

# FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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## Luther: from logging camp to tourist community

By KEVIN HOWELL

“Playful City USA” read the signs at the village limits of Luther, population less than 400. This recognition is given to communities prioritizing “active and balanced” play time for children. The designation seems doubly appropriate, considering the number of resorts, off-road vehicle trails and campgrounds surrounding the little Lake County village.

My navigator Jean and I decided to visit the area in late May as one of our “Backroads and Beaches” road trips. Checking the map, we found a southern approach to the village via U.S. Highway 10 east from Baldwin to Kings Highway, and north to Luther.

Luther can also be reached from the west via Five Mile Road off M-37, a slightly shorter drive from our home to the southwest. However, the longer route gave us a good feel for the area.

We had spotted a tiny burg on the map just off 10 called Nirvana, so we had to take a left off the highway to reach Nirvana first. Alas, where Nirvana should have been, there was just a small, unmarked cluster of homes along Kings Highway. Past once-was Nirvana, the road winds through hills, forested areas and small farmlands for the next 20 minutes or so.

The “Playful” part of the drive included backwoods places like Tin Cup ORV and motorcycle trails through pine and hardwood forests; Fort Buckeye, a 320-acre fenced deer hunting camp; Carrieville State Campground; and plenty of private campgrounds and resorts.



Luther sits at the headwaters of the Little Manistee River and is a central place to pick up supplies and quaff a couple beers at North Bar or Dex’s Loggers Landing, both on the main road through town known as State Street. The village, once a booming logging town back in the late 1800s, reached a population of nearly 5,000, according to Marilyn Gray from

the Luther Area Museum.

“We had one hotel and a lot of boardinghouses,” she told me. “It’s a logging town, named for a man named Luther.”

The first logging camp was begun by the Wilson, Luther and Wilson Company, and initially the village was named Wilson.

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CALENDAR  
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MI BACKYARD

## Summer Wildflower Season

By JENNIFER DEVINE

This is in no way a comprehensive guide to the rainbow of color that will brighten your daily travels but, rather, a short list of summer flora you may see along the roadside and in the ditch.



Photo by Jennifer Devine.

**Orange Daylily** (*Hemerocallis fulva*), also known as common daylily and ditch lily, was introduced by early American settlers as an ornamental. Have you noticed that they multiply rather easily? This beautiful, hardy plant spreads by its roots and rhizomes underground, displacing our native plants. They tolerate heat and drought and thrive in most soil conditions. Keep them under control in beds and enjoy their edible flowers and leaves, raw or cooked. Edibility is best when they’re young or newly bloomed, otherwise they’re tough and fibrous. Boil their tubers, just like potatoes. For a look-alike and better planting option, try our edible Native Wood Lily.

Stem: 4-6 leafless stems (scapes) per plant

Height: up to 6 feet per scape

Flower: orange, about 4 inches long, 3 petals and 3 sepals that look like petals. Can have 12-15 buds per scape, prolonging bloom time through summer.

Leaves: bushy, rise from the white core (crown), broad to narrow pointed tip, smooth and 19-35 inches long

Seed: none

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## A tree grows in Baldwin: a gift for the curious

Story and photos by PAT STINSON



Elizabeth “Eli” Heckler, owner of Red Tree Curiosities, stands beside her painting, “The Red Tree”, the gallery’s namesake and a symbol of both strength and fragility.

The curiosities you’ll find in Elizabeth “Eli” Heckler’s gallery in Baldwin aren’t the creaky, cob-webby stuff of mystery novels. Red Tree Curiosities is a little shop of wonders, filled with a carefully curated collection of fine local art, crafts and antiques.

In its own building, next to the Lake County Chamber of Commerce, Red Tree attracts visitors with its fanciful logo and windows offering a rotating preview of work from about 35 makers hailing from Baldwin, Idlewild, Ludington, Bitely and Big Rapids.

Some have won awards, had their work appear on the cover of magazines or been selected for artist residencies at Michigan parks such as Isle Royale, Sleeping Bear Dunes and Porcupine Mountains.

“They’re very prolific, making things I’d never think of,” Heckler said.

When you spend time to fully appreciate the gallery’s displays, you’ll make joyous discoveries of fine art; jewelry; apparel; home goods; handmade cards, maps, magnets and soaps; and hand crafts, such

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# Yarr, Matey, the Pyrates be here!

By **JOSHUA ELIE**

Photos courtesy of the Lakeshore Pyrate Head Club

Most people in this area know about Ludington's beautiful beach, the romantic stroll down the breakwall toward the lighthouse to see the Badger set sail into a spectacular sunset, and gathering outside House of Flavors for world-famous ice cream. These activities are a "must" if you have not yet enjoyed them.

Another "must," not as well-known, is



meeting the charming men and women of the Lakeshore Pyrate Head Club. This is a friendly and fun group standing aboard the mighty Venture, a fine double-masted, 30-foot schooner that magically "floats" above land. Club members host fundraisers and volunteer for many important causes.

The "Y" is not a typo. I wouldn't call them "pirates," in the truest sense, because they won't steal from you, but they will take donations. I also wouldn't call them "Parrot Heads" as their motto is "Party for a Purpose." You will still find them dressed like pirates and likely hear Jimmy Buffet in the background.

Their biggest event of the year is the Buccaneer Bash, always held the third Saturday in July at the Ludington Boat Club on Lake Street. This year marks the club's 20th bash. Attendees are encouraged to dress as pirates for the event and are greeted at the gate (\$5 adults and children free) with a lei. They will enjoy "trop (tropical) rock for your Caribbean soul," performed by Greg and Jeff Grossenbacher, popularly known up and down the western Michigan shoreline as "Two Dudes in Flip Flops." Beverages will be served from the boat club's bar and plenty of food trucks will be on hand. Any jolly-sweet child will be welcomed aboard the mystical Venture,



as the bash includes kids' games and raffles.

Last year, more than 500 attended the Bash and helped raise \$12,000. During a previous "Blast Off Into Summer" spring fundraiser, the club offered live music, raffles and prizes and raised \$1,500. Members look forward to hosting this event again. Every dollar raised throughout the year is presented to the Alzheimer's Association at its Fall Walk, to be held Oct. 1 this year at the Waterfront Park in Ludington.

On the afternoon of Oct. 29, amidst the festivities in downtown Ludington, you will also find the Venture full of Pyrates sharing their grand booty of candy. And, if ye be of jolly smile, ye may get a picture with a Pyrate and the magical Venture.

Other places you will find the Pyrates include local libraries, schools and the Sandcastles Children's Museum for book readings and skit performances. Throughout November, they help the

Salvation Army by ringing bells and spreading Christmas cheer.

More annual events where Pyrates gather — right there in Ludington, Michigan — include June's Blessing of the Boats (held on the 11th) and Lakestride Races (on the 25th this year), when they shoot their cannon to start the races and ring the bell as people cross the finish line. They're also found at the Final Friday Experience (a street fair ordinarily held the last Friday of the month, May-Sept.) and the post-Thanksgiving Aglow on the Avenue Holiday Parade, (to be held Nov. 26 this year), when they light up the Venture ... to the delight of those along the route.

So, hoist your main sail and set your compass due Ludington, then shake hands and dance with a Pyrate.

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

# Life at 9.9

Story and photos by **SUSAN HINTZ**

I didn't always enjoy the slow life. Growing up, I liked speed. I preferred shushing down slopes versus gliding over snow. Crashing over waves rather than bobbing with them.

So, when my husband and I bought our cottage, it was only natural that a power boat would be our vessel of choice. We loved zipping around the lake, waterskiing and knee boarding. But there was one problem. There wasn't room for the dogs.

A pontoon was in order! We found the perfect toon for them; yes, for them! It was a bare-boned (pun intended) model. No comfy furniture, a rubberized floor instead of carpeting, and a four-stroke motor that topped out at 9.9 mph. We equipped the toon with lawn chairs and storage tubs (which also serve as tables) for lifejackets,

koozies, and plates. Then we loaded up the dogs and away we went.

The dogs absolutely love it! They have room to roam, sticking their heads over or through the railing opening (depending on the dog) and welcoming the wind in their faces — ears airborne in the breeze. Gull sightings are a bonus and warrant a happy, energetic woof.

While there's a storm of activity around us, embracing more power, we fifty-something peace seekers find contentment just pattering about. Enjoying the tunes on the Bluetooth speaker (country "Pontoon" song playing, of course), snacking and hydrating while rocking and rolling with the waves, and bringing into focus life and the wildlife around us.

I never thought we'd be "tooners," but life at 9.9 is better than we expected.

Susan Hintz is a creative entrepreneur who loves beachcombing, photographing nature and writing about the outdoors.



Scout, Ruger, Dan and Sophie watch as they slowly pass the far shore.



Sophie, on another exhilarating pontoon ride.





Adrien Vin, Unsplash.

## A canoe trip down Memory Lane

By VALERIE CHANDLER

I grew up on the ancestral lands of the Ottawa, along the Manistee River on the outskirts of Brethren. My Dad was a hard worker. At the time, I didn't know how much he worked other than he left for work when it was dark and sometimes came home after my sister and I were already in bed. He was an asphalt raker, part of a crew that paved roads and driveways. On the rare occasion when he had a weekend off, and without any urgent household chores, my parents would plan a canoe trip for the day. Even though these trips were just for the day, and cost very little, they are some of my favorite family memories.

My parents would load the canoe and life preservers into the truck before we headed to the river. Most of the time, I lazily dipped my fingers in the water as they paddled down the Manistee. My sister and I sat on beach towels in the middle of the canoe and kept our eyes peeled for turtles sunning themselves on logs. Occasionally, we'd see a water snake and point it out, so my parents could avoid it, but I'm certain they already were aware.

Sometimes, my mom would pack a picnic lunch, and we would find a nice sand bar where we could stop, roast hot dogs and search for Petoskey stones. Even if we didn't have a picnic, stopping to stretch our legs and search for Petoskeys was necessary on every trip. As a kid, I always hoped the experience would last longer, but as an adult I understand why a sore shoulder or back

may have discouraged them from paddling an extra couple miles. Nonetheless, those canoe trip are memories I now treasure.

I remember when one trip became an adventure. Dad, his brother, Jeff, and I took our canoe down the Manistee River to do some fishing. I was so little I don't remember much — except we were fishing, and I was filled with excitement as I reeled in my first fish. My Dad took the fish off the hook and laid it in the bottom of the canoe. He was smiling and proud of me. Of course, I was beaming ear-to-ear about my accomplishment. Suddenly, the fish started flopping around and flipped out of the canoe and landed back in the water. I started to cry, thinking my first fish was gone, and I peered over the side, hoping to catch a glimpse of it swimming away. To my surprise, the fish was still there. Apparently, the fish was stunned because it was still in the water beside the canoe. With his quick thinking and reflexes, my dad reached down into the water, grabbed my fish, put it back in the canoe and became my hero! Talk about a fish tale. We ended up having one tasty dinner.

Valerie Chandler lives in Wellston with her husband Matthew and their Border Collie/Australian Shepherd. She is a citizen of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Her parents still own the aluminum canoe in her story, and they report it is just as river-worthy today.

## Annual Block Party to rock Onekama on July 7

From staff reports

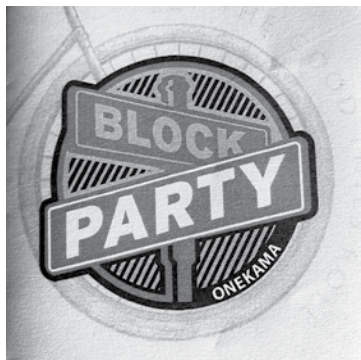
Manistee County's "Two Lake Town" is the waterfront setting for the 6th annual Onekama Block Party to be held 4-6 p.m., July 7, in the village. The event includes games, food, music, sidewalk sales, face painting, raffles and a farmers market.

This year's theme is "bicycles." Decorated bikes, supplied by village residents and businesses, are appearing at various points along Main Street.

The party will move to the Onekama Village Park, 4775 Main St., at 6 p.m. for a raffle of new bicycles and more. Entertainment will follow, 6-8 p.m., with Cousin Curtiss, a nationally touring musician and returning favorite.

The Onekama block party was organized in 2017 by two village business owners: Bonnie McPhedran of Yellow Dog Café and Ashley Bradford of Anchored Designs.

"We wanted to create an event that encouraged people to explore Main Street and visit local businesses," Bradford said.



"Onekama is a sleepy town, but we think it is very special. We don't have a lot of shops or restaurants, but we have enough."

McPhedran added, "The concentration is really on being outdoors."

Onekama is tucked between Portage Lake and Lake Michigan and

offers beaches, parks, fishing, boating, and hiking. It is the hidden "gateway" village along the southern stretch of M-22.

"Our village is about slowing down, petting dogs, talking with neighbors, and stopping to smell the petunias (planted along Main Street)," explained Patina co-owner Nikki Schneider.

Among the businesses are a coffee shop, hardware store, restaurant, historic corner tavern, several boutiques, an upscale grocery store (inside the EZ Mart), ice cream shop and a new deli/market called The Speckled Goat.

"If you are looking for old-fashioned summer family fun, this is the party for you," Schneider said.

## Community band adds choir and two performances

By PAT STINSON

From junior high through high school, band class and band activities filled more time during my teenaged years than reading books, listening to music, hanging with friends and dreaming about boys. I tried my darnedest to make my clarinet produce the kind of sounds Benny Goodman, Woody Herman and Pete Fountain made. Realizing I would never attain their heights, or even fourth chair in the school band, I relaxed a bit and enjoyed playing everything from Sousa to Dvorak.

Decades later, I still remember notes and finger positions of certain passages we played over and over. Practice could be monotonous, but band was fun. I didn't even mind being called a band nerd. I made new friends and especially loved the marching band. If I couldn't excel on clarinet, I sure did on the football field — leading my 8-person squad in formations we practiced for hours after school, in rain or sunshine, extreme heat or finger-freezing cold.

So, the thought of playing once more in a band, especially a community band, holds a certain appeal. As "mature" adults, we tend to value the success of the whole over individual achievement. Yes, I can see the allure of a community band experience. And, apparently, so do a lot of others.

The Manistee Community Band, a group of musicians ranging in age from students to seniors, will perform four concerts this summer, with the addition of a chorus. Conductor Ryan Billings, in an April interview with the Manistee News Advocate, said that organizers "wanted to

provide a different experience for people who don't play an instrument."

The first free community concert, "Contemporary Americana," will begin at 7 p.m., June 21, in the Lions Pavilion at First Street Beach in Manistee. In case of rain, the concert will be held at Manistee United Methodist Church, 387 First Street. An identical performance of music by American composers takes place at 7:30 p.m., June 24, in Frankfort's Mineral Springs Park.

During their third concert, "A Joyous Celebration," the two groups will entertain audiences with theme music from James Bond movies as well as "Mary Poppins", "A Sound of Music" and others, beginning at 7 p.m., Aug. 9, at Ludington's Waterfront Park.

Their final performance, "A Summer Renaissance," takes place at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 16, in the Ballroom at Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple Street, Manistee. The world premiere of Concerto for Clarinet and Band, including Central Michigan University's Ardea Quartet, is the highlight of the evening. Tickets to this indoor event are \$15 for adults and \$10 for those 17 and younger.

Follow the nonprofit band on Facebook @Manistee Community Band or email the organization at manisteecommunityband@gmail.com

Pat Stinson played B-flat and alto clarinet in high school. A mediocre musician, she redeemed herself as a member of the marching band during half-time shows on the football field. She is Freshwater Reporter's co-editor.

## 'Enchanted' art exhibit coincides with forest festival

From staff reports

MANISTEE — The enchantment of a forest setting captured the imaginations of storytellers long ago, who placed fairies, elves, witches and gingerbread houses among the trees as enticements or warnings for children who might wander too far into the woods.

The Enchanted Forest art exhibition, showing now through July 9 in the Hardy Hall at Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, explores both the real and mystical qualities of forests.

Located in the heart of the Manistee National Forest, the city of Manistee is the site of the annual Manistee National Forest Festival. Organizers of the art exhibition explained the show "is meant to reflect the beauty and enchantment of the Manistee National Forest and all forests of Michigan." This year's forest festival is June 30 to July 4.

Forty-five artists representing 11 cities submitted more than 100 works of photography, drawing, painting and sculpture. Included is a 3-D miniature enchanted forest of fairy houses, fairy doors, flora and fauna. Children and adults are encouraged to enjoy an "I Spy..." hunt with their eyes to find all the intricate creatures and messages in the enchanted forest.

Additionally, Enchanted Forest workshops will be held 10 a.m.-12 p.m., June 18 and 25 at the Ramsdell. Cost is \$10 per person. Participants will make fairies, fairy houses, and fairy doors.

The art center is located at 101 Maple



"Secret in the Garden," oil painting by Melonie Steffes. Photo: P. Stinson.

Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 1-5 p.m., and Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. Admission is free. A public reception for the artists will be held 5-7 p.m., June 25.

Contact Aimé Merizon, visual arts and education manager, at amerizon@ramsdeltheatre.org for details.



# How the high winds of Manitou Passage almost claimed a sailor

Story and photo by **STEWART A. MCFERRAN**

The increasing wind and the setting sun concerned her as she sailed into the middle of the Manitou Passage. When her balance was tipped and her small boat capsized, Gale was shocked by the cold water, and she watched as her carefully placed equipment floated away. She found her cell phone, which was in a plastic bag, and was able to make an emergency call while her dog Ruffian barked. However, she did not know her location and could not tell the 911 dispatcher where in the Manitou Passage to look for her and her soggy dog.

The Manitou Passage is a big area that stretches from Point Betsie to Leland. With daylight waning, high wind and big waves, she was in trouble. Her craft had no running lights, and, though it did have flotation, it sat low in the troughs of Lake Michigan's waves.

She described the feeling of watching the search boats pass her by as I poured water on the sauna rocks and hot steam filled the small room.

I had previously made the acquaintance of Gale, a sailor, and her little dog with scruffy fur and a high-pitched bark. We communicated by text and talked about sailing. I told her about my adventures sailing in the Manitou Passage. She enthusiastically described her boat, an 18-foot fiberglass vessel that could be rowed or sailed.

I received a text indicating she would be launching her narrow boat at Glen Arbor. I told her I would meet her and Ruffian to

help them launch. Ruffian went everywhere with her and had his own life jacket.

As I considered signing on as crew, I recalled the time I launched my 12-foot sloop into Lake Michigan on a sunny day. The little boat was subject to large waves, and the pounding the boat took that day caused the mast to fall. It was a big high-school adventure for me, as I pulled the broken hull and tangle of sails, stays and aluminum boom onto the Lake Michigan beach. In contrast, there was the memorable time I launched my little O'Day Javelin into Lake Michigan at Glen Arbor and sailed to South Manitou in two hours. I've made many crossings to North Manitou and South Manitou islands to camp and explore these national park lands. I always started early and checked the weather forecast.

Small boats react quickly to changes, and those at the helm need to respond instantly to gusts of wind. Often, I feel a balance when my body is hiked over the water to correct the boat's lean, and the breeze bears down on the sail. The keel lifts, forcing the boat forward. I can attest to the beauty of sailing a small boat in a fine wind.

It was already late morning when Gale was ready to back the boat down the launch ramp. Sleeping Bear Bay was quiet, and I held her light craft while she got Ruffian situated among the gear. She was feeling excited and confident to be off on a voyage on the big water with her furry mutt. There was clearly no room for me.

Later in the day, I noticed the wind had increased. I tried to text her to see how



South Manitou Lighthouse, owned by the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

they were fairing. That evening, I did get a response saying only that she could not talk, and then nothing — no contact for months.

She finally did get in touch and told me a harrowing tale of her near drowning in the dark, cold waters of Lake Michigan and the rescue of Ruffian — all while my stove roared and the heat of the sauna enveloped us like a warm blanket.

After rowing for some time in the light wind of Sleeping Bear Bay, the wind increased. She shipped the oars and set the sail. With a fine wind, they crossed all the way to South Manitou Island. They passed through the surf and only stayed on the island for a brief time before turning the craft around. It took all her strength to row her boat back through the surf.

It was getting late. Gale's light boat was narrow and had no keel. It was a solo balancing act at the helm, with one hand on the sheet and the other for the tiller. She was a good sailor and was able to hold the heading that the wind allowed until the

wind increased and she became exhausted. A gust knocked the little boat down and it filled with water.

Thankfully, the sheriff found her and Ruffian before it was too late. Gale was treated for hypothermia and released. She had only lost one oar during the trip to South Manitou and her subsequent rescue. Ruffian was just fine when I saw him months later.

The Manitou islands lie on the horizon and dare boaters to make the passage. Every summer, people do cross in their own small boats to the islands, part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. I would encourage a sailboat ride to the Manitous, as long as you check the weather, get an early start and wear a lifejacket, like Ruffian.

Stewart McFerran illuminates current environmental issues in a historic context. He hopes readers will gain an understanding and insight into ways people interact with their environment.

## Luther

continued from page 1

"Word was received from Lansing there was already a P.O. with that name," so it was changed to Luther.

That's according to a short history found in the local library called, "The Village of Luther: An Historical Overview, A town Developed by Pioneers in Lake County, Michigan", edited by Doug DeMaw and Franklin Willard.

Gray explained: "There were a lot of good stores. They had a barber, who was also the undertaker, and, of course, the bars that are still here — one bar, Loggers Landing, ... has a staircase on the side of



Luther Area Library offers a balanced selection of books, for such a small town. Photo: Kevin Howell.

the building, and I believe that was one of the rooming houses."

By the early 1900s, the forests were stripped clean, so folks in part turned to agriculture. Dry beans, potatoes, and cucumbers were cash crops, and Luther had a pickle factory at one time as well. Today, though, the village economy relies mainly on income from recreational visitors.

"We survive," Gray said. "There are a

lot of campgrounds, tourism is big here, and a lot of hunters come. You can go all over the state off of our trail system, and there's lots of vehicle traffic from ORVs and snowmobiles in winter. It's a big recreational area with a lot of lakes and fishing in this area."

It's a quaint, well laid-out little community, with several small parks, a library, post office, community building and grocery store, and other businesses along the five- or six-block main drag.

One scenic spot, Mill Pond Park, is especially nice — with a picnic shelter, a small boat launch jutting into the dammed pond on the Little Manistee, and what looks like a little performance area on the downstream side of the dam.

After a drive-through of the main drag, we landed at Loggers Landing for lunch. Jean had the burnt brisket tips with maple bourbon pickles on the side. The pickles were unique and really spicy, but tasty. I tried their standard Ruben (their spelling). My thought when visiting a restaurant for the first time is, if they can make a decent Reuben, the rest is probably good, too — and it was. Loggers is an old restaurant and bar with a rustic setting, sports televisions on several walls and a friendly atmosphere.



Dex's Loggers Landing is on the main street in Luther. Photo: Kevin Howell.

My editor delivers papers to Luther and last month stopped by the other eatery in town, the North Bar, for takeout. She ordered the Chicken Philly & Swiss submarine sandwich. As she waited for it to be brought steaming out of the oven, she toured the bar's beer can collection and historical photos, and paused to read the musicians' names written in chalk on the ceiling of the performance area.



This is a small portion of North Bar's wall of beer cans. Photo: P. Stinson.

For its size, Luther hosts several events. Among them are a pancake breakfast every first Sunday of the month, a summer concert series at the Purchase Pavilion and the main event, Luther Days.

I overheard our server describing Luther Days to other customers.

"This is my eleventh year here, and every place in town is busy," she said. "It really gets nuts."

For the recreation-minded visitor, Luther is sure to be a "Playful" destination.

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



## Luther Days

By **KEVIN HOWELL**

Luther Days is a celebration of the logging heritage of the Village of Luther. Organized by the Luther Days Association, this is the tiny village's main event.

Formerly known as Luther Logging Days, the three-day celebration takes place July 1-3 this year, with plenty of activities for all ages.

Friday's events include a 5K race and the Flying Star Rodeo. The rodeo is one day only, starting at 6 p.m.

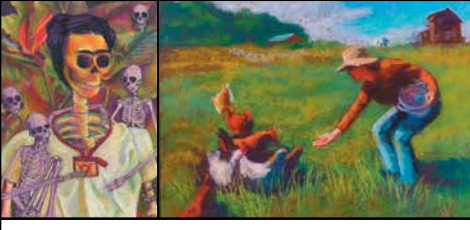
Saturday's lineup includes the Lumberjack competition, with events like the Underhand Chop, men's and women's and combinations of men's and women's bow saw and crosscut challenges, as well as axe throwing and other competitions.

Also during the three days are a softball tournament, car show, parade, fireworks, shopping, food, assorted vendors, fun for kids and more.

For information, go to the Luther Days Facebook page, email them at [lda49656@gmail.com](mailto:lda49656@gmail.com) or message them through Facebook.



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Waiting to leave Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Note the tall coal piles.

# Let's take the ferry

Story and photos by **KEVIN HOWELL**

For years before moving to Michigan, my wife Jean and I often stayed in Ludington and loved watching the car ferry S.S. Badger head into port. A few years back, we finally decided to take the ride across the big water ourselves.

A brief driving vacation took us from Indiana through northern Illinois and into Wisconsin to follow the Great River Road along the Mississippi. On our return trip, we cut across Wisconsin to Manitowoc, where our four-hour tour of Lake Michigan began.

That was in September, the weather still pleasant, with enough chill in the air for light jackets. We didn't know it then, of course, but the S.S. Badger would be named to the National Register of Historic Places just three months later, on December 11.

We stayed at a nearby hotel and woke early the next day to get our tickets. We did a little sightseeing in Manitowoc, stopping in curio shops and grabbing a bite to eat before heading to the dock. Arriving for our afternoon departure, we looked up from the dock to see the ferry towering above us. On the loading platform below, ferry workers, all young and healthy kids, were running back and forth down the ramp to get into vehicles, drive them into the ferry, then turn around and run, literally run, back for the next.

On the dock beside the ferry, rising far above us, were mounds of coal waiting to fuel the Badger. Burning coal was an environmental issue with the ferry, which, at that time, released the coal ash waste into the lake. This was about to change, though. In January 2015, work began on a conveyor system to store the coal ash on board. According to an entry in Wikipedia,

the stored ash is now off-loaded and used to make cement.

After boarding and scoping our way around the ferry — by peeking in doorways to find restrooms, refreshment areas and indoor seating areas, all the necessities for a long afternoon — we landed on the upper decks overlooking the dock, coal mounds, harbor and city, from what seemed a couple hundred feet up.

The Badger got underway, on schedule of course, and headed into open water. The lake was reasonably calm, with light winds and tiny chops as the ferry picked up speed, the bow cutting its way through the water. The view from the upper deck was fantastic, nothing but water for miles under a slightly cloudy sky.

We sat on deck, reading and taking in the sights of the lake and wandering passengers, finally working up a hunger from the fresh air ... and a bit of thirst to go with it. In the aft-end lounge we grabbed a sandwich and beer and watched the lake go by outside the window before heading back to the open deck.

That's when we saw an unusual sight off to the port side.

"What's that?" I asked Jean, pointing to what looked like an island in the distance. I didn't think there was an island out there, but you never know. I took several pictures of it, but we never seemed to close the distance. Other passengers noticed it, too, and some of us went back inside, where a ship's officer was explaining the strange sight.

In writing this, I had to do a little research to refresh my memory of the officer's explanation. According to reports I found on WZZM13.com of similar illusions, or

continued on page 12

Read our accompanying story about sights to see in Manitowoc on the following page.

## Big Water Cruises

Compiled by **MARK VIDEAN**

Longing to let someone else take the helm for a few hours, so you can relax? We've put together a short list of area cruises on Lake Michigan and Manistee Lake. Bon voyage!

### S.S. Badger Shoreline Cruises, Ludington

Sunset cruises sail rain or shine. 8:30 p.m. boarding, 9-11 p.m. cruise. For information and tickets, go to: [ssbadger.com](http://ssbadger.com)

**June 18:** \$45 + \$7 security fee, kids 4 and under are free. Theme: Lions vs Packers. Entertainment by Joey Mankus.

**July 4:** \$55 + \$7 security fee, kids 4 & under are free. Theme: Patriotic. Entertainment by Joey Mankus.

**July 23:** \$45 + \$7 security fee, kids 4 and under are free. Theme: Through the Decades. Entertainment by Mike Lenich.

**August 13:** \$45 + \$7 security fee, kids 4 and under are free. Theme: Bon Voyage to Summer. Entertainment by Joey Mankus.

### Princess of Ludington, Manistee

All cruises require a minimum of 20 adults (or \$700). In case of unmet minimums, bookings will be refunded. For info and tickets, go to: [manisteeharbortours.com](http://manisteeharbortours.com)

**Sunset Cruises:** Offshore on Lake Michigan or the Manistee River and Manistee Lake

Cruises last 1.5 hours. Departs 7-8:15 p.m., depending on the time of sunset. Available almost daily thru Oct. 31. \$35 adults, aged 15+; \$17.50 kids, 4-14 yrs.; Free under 4.

**Manistee Day Cruises:** Depending on wind/waves, the cruise will go south in Lake Michigan toward Big Sable Point or north to Onekama Harbor and Portage Lake channel. Otherwise, the cruise will take place on the Manistee River and Manistee Lake.

Cruises last 1.5 hours. Departs 2 p.m. Available almost daily thru Oct. 31. \$35 Adults aged 15+, \$17.50 kids 4-14, Free under 4.

**Memorial Day Cruise:** Sunday, May 29: Sightseeing cruise on Lake Michigan with complimentary appetizers, beverages, Chardonnay & Cabernet Sauvignon.

Special treats for kids.

Cruise lasts 1.5 hours. Departs 2 p.m. \$50 adults, aged 15+; \$25 kids, 4-14; Free under 4.

**Father's Day Cruise:** Sunday, June 19: Sightseeing cruise on Lake Michigan with complimentary appetizers, beverages, Chardonnay & Cabernet Sauvignon. Special treats for kids. Dads receive a beer or mixed drink of their choice.

Cruise lasts 1.5 hours. Departs 2 p.m. \$50 adults, aged 15+; \$25 kids, 4-14; Free under 4.

**Fourth of July Cruise:** Tuesday, July 5: Sightseeing cruise on Lake Michigan with complimentary appetizers, beverages, Chardonnay & Cabernet Sauvignon. Special treats for kids.

Cruise lasts 1.5 hours. Departs 9 p.m. \$50 adults, aged 15+; \$25 kids, 4-14; Free under 4.

**Family Day Cruise:** Saturday, August 13: Sightseeing cruise on Lake Michigan with complimentary appetizers, beverages, Chardonnay & Cabernet Sauvignon, Special treats for kids.

Cruise lasts 1.5 hours. Departs 2 p.m. \$50 adults, aged 15+; \$25 kids, 4-14; Free under 4.

**Labor Day Cruise:** Sunday, September 4: Sightseeing cruise on Lake Michigan with complimentary appetizers, beverages, Chardonnay & Cabernet Sauvignon. Special treats for kids.

Cruise lasts 1.5 hours. Departs 2 p.m. \$50 adults, aged 15+; \$25 kids, 4-14; Free under 4.

### Manistee Inn & Marina, Manistee

Romantic sunset cruises and charter fishing trips for our lodging guests are arranged through our boating partners. From \$500 for a four-hour cruise to \$650 for a morning or afternoon trip. Call the inn for more information: 231-723-4000. [manisteeinn.com](http://manisteeinn.com)





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# Destination Manitowoc

By **P.G. MISTY SHEEHAN** and Freshwater Reporter staff

The S.S. Badger sails from Ludington, Michigan to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, about a four-hour trip. There's a Round Trip Mini Cruise, which costs \$92 per adult and \$30 per child, ages 5-15 — if the passenger returns within 48 hours. You must call in advance to receive these discounted rates, and an additional security fee of \$7 per person, per one-way trip will be charged.

The Badger conveniently departs Ludington at 9 a.m. EDT and arrives in Manitowoc at 12 p.m. CDT, leaving the rest of the day for you to explore. You can depart the next day at 2 p.m. CDT, with an arrival time in Ludington by 7 p.m. EDT, just in time for dinner at one of the city's great restaurants.

Leave your car at home, grab a seat in the sunshine, bring a great book — don't forget your sunscreen — and you'll arrive in Manitowoc relaxed and ready for an adventurous afternoon. I've made the trip several times, and I suggest you go on a Friday.

Once in Manitowoc, you can walk north to the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, a short distance along the river. Cabs are available too. The museum, at 75 Maritime Drive, is a modern building filled with information about the Great Lakes maritime history, original artifacts and nautical archaeology. The museum was founded by former submariners who wanted to bring a WWII submarine to their city, to commemorate the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company which built submarines during the war. Entry fees, which include a \$5 submarine tour, are \$20 for adults, \$17 for veterans and seniors (aged 65 and up), and free for active military and children aged 3 and under. Youths 4-12 pay \$12 each. Ask about discounts for those qualifying for food and other assistance. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. Visitors should plan to spend 2-3 hours during a museum visit and submarine tour.



Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc. Photo: Mike Roemer.

You can visit a submarine, the USS Cobia, donated by the Navy and moored by the museum. The sub wasn't built in Manitowoc but is the same type of ship as those built by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company. The USS Cobia is credited with sinking six Japanese vessels during the War and earned four battle stars.

One-hour tours of the USS Cobia can be reserved online. Tours are limited and masks are required.

The Econolodge is located right there; I prefer the Baymont Inn and Suites as it has a pool, is right on Lake Michigan and serves an excellent dinner.

Saturday morning, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., you can go across the river to the Manitowoc Farmers Market, which is in the Quay Street parking lot, across from the Manitowoc Public Library. There you'll find yummy fresh produce, prepared foods, artisan crafts and handmade goods. This is a great place for a meal.

Other sights you might enjoy: Rahr West

Art Museum, Manitowoc Lincoln Park Zoo, Rogers Street Fishing Village and the Bernard Swartz home built by Frank Lloyd Wright. Visit Two Rivers, Wisc., a neighboring town (0.7 miles) to the north.

With luck, it's been sunny the entire visit and you're ready to join your Badger trip home, with many new packages to remind you of your adventure.

- Find more Manitowoc information at:
- [wisconsinmaritime.org](http://wisconsinmaritime.org)
  - [manitowoc.org/298/Farmers-Market](http://manitowoc.org/298/Farmers-Market)
  - [baymontmanitowoc.reservations.com](http://baymontmanitowoc.reservations.com)
  - [Choicehotels.com/Wisconsin/Manitowoc/econo-lodge-hotels](http://Choicehotels.com/Wisconsin/Manitowoc/econo-lodge-hotels)
  - Taxi cab companies: Maritime Cab, 920-686-1300; Our Town Taxi Service, 920-629-7941; and Manitowoc Taxi, 920-204-6003.

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

*We're pleased to be able to publish the winning entry in the Manistee County Library 2022 Poetry Contest. Congratulations to poet Louisa Loveridge Gallas, who enlivens our pages with her nature-inspired verse.*

### Basic Hygiene

Our friend Ethel always had dirt underneath her fingernails even on Sundays when we went to her house for pie made from strawberries right out of her garden—and coffee, well, the grown-ups drank cup after cup while Ethel squeezed me lemonade in a tall blue glass with clouds of ice.

It was fascinating how Ethel didn't totally wash up before our visit—I'd sneak looks at her strange hands which I supposed were because Ethel lived in the country and had married a farmer during the Depression—"Absolutely Salt of the Earth," my Mom would always say as we drove toward Ethel and away from town.

Reddish-brown, like good rock, the backs of Ethel's hands made the teacup fingers of city ladies seem pale as slugs. Dark-blue veins were merging rivers that fed into her torn knuckles full of new scratches and tiny scars. I'd run my eyes along her lined rough fingers until there they were, her jagged nails and the dirt beneath which would leave me to wonder about basic hygiene and the pie, like did she really clean the strawberries or had they gone into the cooking pot with just a little dirt left on them, too?

I would go home and dream of Ethel's hands: how life had gross and fertile secrets beyond my Mother's house and wake up queasy like when I'd see earthworms' slimy bodies on the sidewalks after heavy rain.

One Sunday visit Ethel took me out to dig potatoes after a sun-shower. "Enough of all this chatting," she said, "Now's just the best time to stick your hand into the earth and poke around 'til you get a good-sized one, then loosen it up."

Kneeling, she took those mysterious fingers of hers, worked them into the ground, wet from rain and warm, just to give me the feel for digging. I fell to my knees in my fancy clothes, with a sudden thirst for the Earth, plunged in my arms alongside Ethel,

And in that moment when she pulled up out of the dirt, right then, Ethel's hands flew into my soul, like the Book of Revelation.

I knew: all summer long Ethel wore the Earth like her Sunday clothes.

— Louisa Loveridge Gallas

**44th Annual SPIRIT OF THE WOODS FOLK FESTIVAL**  
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[spiritofthewoods.org](http://spiritofthewoods.org)

# Brethren's Folk Festival returns on June 18

A second stage will help keep audience members separated during the 44th annual Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival to be held June 18 at Dickson Township Park in Brethren.

Minding their motto, "Keep it simple, keep it safe," festival organizers have also reduced festival hours, which are noon to 7:30 p.m. Crafts will be for sale and food trucks will be on site throughout the free event. Donations are needed for operating costs and to sponsor musicians, many of whom are traveling from outside and across the U.S.

Local group The Handstanders, of Onekama, will entertain with a special brand of gallery fusion they've perfected in band member Jamey Barnard's Handstand studio. Their music ranges from "the improvised to the mostly forgotten" and includes Jamey Barnard on drums, keyboard and piano; John Storms Rhom on piano, keyboard and percussion; Trevor Hobbs on keyboard, drum and piano; and Yali Rivlin on saxophone. They may also be accompanied by "a special guest."

For the full musical line-up, go to [spiritofthewoods.org](http://spiritofthewoods.org).



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# Starliner finally shines

By BROOKE EDWARDS

After much delay, and almost a year of waiting, Boeing's CST-100 Starliner has successfully completed a second test flight. On May 19, the Starliner Crew Capsule lifted off from Kennedy Space Center on top of a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket, completing its second orbital test flight (OFT-2). This follows the first test flight in late 2019.

The mission was uncrewed, except for Rosie the Rocketeer, a test dummy which measured the force that will be placed on the human body during space flight. Multiple positive and negative G forces can be experienced, making this vital information to have before a crewed test flight.

After launch, the space capsule experienced the failure of two thrusters plus a few other issues which, thankfully, did not prevent docking to the International Space Station (ISS). Starliner successfully navigated and docked with the ISS the next day, allowing astronauts on board the ISS to observe the shiny new spacecraft. As amused as the astronauts must have been with their visitor, they found Starliner had served its purpose. After inspecting



Starliner CST-100 approaches the ISS on May 24, 2022. Once the next flight test (crewed) is completed, the Boeing space capsule will be certified to carry NASA astronauts to and from the ISS. Photo by NASA/Boeing

the spacecraft's power supply, unloading cargo intended for ISS, as well as loading cargo to be taken back to Earth, Starliner bid farewell after its less-than-a-week stay.

On May 25, the spacecraft successfully undocked and headed for its reentry and landing. However, the landing may have surprised many non-space enthusiasts, as it was planned for the White Sands, New Mexico desert instead of the Atlantic Ocean. Three beautiful red, white, and blue parachutes, plus an airbag on the bottom of the space capsule, deployed to bring Starliner to a soft landing on the sand. The landing was considered a

"bullseye," with the craft touching down perfectly within the intended range.

A perfect landing still does not mean the flight was perfect.

Speaking to NASA reporters, Boeing Commercial Crew Program manager Mark Nappi said: "We have had an excellent flight test of a complex system that we expected to learn from along the way, and we have."

The aeronautics/space company fully plans to learn from the flight in preparation for a crewed test flight in the future. On board will be NASA astronauts, taking Starliner for a longer stay on the

ISS. Once the crew successfully flies in the space capsule, it will be certified for use by NASA, adding another means of transportation to and from the ISS.

NASA has not yet stated which astronauts will fly on the first crewed test. The space agency plans to continue the use of SpaceX Crew Dragon to transport astronauts to and from the ISS while it awaits demonstrations from other corporate space capsules. While NASA is hard at work on the Orion space capsule, slated to take humans back to the moon and beyond, private space companies are a lifeline to keep the ISS operating. The breakthroughs in science on the ISS are benefitting us on Earth as well. Space travel is hard and trying, but, in the end, success makes all the struggles worth it.

Sources:

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-boeing-complete-starliner-uncrewed-flight-test-to-space-station>

<https://www.space.com/nasa-boeing-hail-starliner-launch-success-despite-glitch>

<https://spaceflightnow.com/2022/05/18/starliner-astronauts-eager-to-see-results-of-crew-capsule-test-flight/>

Brooke Edwards is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador who lives in Manistee County.

# Wheelin' in the years

By RON SCHMIDT

Do you like to ride a bike? I was 10 years old when my mom and dad gave bicycles to my brother and me for Christmas. To this day, 64 years later, it remains my favorite present.

They were full-sized bikes, single speed with fat tires, and I had to stand on the porch steps to get my leg over the seat and my right foot on the pedal. I had to push off and get moving before I tipped over on the ground. Once the snow melted, I practiced every day. By June, I was riding up and down our gravel road for hours a day while listening to summer bird songs and smelling the ditch flowers.

I became totally blind at age 3, due to a genetic disorder, but I learned to use my hearing to safely ride my bike. I avoided running into the ditch or trees by listening to echoes, like the sound of my tires

rebounding from weeds and brush along the roadside. As a young adult, I saved my earnings for a year and bought my first new bicycle, a three-speed Hercules English bike with hand brakes and skinny tires. This bike was the first of four I would buy over the next 35 years.

When our twin girls Robyn and Chelsea were born, my wife and I put kids' seats on the backs of our bikes. We rode with them for miles on quiet roads, usually on Sunday mornings when most everyone else was sleeping. I taught the girls to ride their own two-wheelers when they were 6 years old. We rode together most summer days, until I was too slow for them. Then they began riding with their friends for miles to town.

They moved to Marquette, in the Upper Peninsula, for college and rode their bikes to classes and then for fun. Portland, Oregon



Photo courtesy of Pixabay.

has become their home and is one of the top biking cities in the country. I really enjoy hearing about the places they ride and adventures they enjoy. Chelsea's 6-year-old son, my grandson Liam, is learning to ride his new bicycle. Robyn rides 12 miles to work and back, year-round, besides long trips around the area and 100-mile trips to the Pacific Coast. Her goal this year is to take off a couple of months from work to

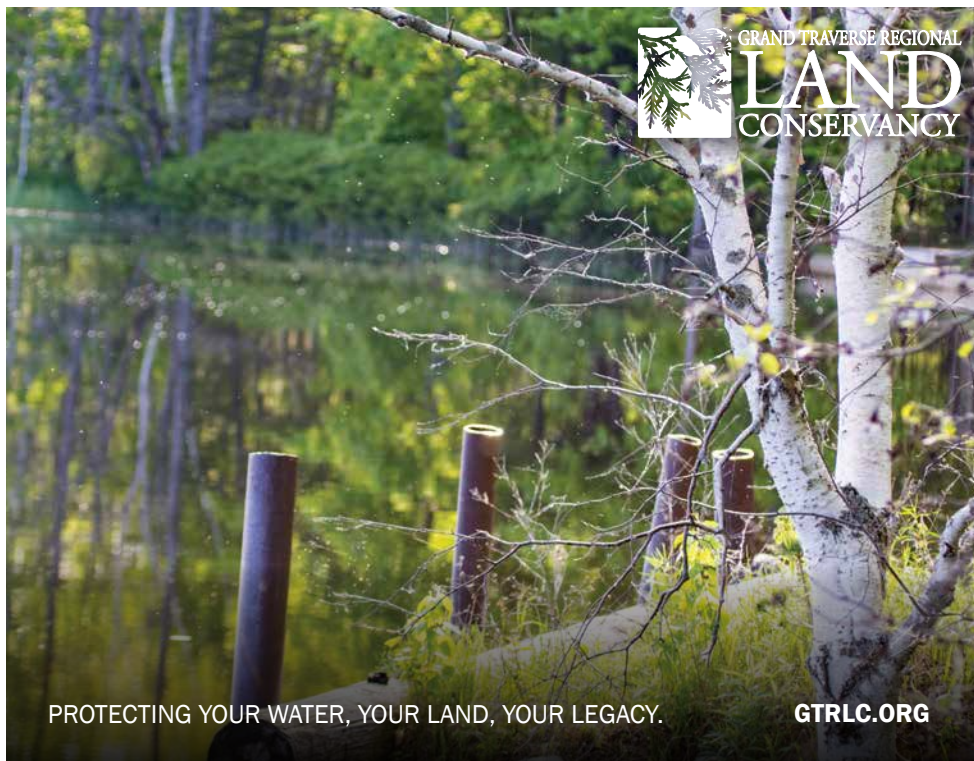
ride and camp from Portland to Maine. I am really excited for her trip. I wish I could do it also, but it will be great to hear about her daily progress and adventures as she makes her way across the country.

My hearing is not as good as it used to be, so I don't trust riding by myself anymore, but I am hoping to find someone with a tandem bike I could ride with this summer and fall. Maybe on rails-to-trails or shorter rides around Benzie, Leelanau or Manistee counties. If you have a tandem bicycle and are looking for a riding partner, please let me know. It would be fantastic to pedal through the countryside again or ride to a local ice cream shop for a butter pecan ice cream cone.

Good biking to everyone.

A children's author, Ron Schmidt lives in the north woods with his Leader Dog, Lila. He enjoys long walks, listening to birds and music, and visiting with friends at outdoor venues, such as St. Ambrose Cellars, for his favorite wine and mead.





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# MI Backyard

continued from page 1



Photo by Jennifer Devine.

**Woodland Sunflower** (*Helianthus divaricatus*) is in the aster family, native to Michigan, and often called a daisy. It thrives in dry, rocky, sandy areas of full or partial shade. This easy-to-grow perennial thrives in wildfire areas, where vegetative foes have been wiped out. Find it in the woods, ditches and your own garden. Be careful: It forms colonies and can outgrow a small area. Above ground, it's a food source for a host of small mammals, deer and humans. Gophers may feed on the underground rhizomes. The flowers attract honeybees, native bees, butterflies and beetles. There are six species of specialty bees which will only pollinate this and other sunflowers. It plays host to checkerspot and painted lady butterflies and the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly (also on the Michigan threatened species' list), plus several moth species.

Stem: smooth, thin, may bend when heavy flowers present/can stake for support.

Height: 4-6 feet

Flower: UV yellow, 3 inches wide, dark yellow to brown center, 8-15 petals

Leaves: opposite, oval or lance shape, 2-6 inches long, slightly toothed

Seed: small, thin, tan to dark brown with black splotches



Photo: Pixabay.

**Wild Bergamot** (*Monarda fistulosa*) or purple bee balm is a mint family native known for its many uses. Native Americans have long used it to cure cold symptoms. Its fragrance reminded early colonists of bergamot orange, a citrus fruit used in Earl Grey tea back home. The leaves are quite aromatic when chopped and used in many culinary dishes. Foragerchef.com states the scent is a cross between thyme and oregano. The plant holds thymol inside, a key ingredient in thyme essential oil but not bergamot essential oil, which is from the fruit. A red look-alike called scarlet bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) is found in home gardens more often than the wilds of Michigan. Wild bergamot is a bee, butterfly and bird attractor and a favorite of swallowtail butterflies and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

Stem: green, hollow, branched, mostly hairless

Height: 2-4 feet

Flower: white to pale violet, possibly pink; 1 per branch up to 3 inches wide, many ragged-looking petals

Leaves: opposite, green-gray, lance shape, coarse teeth on lower leaves, little to no teeth on upper leaves

Seed: brown



Photo: Victoria Li, Unsplash.

**Purple Coneflower** (*Echinacea purpurea*) or Echinacea, was once a sought-after plant. Proponents of consumer-based herbalism in the 1970s claimed it was "the cure for the common cold." However, as Sam Coffman wrote in his book "Herbal Medic", that power has never been claimed by herbalists. Still, it does have many benefits, such as a stimulant for the immune system. Over-the-counter supplements are available. This popular native perennial happily graces pollinator gardens, home flower beds and roadsides. Many bees and butterflies enjoy the sweet pollen and nectar, however, the silvery checkerspot butterfly couldn't live without it. The seeds are a favorite food source of finches, bluejays and cardinals. Deer resistant when mature, the young greens might attract a nibbling Bambi. Rabbits and groundhogs enjoy the flower heads. Echinops means hedgehog in Greek, and the prickly center disc helped give this plant its name.

Stem: smooth

Height: 2-4 feet

Flower: 15-20 single, 1-3 inches long, pink to purple, yellow/brown disk in center, covered in pollen and nectar

Leaves: lance to ovate, alternate, dark green, sometimes fine white hairs

Seed: small white triangle, self-sowing, can be harvested



Photo: Jennifer Devine

**Birdfoot Violet** (*Viola pedata*), nicknamed The Queen of Violets, is low to the ground, but I bet you've seen the pops of purple near stop signs and railroads and on roadsides. These get confused with Prairie Birdfoot Violet, a threatened species found mostly downstate, if at all. The best way to know if you have the *Viola pedata* is to look right in flower's center. The bottom petal has a white color with dark purple nectar lines leading to the golden delicious center stamens. The flowers are spread to new places by ants, who can't resist the sepia-toned seeds' sugary goo coating and carry them with them. The plant has rhizomes, which is why you'll find many in the same vicinity. Often the first food for pollinators in spring, they may bloom again in fall. These small perennials are host to regal fritillary butterflies. According to BioKIDS.umich.edu, Michigan lists the flowers as endangered. They would make a great groundcover.

Stem: greenish purple, smooth, bends at flower

Height: 3", can spread 6" wide

Flower: 5 pale to dark, flat petals; 1"-2" across, with 5 stamens

Leaves: stem 4"-6" long with up to 2" long leaf chunks

Seed: turns white to brown, then explodes

\*Please note: Plants can be difficult to distinguish. These are simple guides to start your identification journey.

Jennifer Devine has a passion for writing and plants. She has lived in cities and homesteaded off grid. She likes to hunt, fish and forage and meet like-minded people. She is continuously learning, having adventures and making memories with her family.



# Community Calendar

Tell them you saw it in Freshwater Reporter!

To be included in our July 6 edition, please submit your announcements by June 22. 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](mailto:editor@freshwater-reporter.com). Email anytime for our online calendar. **Always check with the venue about upcoming events** before attending as some event dates may change or be canceled due to weather, scheduling or Covid-19. Despite our best efforts, errors may occur.

## ONGOING EVENTS thru June 25

**The Art of Fabric and Thread featuring Chuck & Karen Durantaye, Ludington**  
Tuesday-Friday, 11am-4pm, Free. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

**Unbearable Lightness: Artwork by Trinja Henrikson, Ludington**  
Tuesday-Friday, 11am-4pm, Free. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

## thru June 30

**Mark Videan: Multi Arts Exhibit, Onekama**  
Prints, sculptural basketry and wood carvings at Yellow Dog Cafe, 4850 Main St. (M-22). Videan is a Freshwater Reporter photographer, word puzzle wizard and co-editor.

**Unconditional Art Installation by Maddison Chaffer, Thompsonville**  
3-9pm Thurs & Fri, 12-9pm Sat & Sun, 3-8pm Mon. Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibaneck Rd.

## thru July 1

**Manistee County Student Art Exhibit Honoring First Responders**  
9am-5pm Mon-Fri, Free. Manistee County Courthouse, 415 3rd St.

## thru July 9

**Enchanted Forest Art Exhibit, Manistee**  
1-5pm Tues-Fri, 12-3pm Sat. Free. Celebrate the beauty and enchantment of the Manistee National Forest and all Michigan forests at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Artist reception: 6/25, 5-7 pm. Exhibit coincides with Manistee National Forest Festival in Manistee, June 30-July 4.

## thru August 20

**Drop-in Art Activities for All Ages, Thompsonville**  
10:30am-1:30pm Saturdays, \$5 adult, 17 & under Free, but must be with an adult. Activities may include pressed flowers, haikus, green bingo, pinecone mobiles. In the grove at Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

## thru August 26

**150 Small Canvases Fund Raiser, Frankfort**  
10am-4pm Mon-Sat, 12-4pm Sun, Free to attend, \$40 each canvas to purchase, on sale starting June 24. Local artists donated their creativity to raise funds for Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

## JUNE DAILY EVENTS

### June 15

**Cove Kids Games, Ludington**  
5-7pm, Free. Rotary (City) Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

**Live Music with Bill Frary, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with the Briar Payne Band, Luther**  
6-8pm, Free. At the Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Rupert Wates (Old World Music), Ludington**  
7-8pm, Free with a bucket passed for donations. Ludington State Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Rain venue: the Lake Michigan beach house. Bring lawn chairs/blankets/bug spray. Michigan Recreation Passport required to drive into the park.

**Beach Sweeps / Green Drinks, Ludington**  
7-8:30pm, Free. Help clean up the beach. Meet at South concession stand, Stearns Park, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Gloves & bags provided. BYOB afterwards (no glass)

### June 16

**Farmers Market, Elberta**  
8am-12pm, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.

**"Birding by Ear" Special Bird Walk, Onekama**  
8:30-10am. Free. North Point Park, 8999 Greenway St. Walk through the park with bird researcher Brian Allen. Reserve a spot: [Parks@OnekamaTwp.org](http://Parks@OnekamaTwp.org)

**Artisans Market, Ludington**  
2-6pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

**Live Music with Fremont John Duo, Ludington**  
4-7pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Chris Winkelman, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Empty Bowls, hunger-fighting fundraiser, Ludington**  
6-8pm, \$50. Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 1527 N Lakeshore Dr, Ludington. Ticket includes a locally crafted empty ceramic bowl, symbolic of hunger in the community, local food, drinks, live music & more. Tickets: [lakeshorefoodclub.networkforgood.com/events/42839-empty-bowls](http://lakeshorefoodclub.networkforgood.com/events/42839-empty-bowls)

**Live Music with Drew Hale, Thompsonville**  
6:30-8:30pm, Free. Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibaneck Rd.

### June 16-17

**Fish On For Freedom Event for Veterans, Ludington**  
Free for veterans. Registration 6-8pm Thursday at Harborview Marine, 400 S. Rath Ave., 5:15am-mid-afternoon Friday at participants' respective boat's meeting place (assigned at registration Thursday). For more info, go to [www.fishonforfreedom.com](http://www.fishonforfreedom.com)

### June 17

**Summer Solstice Festival, Elberta**  
All day, \$10 adults, \$5 ages 13-18, under 13 Free. Family-friendly activities will include kids' activity area with games, experiments, a penny hunt. Local food trucks, beer garden, info tables, stone skipping contest, music. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. Elberta Waterfront Park, Centre St.

**Farmers Market, Ludington**  
3-7pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

**Live Music with Road Less Traveled, Ludington**  
4-7pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with the Brett Mitchell Band, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music 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 Dzuibaneck Rd.

**Drag Bingo, Thompsonville**  
7-9pm, Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibaneck Rd.

### June 17-18

**American Association of University Women Fine Goods Estate Sale, Ludington**  
9am-3pm Friday, 9am-12pm Saturday. Proceeds benefit its local student scholarship fund. United Methodist Church, 5810 Bryant Rd.

### June 17-July 22

**Summer Member Art Exhibition**  
10am-4pm Mon.-Sat., 12-4pm Sun, Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

### June 18

**Farmers Market, Manistee**  
9am-12pm, Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Parkway

**Farmers Market, Frankfort**  
9am-1pm, Open Space Park, Main St.

**The Hills Have Chains Disc Golf Event, Custer**  
9am-4pm, \$25-60. Whiskey Creek Campground, 5080 Sippy Rd. Register at the Grip N Rip store, 5770 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington, or online at <https://tinyurl.com/2d72wjnz>

**Frankfort Craft Fair**  
10am, Free. Outdoor art fair at 517 Main St.

**AFFEW Classes: Disease & Pest Management in the Garden, Ludington**  
10-11:30am. For info and registration, contact Kendra Gibson at [gibso126@msu.edu](mailto:gibso126@msu.edu) or call 231.845.3361

**Juneteenth Celebration, Idlewild**  
12-4pm, Williams Island

**Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival, Brethren**  
12-7pm. Free. Free will donations appreciated. An afternoon of music on two stages at Dickson Township Park. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. See the complete line-up & make a donation at: [www.spiritofthewoods.org](http://www.spiritofthewoods.org)

**Live music with Mark Lavengood Band, opening act Sean Miller, Free Soil**  
5-9pm, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate. 352 W. Forest Trail Rd. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. For info and advance tickets, go to <https://www.foresttrailmusic.com/summer-concert-series>

**Live Music with the Jedi Clampetts, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Steve Leaf, Thompsonville**  
6:30-8:30pm, Free. Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibaneck Rd.

**Live Music with Sherri & Wyatt Knapp, Ludington**  
7pm, Free with a bucket passed for donations. Ludington State Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Rain venue: the Lake Michigan beach house. Bring lawn chairs/blankets/bug spray. Michigan Recreation Passport required to drive into the park.

**Live Music with the Drew Hale Band with Alex Svoboda, Cadillac**  
8-11pm, \$15. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. For info and tickets, go to: [coyotecrossingresort.com](http://coyotecrossingresort.com)

**S. S. Badger Shoreline Cruise, Ludington**  
8:30pm boarding, 9-11pm cruise. \$45 + \$7 security fee, kids 4 and under are free. Theme: Lions vs Packers. Entertainment by Joey Mankus. Cruises sail rain or shine. For info and tickets, go to: [ssbadger.com](http://ssbadger.com)

### June 18-19

**30TH Anniversary Gus Macker 3-ON-3 Charity Basketball Tournament, Ludington**  
Stearns Park Beach 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. with 50 ball courts and food vendors. To register, go to <https://www.macker.com/local/ludington-mi/>

### June 19

**Live Music with Keith Scott, Thompsonville**  
3:30-5:30pm, Free. Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibaneck Rd.

**Live Music with Jeff Bihlman, Beulah**  
4-7pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

### June 20

**Live Music with Devyn Mitchell, Thompsonville**  
5:30-7:30pm, Free. Iron Fish Distillery, 14234 Dzuibaneck Rd.

**Live Music with The Jackpine Savages, Elberta**  
7-9:15pm, Free. R&B, Blues, Rock & Soul. Waterfront Park Amphitheater. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. Rain venue: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion or listen from your car or boat on 99.3FM

### June 21

**Live Music with Bill Malone's Jackpine Savages, Manistee**  
7pm. Free. R&B, Blues, Rock & Soul. At the Rotary Gazebo, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. Please social distance. Masks encouraged & appreciated. Or tune your car radio to 99.3 FM.

**Contemporary Americana Concert by the Manistee Community Band & Chamber Choir, Manistee**

7pm, Free, donations gladly accepted. Music by American composers. At the Lions Pavilion, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. Rain venue: Manistee United Methodist Church, 387 1st St.

### June 22

**Live Birds of Prey, Ludington**  
All day, Free. Raptors on display at the Nature Discovery Center, Ludington State Park, 8800 West M-116. Michigan Recreation Passport required to drive into the park.

**AFFEW Classes: Freezing & Blanching Workshop, Ludington**

5:30-8pm. For info and registration, contact Kendra Gibson at [gibso126@msu.edu](mailto:gibso126@msu.edu) or call 231.845.3361

**Live Music with Bill Frary, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Sam Cronkhite, Luther**  
6-8pm, Free. At the Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live music with The Jack Pine Savages, Ludington**  
7-9pm, Free. R&B, Blues, Rock & Soul, Waterfront Park, 300 William St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Community Gospel Awakening, Baldwin**  
7-9:15pm, Free with donations gladly accepted. Rev. CJ Kingdom, Chris Grier, Heart n Soul Reboot. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones Ice Cream). Bring lawn chairs/blankets or sit in your car and listen on 99.3FM.

## June 23

**Farmers Market, Elberta**  
8am-12pm, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.

**Artisans Market, Ludington**  
2-6pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

**Live Music with Cheryl Wolfram, Ludington**  
4-7pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Chris Winkelman, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with The Jackpine Savages, Cadillac**  
7pm, Free. R&B, Blues, Rock & Soul. At the Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St., and on 99.3FM. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Sunset Beach Bonfire & Live Music with Jimmy Dodson Jr., Ludington**  
8-10pm, Free. Bring beach chairs, blankets to enjoy music, a bonfire & the sunset. Stearns Park Beach, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr.

## June 23-26

**Irons Annual Flea Roast & Ox Market, Irons**  
Family-friendly event featuring amusement rides, live music, tournaments, games, food & drink, parade, fireworks & more. Skinner Park, 5074 W. 10 1/2 Mile Rd. For more info, go to: [fleaorast.com](http://fleaorast.com)

## June 24

**Clean Boats, Clean Waters Boat Washing Event, Manistee**  
First Street Beach. For times and info, contact Manistee Conservation District 231.889.9666

**Live Music with The Ukes, Ludington**  
3-5:30pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Great Start Collaborative - West Shore ESD Book Walk, Ludington**  
3-7pm, Free. Teaching families about early literacy. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

**Live Music with Barefoot, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Eric Enghblade, Ludington**  
6-9pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Redux, Ludington**  
6-9pm, Free. Ludington Bay Brewery, 515 S. James St.

**Contemporary Americana Concert by the Manistee Community Band & Chamber Choir, Frankfort**

7pm, Free, donations gladly accepted. Music by American composers. At Mineral Springs Park. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Mike, Onekama**  
8pm, Free. On the deck at Lahey's Pub & Portage Point Café, 8513 Portage Point Dr.

**Farmers Market, Ludington**  
3-9pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

## June 24-26

**Manistee Tri-Port Challenge Pro/Am Fishing Tournament**  
Fish from Manistee, Onekama, or Arcadia. For info, go to: [tournamenttrail.net/tournament](http://tournamenttrail.net/tournament)

## June 25

**Farmers Market, Manistee**  
9am-12pm, Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Parkway

**Farmers Market, Frankfort**  
9am-1pm, Open Space Park, Main St.

**Coast to Coast Gravel Grinder Bike Races, Ludington**  
9am-3pm. Two races: 1. Coast to Coast, 213-mile race from Au Gres on Lake Huron to Ludington. 2. 100-mile Ludington-Manistee National Forest Loop. Info and registration, go to: [micoasttocoast.com](http://micoasttocoast.com)

**Fairies & Forts: Kids' Day, Thompsonville**  
10am, Free. Art Projects, Music & Stories with Patrick Niemisto & Norm Wheeler, parade march to raise the fort flag. Meet at the trail head at the Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

**4th Annual Blessing of the Boats, Ludington**  
11am-7pm, Free. Registration at 11am, blessing at 1pm, music by Pop Fiction 3-7pm. Food, beverages & raffles all day. Ludington Municipal Marina, 400 W. Filer St.



**June 25**

**Live Music with AsparaGrass, Ludington**  
1pm, Free. Big Sable Point Lighthouse, Ludington State Park, 5611 N. Lighthouse Dr. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. Michigan Recreation Passport required to drive into the park.

**Michigan Reptiles & Amphibians, Ludington**  
2-5pm at the Lake Michigan beach house, 7pm at the Amphitheater, Free. Frogs, turtles & more on display. Ludington State Park, 8800 West M-116. Michigan Recreation Passport required to drive into the park.

**Live Music with The Lofteez, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Idlewild Block Party**  
6-8pm, Meek's Park, Martin Luther King Dr.

**Comedy Night, Copemish**  
Two shows: 7pm & 9pm, \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Comedians Marti Johnson & Sal Demilio. American Legion Post 531, 18483 Cadillac Hwy. For tickets, call 231.883.4761 or 231.944.0221

**Live Music with The Jackpine Savages, Baldwin**  
7-9:15pm, Free with donations gladly accepted. R&B, Blues, Rock & Soul. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones Ice Cream). Bring lawn chairs/blankets or sit in your car and listen on 99.3FM.

**Live Music with Myron Elkins & The Dying Breed with North 44, Cadillac**  
7:30-11pm, \$15. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. For info and tickets, go to: [coyotecrossingresort.com](https://coyotecrossingresort.com)

**June 26**

**3rd Annual Flea Roast 5k, Irons**  
10am check in, 11am race begins, \$25. Skinner Park Entrance, 5074 W. 10 1/2 Mile Rd. Register at: <https://IronsFleaRoastandOxMarket.itsyourrace.com/register>

**Live Music with Jeff Bihlman, Beulah**  
4-7pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**June 27**

**Live Music with Ted Alan & the Underprivileged featuring Rob Smith, Elberta**  
7-9:15pm, Free. Jazz & Blues. Waterfront Park Amphitheater. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. Rain venue: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion or listen from your car or boat on 99.3FM

**Live Music with The Rough & Tumble, Onekama**  
7pm, Free with donations gladly accepted. Nashville Folk & Americana. Onekama Village Park. Rain venue: Onekama Consolidated School, 5016 Main St. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, kids, etc.

**June 28**

**Live Music with Brett Mitchell, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Ted Alan and the OverPrivileged, Manistee**  
7pm. Free. Jazz and Blues. At the Rotary Gazebo, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. Please social distance. Masks encouraged and appreciated. Or tune your car radio to 99.3 FM.

**June 29**

**Cove Kids Games, Ludington**  
5-7pm, Free. Rotary (City) Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

**Live Music with Bill Frary, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Michelle Grimm & Friends, Luther**  
6-8pm, Free. At the Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Ted Alan and the Underprivileged, Ludington**  
7-9pm, Free. Straight-a-head Jazz, Blues, Waterfront Park, 300 William St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Dave Martin & Band, Ludington**  
7pm, Free with a bucket passed for donations. Ludington State Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Rain venue: the Lake Michigan beach house. Bring lawn chairs/blankets/bug spray. Michigan Recreation Passport required to drive into the park.

**Live Music with Oak Grove Company Band, Baldwin**  
7-9:15pm, Free with donations gladly accepted. Classic Country, Rock & Dance Favorites. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones Ice Cream). Bring lawn chairs/blankets or sit in your car and listen on 99.3FM.

**June 30**

**Farmers Market, Elberta**  
8am-12pm, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.

**Pesticide Jug Recycle Day, Scottville**  
11am-12pm, Free. Drop off 3x rinsed, clean, dry, 55 gallons or smaller, Ag-based product containers, HDPE #2 or 7, caps & booklets removed. Acre's Co-op, Inc., 709 W. US-10.

**Barn Dance, Free Soil**  
11:30am-1:30pm, Circle Rocking S Farm, 5487 N. Tuttle Rd. RSVP by June 28 at: 231-462-3732 or [circlerockingsfarm@att.net](mailto:circlerockingsfarm@att.net)

**Artisans Market, Ludington**  
2-6pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

**Live Music with Merch & Miller, Ludington**  
4-7pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Artist TBD, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Soul Patch, Beulah**  
7-8:45pm, Free. In the street downtown

**Live Music with Ted Alan & the Underprivileged featuring Rob Smith, Cadillac**  
7pm, Free. Jazz & Blues. At the Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St., and on 99.3FM. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**June 30-July 4**

**Manistee National Forest Festival, Manistee**  
Family-friendly event includes midway carnival, mobile zoo, golf outing, beach jam, Scottville Clown Band, parade, & fireworks. For details, go to Manistee National Forest Festival on Facebook.

**JULY DAILY EVENTS****July 1**

**"Ever-changing" Guided Ecosystem & History Walk, Onekama**  
10am, Free. Led by Dr. Joshua Shields in North Point Park, 8999 Greenway St.

**Farmers Market, Ludington**  
3-7pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

**Live Music with Jason Hargreaves, Ludington**  
4-7pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Ethan Bott, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Seth Bernard & Jordan Hamilton, Kaleva**  
7pm, Free. Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Cary Morin, Thompsonville**  
7-9pm, \$10 ADV, \$15 DOS, 12 & under Free. Roots-infused Native Americana, Bluegrass, Folk, Blues, Rock. Arrive early to allow a 1/4 mile hike to amphitheater. Bring a chair pad or blanket. Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Rain venue: inside the resort. For info, tickets, go to: [michlegacypark.org](http://michlegacypark.org)

**Live Music with Big Daddy & Friends, Onekama**  
8pm, Free. On the deck at Lahey's Pub & Portage Point Café, 8513 Portage Point Dr.

**July 1-2**

**Christmas in July, Baldwin**  
9am-1pm. Book, basket, & bake sale held at and raising funds for Pathfinder Community Library, 812 Michigan Ave. For info call 231.745.4010

**July 1-3**

**Luther Days**  
Family-friendly activities include a youth fishing tournament, 5k run/ 1.5 mile walk, euchre tournament, cornhole tournament, 3 on 3 basketball, kids' parade, Miss Luther Days 2022 pageant, softball, car show, food & beverage vendors, lumberjack competition, rodeo, fireworks. For more info and event schedule, go to the Luther Days Facebook page.

**July 2**

**Farmers Market, Manistee**  
9am-12pm, Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Parkway

**Farmers Market, Frankfort**  
9am-1pm, Open Space Park, Main St.

**Mid-Michigan 4th of July Parade, Idlewild**  
12pm, Library to Williams Island, 4713 E. Baldwin Rd.

**Live Music with Full Cord Bluegrass, opening act Kanin Elizabeth, Free Soil**  
5-9pm, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate. 352 W. Forest Trail Rd. Bring lawn chairs/blankets. For info and advance tickets, go to <https://www.foresttrailmusic.com/summer-concert-series>

**Live Music with Kettle Belles, Beulah**

5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Ted Alan & the Underprivileged featuring Rob Smith, Baldwin**  
7-9:15pm, Free/Donations accepted. Jazz & Blues. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones Ice Cream). Bring chair/blanket or listen on 99.3FM.

**Live Music with Awesome Distraction, Ludington**  
7pm, Free/Donations. Ludington State Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. If rain: Lake Mich. beach house. Bring chair/blanket/bug spray. Mich. Rec. Passport required on cars in park.

**Mid-Michigan Cabaret, Idlewild**  
8pm, Mid-Michigan Event Center, 19 Joy Ave.

**Live Music with Big Daddy & Friends, Onekama**  
8pm, Free. On the deck at Lahey's Pub & Portage Point Café, 8513 Portage Point Dr.

**July 2-3**

**World of Arts & Crafts, Manistee**  
9am-5pm, Free. Featuring an outdoor, juried art & craft show, food vendors & entertainment. Red Szymarek Park, Fifth Ave.

**West Shore Art Fair, Ludington**  
10am-4pm, Free. Outdoor, juried fine art fair with food vendors & live music. Rotary (City) Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

**Art Snake 2022: Art Studio Tour around Portage Lake**

10am-5pm. 10 artist studios. Maps at Yellow Dog Cafe, Onekama.

**Dorothy Grier Music Festival, Idlewild**

1pm, Meek's Park, Martin Luther King Dr.

**July 3****Firecracker Short Track Mountain Bike Race, Thompsonville**

10am, \$40 advance. Min. age 10. Run 8 laps of 1/2-mi. course. Top of Crystal Clipper, Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mtn. Dr. [crystallmountain.com/event/firecracker-bike-race](http://crystallmountain.com/event/firecracker-bike-race)

**Wissner's Wizards present A Magic Show, Manistee**  
2pm & 7pm, \$15 adults, \$10 under 17. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. For info & tickets, go to: [ramsdelltheatre.org](http://ramsdelltheatre.org)

**Live Music with Jeff Bihlman, Beulah**  
4-7pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**July 4**

**Firecracker 5k Run, Beulah**  
8am, \$20 in advance, \$25 day of race. Downtown Beulah, 273 S. Benzie Blvd. For info & registration, go to [clcba.org/event/5k-firecracker\\_run](http://clcba.org/event/5k-firecracker_run)

**Independence Day Celebration, Beulah**  
All day, Free. Family-friendly activities include games, music, a parade & fireworks.

**Art in the Park, Frankfort**

10am, Free. Outdoor art & craft fair at 517 Main St.

**Happy Days are here Again Parade, Frankfort**  
10am, Free. Annual 4th of July parade on Main St.

**Annual Freedom Festival 1 Mile Dash, Ludington**

1:30-2pm, \$25 by 6/24, \$30 after. Regis./packet pickup 11:30am-12:30pm, Leveaux Park, 900 E. Ludington Ave. Race in the parade route past 30,000. T's/medals/water/froz. treats.

**Freedom Festival Grand Parade, Ludington**  
2-4pm, Free. Downtown along Ludington Ave.

**Live Music with Luke Woltanski & Dan Palmer, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music: Double Trouble-Mary Rademacher/Francesca Amari & Mark Kahny Band, Elberta**  
7-9:15pm, Free. Jazz & Blues. Waterfront Park Amphitheater. Bring chair/blanket. Rain: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion or listen on 99.3FM.

**Live Music: Schrock Bros. & Peter "Madcat" Ruth, Onekama**  
7pm, Free/Donations accepted. Roots/Blues/Jazz/Rock. Village Park. If rain: Onekama Schools, 5016 Main St. Bring something to sit on.

**S. S. Badger Shoreline Cruise, Ludington**  
8:30pm boarding, 9-11pm cruise. \$55 + \$7 security fee, kids 4 & under are free. Theme: Patriotic. Entertainment by Joey Mankus. Cruises sail rain or shine. For info and tickets, go to: [ssbadger.com](http://ssbadger.com)

**July 5**

**Live Music with Brett Mitchell, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music: Double Trouble-Mary Rademacher/Francesca Amari & Mark Kahny Band, Manistee**  
7pm. Free. Pop/Jazz/Showtunes. Rotary Gazebo, 1st St. Beach. Bring chair/blanket. Social distance/masks encouraged. Or tune to 99.3 FM.

**July 6**

**Live Music with Bill Frary, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with J & B Beats, Luther**  
6-8pm, Free. At the Purchase Pavilion, 209 State St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Double Trouble, Ludington**  
7-9pm, Free. Band-pop, Jazz, Showtunes, Waterfront Park, 300 William St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with The Downtowners, Baldwin**  
7-9:15pm, Free/Donations. Classic Rock/Pop/Blues. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones Ice Cream). Bring lawn chair/blanket or tune to 99.3FM.

**Live Music with Lee Murdock, Ludington**  
7pm, Free/Donations. Lake Michigan beach house, Ludington State Park, 8800 W. M-116. Bring chair/blanket/bug spray. Mich. Rec. Passport required on cars in park.

**July 7**

**Farmers Market, Elberta**  
8am-12pm, Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.

**Artisans Market, Ludington**  
2-6pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

**Block Party, Onekama**  
4-6pm, Free. Activities along Main St. Games, food, sales, raffle to win bicycles.

**Live Music with Nick Veine, Ludington**  
4-7pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Chris Winkelman, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Cousin Curtiss, Onekama**  
6-8pm, Free/Donations. Onekama Village Park. Rain: Onekama Schools, 5016 Main St. Bring chairs/blankets

**Live Music with The Accidentals, Beulah**  
7-8:45pm, Free. In the street downtown

**Live Music: Double Trouble-Mary Rademacher/Francesca Amari & Mark Kahny Band, Cadillac**  
7pm, Free. Pop/Jazz/Showtunes. Rotary Perf. Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St. and on 99.3FM. Bring chair/blanket.

**July 8**

**Rockhounding 101, Pierport**  
10am, Free. Led by Leann Burger. Pierport Beach, 2801 13 Mile Rd.

**Farmers Market, Ludington**  
3-7pm, under the pavilion at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

**Live Music with Artist TBA, Ludington**  
4-7pm, Free. On the stage at Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

**Live Music with Dede Alder, Beulah**  
5:30-8:30pm, Free. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

**Live Music with Fauxgrass, Kaleva**  
7pm, Free. Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd. Bring chairs & blankets.

**Live Music with The Timebombs, Thompsonville**  
7-9pm, \$10 ADV/\$15. 12 & under free. Pop-Rock '90s hits. 1/4 mi. hike to amphitheater. Bring chair pad/blanket. Mich. Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mtn Dr. If rain: inside resort. Info/tickets: [michlegacypark.org](http://michlegacypark.org)

**Live Music with Dark Desert Eagles (Eagles Tribute Band), Manistee**  
7:30pm, \$40 adults, \$10 under 17. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. For info and tickets, go to: [ramsdelltheatre.org](http://ramsdelltheatre.org)

**Live Music with Sam & Bill, Onekama**  
8pm, Free. On the deck at Lahey's Pub & Portage Point Café, 8513 Portage Point Dr.





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 7/8 Dark Desert Eagles  
 7/26-9/3 Art is Art Exhibit  
 7/29 Artrageous

**AUGUST**  
 8/5-8/7, 8/10-8/12 Manistee Civic Players present *The Butler Did It*  
 8/16 Manistee Community Band  
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 Fish Fry Friday

# Red Tree

continued from page 1

as woodworking, metalworking, knitting and crocheting. This place is a gift-giver's dream and is open all year.

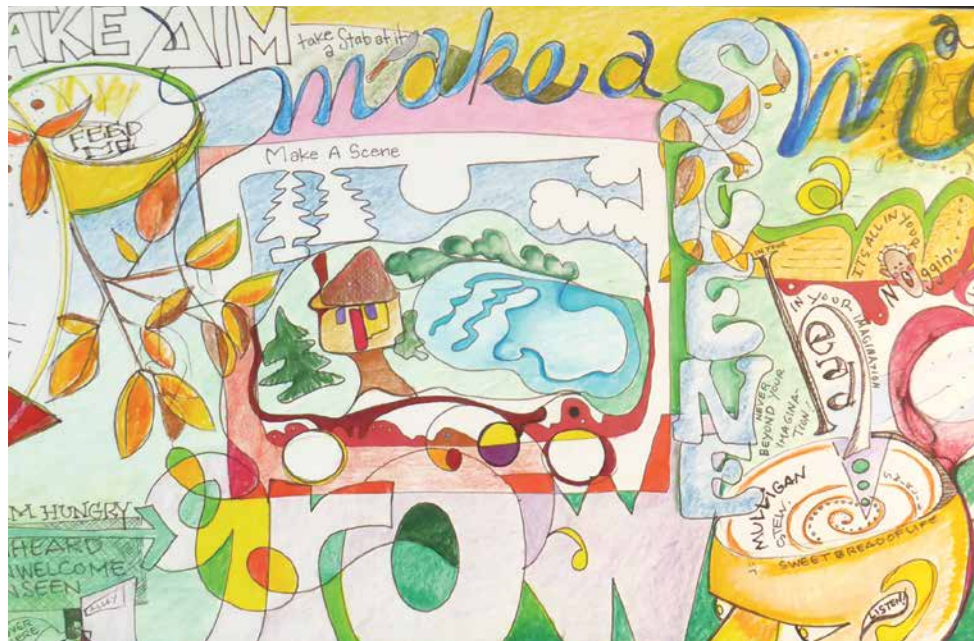
Her husband Scott offers "support, construction and love." Toys he's made for the gallery include checkerboards and wooden fighter jets.

A corner of the store devoted to antiques is known as Booth 66, and Heckler plans to set up a kids' corner with puzzles, aprons, books and more.

For the curious, the gallery's name is based on Heckler's first-ever painting, "The Red Tree".

"I'm a tree nut," she said, matter-of-factly.

Heckler was raised in Indiana and moved to the Baldwin area in 2012. Her father illustrated children's books and her mother was a fashion designer. She said she has been drawing and coloring since she could hold a pencil. She received her Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture but ultimately decided not to



Eli (pronounced with a long "e" and "i") Heckler, of Red Tree Curiosities, pointed out this favorite section of her wall-length doodle, rendered in colored pencils.

pursue a career in the field.

A little later in life, in her 30s, she attended the John Herron School of Art at Indiana University, where she earned her BFA. While there, she painted the gallery's namesake.

"I circled all around the art world," she said, as she listed her jobs as a picture-framer and then as a sign-maker for a corporate-level grocery store.

Today, her paintings and colored-pencil drawings are included in the displays. The largest of these is a "doodle" that extends almost the length of the south wall and is covered with uplifting messages.

"I'm just tired of negative thoughts," she explained, "and I'm gonna put out positive thoughts ... positive messages."

She said she began drawing at one end, letting her hand wander, and wouldn't allow herself to erase. (She told me she learned "not everything is precious" while making signs at the grocery store.)

In her paintings, she likes to include old doors and windows and "things you can't see into". Her themes include "fighting expansion" and "far-reaching consequences."

"My titles say more than my pictures, to some people," she added.

Heckler said she will host private painting parties and has held parties at



A tall hutch shows off small paintings and drawings, beaded jewelry and hand-crocheted and knitted apparel in Heckler's consignment gallery in downtown Baldwin.

Debbie's Sportsman's Lounge and the bowling alley in Baldwin. She accepts commissions for personalized doodles and once even hand-painted wildflowers on a propane tank.

Given a preference, she said she would like to spend all her time doodling, though you just may find her taking photographs or driving on a two-track in her spare time.

Summer hours at Red Tree Curiosities are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday. For more information, visit <https://redtreeart.com>, and follow the gallery on Facebook @ fineartnfunstuff and on Instagram.



Red Tree Curiosities is a gallery offering fine arts and crafts of all types, including this display of handmade bowls and vases, jewelry and whimsical home decor.



Polly Wolly isn't the only one who would like to doodle "all the day." Eli Heckler shares some of her latest creations in her gallery's studio space.



Eli Heckler points to her father's name in a children's book he illustrated.

# Manistee National Forest Festival returns

From staff reports

MANISTEE — Five full days of fun, including Independence Day celebrations, will take place near the waterfront during the annual Manistee National Forest Festival, June 30-July 4.

The festival, with events held primarily at Douglas Park and First Street Beach, is hosted by the Manistee County Chamber of Commerce.

The festival tradition stretches back more than 80 years.

"This signature festival draws thousands of people, along with many returning with ties to the area and region, and embodies the idea of 'Community' that so many

love about Manistee County," stated Stacie Bytwork, president and CEO of the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce.

Favorite festival activities include Anderson midway carnival rides, family day, Jaycees beach bash, Whispering Pines mobile zoo, a concert by the Scottville Clown Band, an Independence Day flag-raising ceremony and parade, and fireworks over Lake Michigan.

Find the full schedule at: [ManisteeForestFestival.com](http://ManisteeForestFestival.com) and follow Manistee National Forest Festival on Facebook.

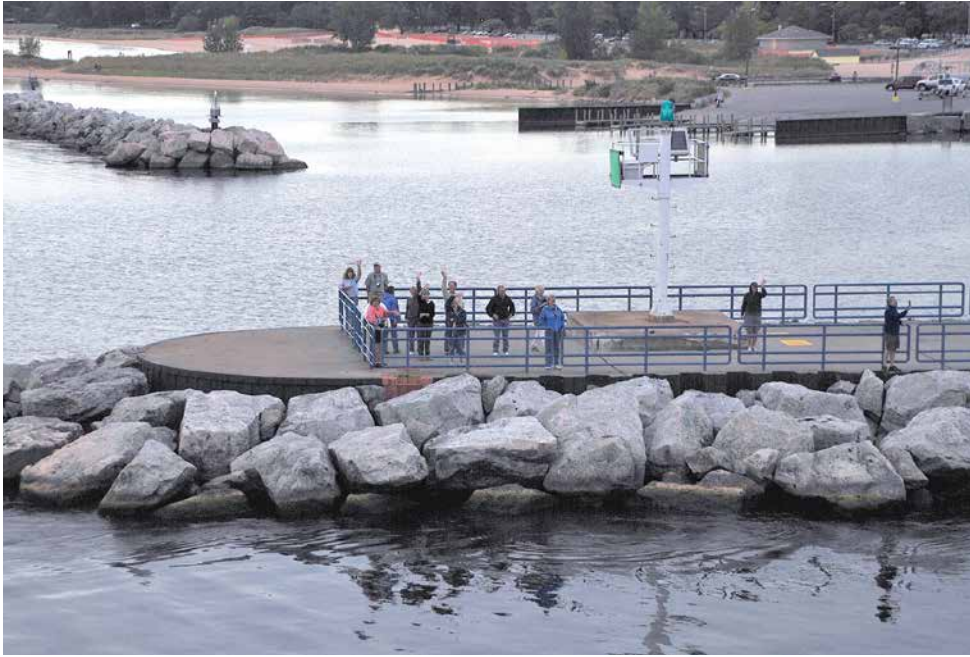


Left. A giant duck leads children, including the Manistee National Forest Festival Princess and Prince, toward downtown during 2019 festivities. Courtesy photo.



Right. On July 2, the 4th annual Little Big Shots Talent Show for kids will be hosted by TV's Brandon Phillips and is sponsored by Shirley Madden of the Blue Tigers.





Everybody likes to watch the S.S. Badger come into port.

## Take the Car Ferry

continued from page 5

mirages as it turned out in this case: "The phenomenon happens when the air below the line of sight is colder than the air above it. The mirage was an image of dunes farther down shore reflected up into the air ... The (temperature) inversion refracts light rays down, so you're seeing a mirage of the object above the object itself."

In this case, I remember the officer noting the mirage was of the Ludington shoreline, still miles off. Cool! Later, the "real" shoreline came into view; I took a picture of that as well.

Excitement over, we cruised into Ludington Harbor as the sun began to settle in the west. The ferry slowly made its way past the usual crowd of sunset/Badger watchers lining the harbor walkways and the Ludington lighthouse. The ferry pulled up to the dock. Once we disembarked, we waited for the runners to bring us our



Leaving Manitowoc Harbor.

vehicle. Trip over, we found our motel and settled in before the long drive back to our Indiana home.

Now living in Michigan, we still love to watch the Badger make its way into and out of Ludington Harbor.

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

## Youth wearing life jackets to be rewarded

From staff reports

From now through Labor Day weekend, Michigan DNR conservation officers will pass out vouchers to youth and teen boaters who are observed appropriately wearing a life jacket while actively boating. The vouchers are valid for a free ice cream cone or package of apple slices at participating McDonald's of Michigan locations.

According to Lt. Tom Wanless, state boating law administrator and recreational safety, education and enforcement supervisor with the DNR, last year's youth and teens were enthusiastic about receiving the treat vouchers.

In 2020, the U.S. Coast Guard reported

drowning as the cause of death in 75% of national boating-related fatalities. Statistics specific to Michigan for the same year include: 159 boating accidents, 29 deaths involved in boating accidents and more than \$2.2 million in damage.

Two ways to reduce the risk of boating accidents and drownings : boat with an operator who has completed an approved boating safety course, and wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.

Learn more about boating opportunities, safety information and other resources at: Michigan.gov/Boating.

# FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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