of a sanctuary with the Forest Service."

While individual wildflowers are not marked, numbered posts along the trail can be matched with lists of flowers and plants in a handy trail brochure available at the sanctuary, the Forest Service headquarters or online.

We had the guide with us and spotted (we think) hepatica, ground pine, hemlock trees, red pine and what looked like a leftover cranberry in the wetland area.

Despite our shaky identification skills — a wildflower guide with photos would be handy to take along — the sanctuary/cultural trails were a pleasant way to spend a couple of hours wandering.

In the southeast corner of the sanctuary is an old orchard and a fenced-off pollinator garden with milkweed, horsemint, prickly pear cactus and other neat plants to discover.

For the more adventurous, the wildflower trail has connections to the



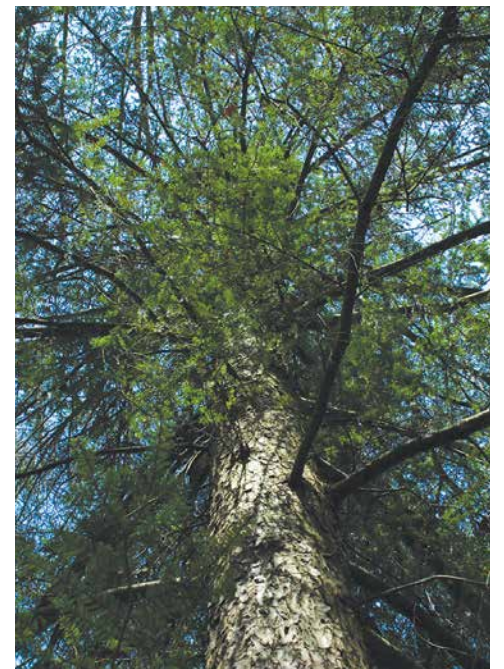
Can you spot the ground pine? Photo: Kevin Howell.

North Country Scenic Trail. (Read our November 2021 story of one woman's solo trek on the trail, from this area to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.)

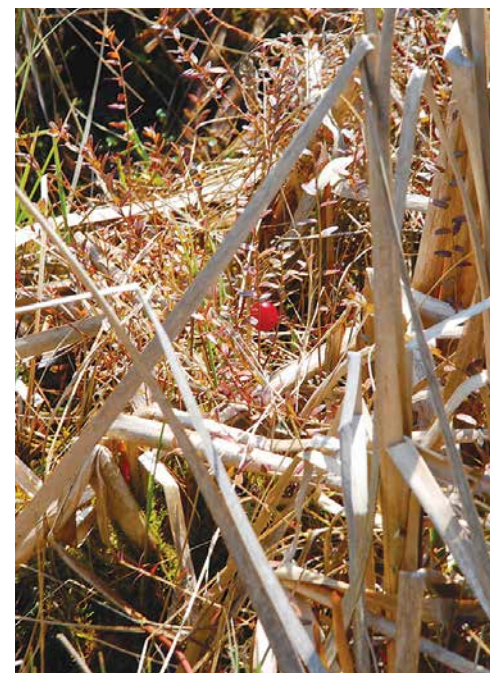
By the time this story is published in mid-May, the weather should be warming and the wildflowers flourishing — a spectacular time to visit Loda Lake.

Find information at: www.migardenclubs.org and the Forest Service web page for Loda Lake (with directions): tinyurl.com/33u44jph

Kevin Howell lives in Mason County. He loves the Michigan woods, lakes, people and, especially, Michigan craft beers — not necessarily in that order!



Hemlock tree towers above the forest floor. Photo: Kevin Howell.



A cranberry (?) peeks out from Loda Lake's wetlands. Photo: Kevin Howell.



Young pine showing green on the forest floor. Photo: Kevin Howell.



Loda Lake through the cattails along Wildflower Trail. Photo: Kevin Howell.



Navigator Jean found something at the end of the boardwalk over the wetlands at Loda Lake. Photo: Kevin Howell.



Wait...that's not a flower! There's fungus among us at Loda Lake. Photo: Kevin Howell.

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Kaleva sisu results in community center

Story and photos by **RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS**

In 1960, an elementary school was built in Kaleva. Later, around 2000, an addition was constructed. I was able to substitute teach there several times before it closed in 2009. I enjoyed the teachers and students, and seeing The Bottle House across the street. Sadly, the building was unoccupied after 2009. Like other Manistee County schools, it was waiting to be torn down — or for a miracle.

The village of Kaleva supported that miracle and raised the funds to purchase the building. That was only the beginning.

Fast forward to 2022. This building, known as the Maple Grove Township Community Center, has become the poster child for sisu, a Finnish concept representing resilience, tenacity of purpose, bravery, hardiness and grit. Another definition states: “going beyond one’s mental or physical activity.”

When I entered the building from the Kauko Street doorway, I was impressed with the volunteers and activity. Former local teachers and students, area residents, and descendants of the Finnish pioneers, who started the Kaleva community in the early 1900s, were giving their time and expertise. They were sanding, painting, replacing tiles, cleaning and organizing. Young people have been encouraged and are helping with projects, too.

The classrooms have morphed into community spaces. The Maple Grove Township and Village of Kaleva offices have relocated there. You can pay your local water bill in person with Clerk Karen Dufresne on Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or speak to Maple Grove Township Supervisor Wayne Beldo on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. While in the community center, you may walk the halls to get in your “steps” from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or perhaps you’ll take a sewing class, eat a senior meal at noon on Thursday (reserve your spot by



Cynthia Asiala (right) and a helper update the bulletin board in the former school gymnasium, now part of Maple Grove Township Community Center.

the prior Wednesday), or take other classes, such as exercise, aerobics, art, babysitting certification and more. I suggest you go to their website for the list and details. Many local people are offering programs. In the future, there will be an emergency shelter and other meeting space uses, such as rental space for an event. Check out the community center’s Facebook page.

Just visiting and speaking with two volunteers and staff left me energized and hopeful. Cynthia Asiala was gracious and showed me around, sharing various ideas and plans. To paraphrase her: Early Kaleva people built a civilization here, with strong ties to Finnish language, culture and

history.

Named for the 19th-century epic, The Kalevala, by Elias Lonnrot, Kaleva saw many immigrants who worked hard to improve the land and eke out a living. Some arrived to escape Russian oppression, poverty and crop failures. Others came to join family members who had settled here first. Some pioneers arrived in boxcars which traveled over the High Bridge railroad structure traversing the Manistee River. They brought traditions, foods, saunas and stories.

In the “creation of the earth” Finnish epic, a sampo is constructed by a blacksmith, and it was taken in a robbery. Perhaps these community-center, make-



Mosaic supplies in the art room of the former Kaleva elementary school. Photo: P. Stinson.



Art in the hallways can be enjoyed by walkers in the community center.

it-happen residents have found their own sampo, a mythological device that brings riches and good fortune to its owner. (See the Kalevala story’s art along the railroad right-of-way sculpture trail in town.)

I know I felt some of that good fortune and energy after my visit. I plan to attend a class or two at MGTCC in the future. Maybe I can even pick up one of the Lions Club’s fresh-baked pasties on Thursday morning, or purchase a gift from the Kaleva Art Gallery during my visit to this Finnish town. Be sure to check hours and class schedules before you go.

Sisu, a sampo and a sauna to you all!

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.

Folk Festival

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what he calls “Creole Rock.” He began his career as a punk rocker in the mid-2000s and cites Kurt Cobain, The Ramones, Foo Fighters and Eminem among his influences.

Stringtown Trio, from mid-Michigan, brings “guitars, mandolin, fiddle, dobro and harmony vocals” to their performances which include “swinging roots music ranging in styles from country/bluegrass, swing/blues, Celtic/world music with “exuberant virtuosity.”

Seth Bernard and Jordan Hamilton are slated to team up for an eclectic set.

Bernard, of Earthwork Music renown, describes himself as a “black-bearded, surprise-eyed psych-rocker singing the woods and water, souls and soils of the Great Lakes. Cellist Jordan Hamilton, of Last Gasp Collective and the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, “merges songwriting, loop pedals, sample machines, and vocals to create a sonic landscape of experimental hip-hop, folk, soul, and classical music.”

The Handstanders of Onekama have been playing some kind of gallery fusion for the last couple years, for and by themselves, in Jamey Barnard’s art studio, Handstand. They play music from the improvised to the mostly forgotten. Jamey Barnard-

keys / piano, John Storms Rhom- piano / keys / percussion, Trevor Hobbs - keys / drums / piano, and Yali Rivlin- saxophone.

These artists bring a wide array of sounds, songs and creativity. Folks will be sitting under the trees and tapping their feet alongside those of their friends and families. I know I look forward to seeing all the regular and new “spirits” coming out of the woods to attend.

Everyone loves to see the kids and youthful dancers on the grass in front of the stage. Some of us festivalgoers will be checking out the art and craft booths, looking for a special gift — perhaps for ourselves. This year, food trucks will offer yummy things to eat. Other tables will

offer information as well. Those attending can share the joy of “almost summer” and the return of the festival after a two-year hiatus.

Learn more on their Facebook page or at: spiritofthewoods.org. Donations are needed to help sponsor musicians, cover operating costs and keep this festival free!

To learn more about the festival’s history, read Stewart McFerran’s story, “Traditional music takes center stage at Spirit of the Woods” in our January 2020 issue, found online at freshwater-reporter.com.

Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas is a volunteer with the Spirit of the Woods Music Association.



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MI BACKYARD

Roadside show: Late spring wildflowers

By JENNIFER DEVINE

A rainbow of color is about to brighten your daily travels. So-called ditch flowers are anything but dull, though they may be common. As the weeks go by, the blooms might change, but the spectacle doesn't. Look for my roadside "ditch lists" of flowers blooming each month in upcoming issues of Freshwater Reporter. Here's a short list of late spring flora you might see through your vehicle's windows.



Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) grows in corn and grain fields, also known as cereal fields. This reseeding annual was introduced in the 1800s as an ornamental. A nectar favorite of bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, the leaves of this "weed" feed grasshoppers. The petals are used as garnishes in drinks or on food, and mixed with alum to make a cotton or wool dye. We call it Bachelor's Button for its use as a boutonniere. It loves sandy soil, abundant in our area. Find it in meadows, clearings, roadsides, ditches or home gardens.

Stem: branched, gray-green
Height: up to 3 feet

Flower: 2 inches wide, usually bright blue, can come in shades of pink and purple with narrow jagged petals resembling mini carnations

Leaves: narrow, 4 inches long, arranged alternately on stem

Seed: forms at base of flower; oblong, with little hairs on the tip



Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) was introduced in the 1600s as an ornamental plant for its beauty and is now a staple in wildflower packets. Very fragrant on humid evenings and often confused with 5-petaled phlox, this short-lived perennial is considered invasive, as it spreads easily and can choke out native plants. View it along roads, nature hikes, railways, woodlands, open meadows and thickets. Butterflies and hummingbirds enjoy it, too.

Stem: single and hairy, until branching on top for several flowerheads.
Height: up to 4 feet

Flower: 1 inch wide, clusters of pink, purple or white with 4 petals each.

Leaves: 5 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide, alternate on stem, oblong, smooth, with toothed edge

Seed: forms under flower; up to 20,000 per plant



Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) is a native perennial that can withstand cold spring temps and prefers moist ditches, marshes and swampy areas. The "petals" appear completely yellow to humans, but they are a mixed yellow and ultra violet called "bee's purple" to attract bees and flies. Handling can cause skin irritation due to an oily substance called protoanemonin when leaves are broken and is toxic to humans and animals that consume it.

Stem: hollow and single, until branching at the top
Height: up to 3 feet

Flower: about 1 inch wide with 5-9 shiny, ovular, yellow "petal" sepals with up to 50 stamens in the center

Leaves: alternate, glossy green, oval to heart shaped and the undersides have very fine hairs.

Seed: Each flower can produce up to 200.



Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*) is similar to, and confused with, the later-blooming flower called Aster. Found in dry sandy ground, clearings, banks, sidewalk cracks, roadsides and railways, the flower also shows up in charred fields after wildfire damage. Considered a native, this wildflower weed has no taproot or rhizomes to dig up, making it easy to keep under control. Wildlife such as rabbits and deer have been known to munch on the leaves and flowers.

Stem: single, then branching at the top for the many flower clusters
Height: up to 3 feet

Flower: clusters of pure white or pink to bluish tint with 50-100 half-inch petals around a yellow center


Leaves: 1-6 inches long, green, alternate, spatulate-shaped near stem base and oblong ascending the stem

Seed: tan, 1 mm long, sometimes with fine fibrous hairs on the tip, like a dandelion

With warmer weather and plants popping, there is no time like the present to take a drive in the country and look for showy roadside attractions, right here in MI Backyard.

Jennifer Devine is a homesteader. 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 a large garden.

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A (True) Fishy Tale

By JOSHUA ELIE

During our first telephone conversation, I asked Pat, Freshwater Reporter's co-editor, about the possibility of writing a story or two for the paper. She explained about the community focus of the paper and the type of stories she likes to publish, adding, "Some people glance at the name of our paper and say, 'Oh, the fishing report,' or they think it's a bunch of fishing stories."

I believe that's the only time I have ever heard her speak in less than the most sparkling, positive tone. (She assured me later that she and her future husband and co-editor spent many of their first dates fishing.)

Well, with the lilacs in bloom, or soon to be, if you love fishing as much as I do, you really can't think about anything else. A beautiful, sunny day on the water, surrounded by the serene sounds and sights of nature. A gift of peaceful bliss.

Prepping

About this time last year, "Blaze," who



Homemade anchor. Courtesy photo.

lives in Pennsylvania and is my best friend in the whole wide world, calls me up and tells me he has always dreamed of fishing in the North Woods. Hey, perfect timing. Come on up. Now, my friend Blaze is a little bit "directionally challenged," so it takes him 16 hours to make the 9-hour drive.

Anyway, here we are. I've got my little tin boat up on the trailer, loaded with all the poles, tackle, trolling motor, cooler full of "refreshments"... almost everything we need, including the anchors I built and haven't had a chance to use yet. Next stop: fishing license. I already have mine, but the internet is down, so they "can't process anything from out-of-state," meaning, his license. We may or may not have driven all the way to Manistee to get his. Or I may or may not have agreed to pay the fine if there were any problems, because we are now on a mission for sun and water. One more stop: Pappy's Bait and Tackle. I love local bait shops. They are where you get your real fishing reports, and they always have the freshest bait.

Then, it's off to the lake we go.

Boat's in the water now, and I park the truck. I come back down to the water's edge, and the boat is really in the water, like, away from shore. Seems that my good

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First fish. Courtesy photo.

friend Blaze, trying to find a cell signal, has walked off. So, hey, nice hot, sunny day for a swim.

Minutes of water aerobics later, the boat's ready to go, though I forgot my Gerber (pliers, knife, all-in-one kind of thing) in the truck. Now, I always leave my keys in the truck when I head out on the water, so they don't fall into the drink. My friend Blaze has conscientiously locked the truck doors, but we are still all good. Just call my dad to bring the spare key; he is always looking for something to do, anyway. Surely somebody living on the lake still has a landline, so we will just ask around while we are fishing.

Reeling

Off we go for a sunny day on the water,

serene sounds and sights, blissing now that we are catching fish! Well, I am catching fish. Blaze's first catch is his brand new 10-gallon Stetson hat, but no harm, no foul. It should be noted that Blaze has a few pounds on me, and when I look over I notice there is a good deal of water in his side of the boat. It's my first trip on the water this year, so I was bound to forget something, and this time it is the drain plug and something to bail with. Good thing I have a pen in my pocket just the right size to plug the hole, and good thing for Blaze's size 13 swamp shoes bailing us out.

A bit later, I hook a nice bass, though my line is too light to pull him into the boat. I reach over to grab him, and in I go. Now, you can't just pull yourself from the water and into such a small, light boat; you have to swim it to shore to climb aboard. My brilliant friend is confident he can just lean back and pull me up and in with no problem. So, there we are, swimming the boat to shore together. And we do find someone with a landline.

Here comes the storm cloud.

It's cold now. Time to call it a day. Truck's unlocked. Blaze's first priority is to try to find a cell signal, and the wind is really picking up. I get one last swim to chase the loose boat again. Then, it's time to go home and clean the fish. We can't stop laughing because we both still managed to catch our limit.

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

"Catch of the day" — bluegill, pumpkinseed and one bass. Courtesy photo.



MAY IS NATIONAL PET MONTH

Retirement buddies

By CARMELITTA TIFFANY

Recently, a severe migraine put me out of commission. I retreated to my dark bedroom with a cool cloth over my eyes and enough medication to sedate an elephant. After a long drug-induced nap, I woke up with a warm body nestled near mine. Although I already knew who it was, I took off my eye wrap and looked into the big brown eyes of my best friend.

Those eyes aren't my spouse's. They belong to my 20-pound furry friend. Her name is Dottie. I call her MissDottie or Missus, for short. She is part schnauzer, part Yorkie, and part whatiswhosis. She and I have been together about eight years now. She's always there for me, through thick or thin.

I am the fortunate type of person who never has to go looking for a pet, and MissDottie is a prime example. She came to me from an acquaintance who needed to rehome her. It was perfect timing, as my other dog, Charlie, had just lost his soul "catpanion" Maxx to old age.

Charlie and Dottie were the perfect pair — about the same size, but with completely opposite temperaments. She was precocious to his laid-back, and they were always together.

Unfortunately, Charlie vanished from our lives a few years ago, and Dottie has adopted me as her soulmate. She has taken such good care of me during these last few years, through a hip replacement and COVID lockdown. We enjoy our quiet life, now that we are both of retirement age, and are always happy to have my grandson Henry come over to play.

I have thought about finding MissDottie a friend to adopt, but I stop and remember that it isn't the way it works with me. I must be patient and wait for the next furry soul to find us and adopt us. We aren't in a hurry, though. MissDottie and I enjoy each other's company as we are right now.

I know that there are many animal shelters out there wishing for us to come in and adopt a stray, and that works for many people, but I cherish the magical moment when I am chosen to befriend a



Courtesy photo

creature, when they decide to adopt me, the stray soul searching for love.

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.

A Rescue Dog Dreams

Ella Rose, boarded outdoors two years in Copemish, brought home from Manistee's Homeward Bound Animal Shelter.

Do you know that moment
just before sleep, eyes barely open,
in a twilight consciousness,
journeying toward rest,
perhaps to dream?
As we watch our dog,
Ella Rose,
so tired after a hard run
in the woods, she can barely
stay awake. Her eyes almost close.
We whisper to each other.
Even with our hushed voices,
she raises her head to stay
alert, a rescue dog's vigilance.
We say, Shhhhhh. Let her rest!"
Such a precious experience,
to witness her last effort
before she feels safe to let go.
Soon deeply asleep, she dreams,
her nose twitches, full body quivers,
paws curve and tremble.
Can our affectionate Ella Rose,
who loves to snuggle,
be chasing a terrified rabbit
to snap its neck?
Or may we imagine
she's dreaming the promise
of a treat after her Kibbles dinner,
a domesticated "Greenie" bone
she'll toss in the air, tease,
then tear to shreds and devour
on our cozy flowered living room rug,
here in her homey refuge, yet fierce
as if she's in the wild wild woods
where some rabbit, safe in its burrow
just now, is dreaming a reprieve
from fleeing for its life.

—Louisa Loveridge Gallas

'Percy' makes tracks on Mars

By BROOKE EDWARDS

The little rover that went to Mars in 2020, Perseverance (aka "Percy"), has been busy revealing the secrets of Mars since landing in February 2021. The intent of the mission is to study the area of the Jezero crater, survey it in preparation for future human explorers, and to search for signs of past microbial life. Here is an update on Perseverance's exciting mission.

Destination reached

On April 13, Percy arrived at the now dried-up delta area of the Jezero crater to begin the "Delta Front Campaign." While there may not be life on Mars currently, microscopic life might have existed on the planet in the past, as evidence of once-flowing rivers are visible on Mars' surface.

According to NASA Associate Administrator Thomas Zurbuchen, "The delta at Jezero Crater promises to be a veritable geologic feast, and one of the best locations on Mars to look for signs of past microscopic life."

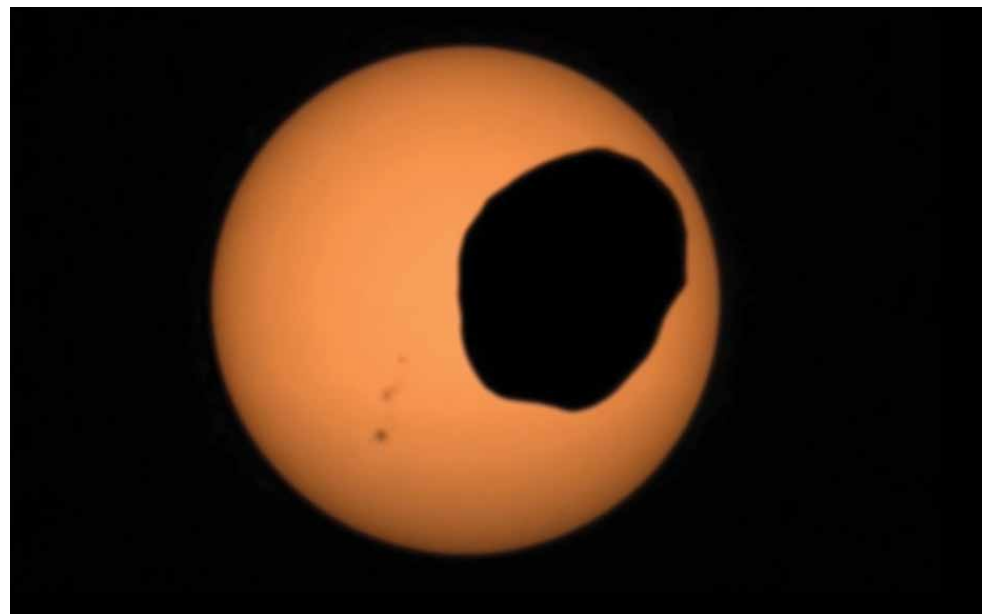
Perseverance has arrived at a place on Mars known as the "Three Forks," where three "routes" or branches in the surface lead to the ancient river delta. NASA/JPL's Perseverance team expects the rover's expedition there to last about six Earth months. In that time, Percy is expected to collect around eight rock samples on its way to the top of the delta and back down

again. After the successful completion of this campaign, the Perseverance team plans to begin another six-month ascent of the delta, called the "Delta Top Campaign," this time taking another of the three routes.

Only time will tell what will be found in the soil samples and pictures. We can expect there will be more Mars news this year. Everything we learn about Mars not only tells us what we need to know for future human explorers, but also reveals, in every detail we find, more about our solar system's history. There is still much we do not know about the history of our cosmic neighborhood.

Ingenuity rocks

The small drone-like helicopter, Ingenuity, that traveled to Mars on Perseverance, has exceeded expectations. The Earth-controlled Mars helicopter was only expected to perform 5 flights but has now flown above Martian soil 25 times!



Mars' moon, Phobos, passes in front of the sun, as seen from the Perseverance rover. Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos. Credit: NASA/JPL Perseverance Team

Ingenuity has made it through two seasons on the Red Planet after taking its first flight a little more than a year ago. These findings prove that flight in the atmospheric conditions of Mars is possible. Next on Ingenuity's to-do list is following Perseverance to the delta.

Solar eclipse

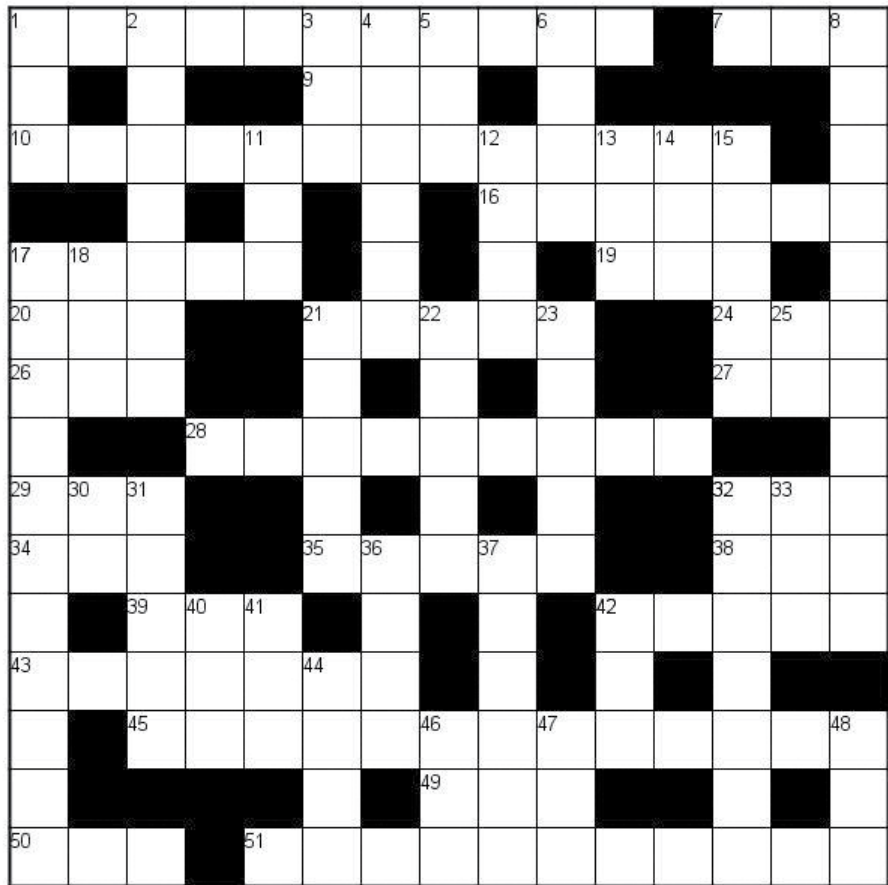
On April 2, Percy captured an amazing sight with its Mastcam-Z special camera. The eclipse lasted over 40 seconds, as Mars' moon, Phobos, crossed in front of the sun's location in the Martian sky. Because Phobos is much further away from Mars than our own moon is from Earth, and 157 times smaller than our moon, it

was not able to fully eclipse the sun.

This higher-resolution camera and solar filters revealed details of Mars' moon, Phobos, set against the sun. The image released makes one feel as if they are standing on Mars looking through eclipse glasses. Imagine humans on Mars one day seeing a sight like this in person!

Source: NASA/JPL

Brooke Edwards is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. She lives in Manistee and has given area presentations and hosted night-sky viewings at Fifth Avenue beach. Follow her group on Facebook: @BrookeEdwardsSolarSystemAmbassador



?NEVER? ODD OR EVEN? By MARK VIDEAN

ACROSS

- 1 How Eve's mate may have introduced himself
- 7 First mammal to be cloned
- 9 Quarter of a quart
- 10 Geriatric cats
- 16 Ouzo flavoring
- 17 Trite
- 19 Kiss, hug, kiss, Abbr.
- 20 Lennon's love
- 21 Carpenter's tool
- 24 Geologic period
- 26 Word with fishing or lightning
- 27 Pampering place
- 28 R.N.s race
- 29 Peculiar
- 32 Ms. Gardner, movie star
- 34 Grief
- 35 H.R.s and R.B.I.s
- 38 Pester
- 39 Dazzle
- 42 Knot again
- 43 Wipe out again
- 45 A question for ornithological theologians
- 49 Pie _____ mode
- 50 "Just a sec" in a text
- 51 "Pull your sword, wimp!"

DOWN

- 1 E.R. V.I.P.s
- 2 "Stop agreeing!"

- 3 Word before or after pack
- 4 Smother, as sound
- 5 Mimic
- 6 Comparable (to)
- 8 Oh no! It's a bit of old wisdom
- 11 Rapper _____ Nas X
- 12 Bear, Portage or Hamlin
- 13 Veto
- 14 That, in Spain
- 15 Genders
- 17 To accept a loan or steal; that is the question
- 18 It's _____ brainer
- 21 "Ten _____ a-leaping..."
- 22 Spanish for "old woman"
- 23 Artificial baits
- 25 The politician posed for a photo _____
- 30 "Do or _____ not. There is no try." -Yoda
- 31 Moistened on a cool morning, as grass
- 32 Barbuda's island partner
- 33 Steve, of rock guitar fame
- 36 "With this ring, I _____ wed."
- 37 Elvis's birthplace
- 40 Acapulco gold
- 41 What dogs' tails do
- 42 Deli or bar order
- 44 Oracle
- 46 Another carpenter's tool
- 47 Cul de _____
- 48 Blu-ray forerunner

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

P.O. Box 188, Manistee, MI 49660 231-835-0867 editor@freshwater-reporter.com

Publisher/Editor: Pat Stinson Co-conspirator: Mark Videan

Graphic design/layout: Amy Hansen Advertising Sales: Stewart McFerran

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