

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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Sept. 21 - Oct. 11, 2022 FREE

Swimmers need a place to swim

Story and photos by
STEWART A. MCFERRAN

I learned to swim at a municipal beach on a lake in my hometown of North Muskegon. I rode my bike to summer swimming lessons provided by the local government's parks and recreation department. I learned all the things the Red Cross teaches about water safety and swimming. Programs like this one were common in the 1970s and '80s. Through them, lots of Michigan kids had access to low-cost water safety instruction.

Brethren residents Tim Joseph and Kathleen Lagerquist remember outdoor swimming lessons offered years ago. Joseph learned to swim at the beach in Onekama and said that when he was young, swimming lessons were offered at the public park. When she was a girl in the 1950s, Lagerquist took swimming lessons at the beach on Lake Elinor in Brethren. She still remembers her swimming instructor, Sandy Beauvais, and said Red Cross instructors gave swimming lessons at Crystal Lake in Wellston.

Many summer camps had extensive waterfront facilities and included lessons on boating safety and swimming.

Corey Van Fleet, executive director of United Way of Manistee, is a former athletic director who has coached swimmers for more than a half century. Van Fleet said that prior to the '80s, lifeguards were



Left to right: Camp Corwood founder and Manistee swimming coach Corey Van Fleet with swim team members Gigi Hanson, Marina Reid and Tatum Jensen at Wile Lake in Irons.

present at beaches on the lakes in many small Michigan towns. It was common to also have swimming programs. But things have changed, and most public beaches are posted now with "Swim at your own risk" signs. There are no lifeguards or swimming lessons, and drownings remain high. According to the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project, there have been 92 drownings, plus 11 rescues with an "unknown outcome," in the Great Lakes alone as of Sept. 11, 2022, and 39 of those were in Lake Michigan.

In 2021, drownings in the Great Lakes numbered 101.

Van Fleet founded a summer camp, called Camp Corwood, ("short" for Corey's Woods), on Wile Lake in Irons in 1962. He loved being the camp's full-time director. Floating docks were built on the deep, spring-fed body of blue within the green hills. The swimming area was 25 yards long on the inside, with lane lines, just like in a pool.

continued on page 4

AREA
EVENTS
CALENDAR
ON PG 2

THE
SAUCE
BOSS



Fancy a Bloody Mary?

Story by **JOSHUA ELIE**

Photos of "Uncle Pat" from the Elie family album.

I was doing some cleaning in my warehouse the other day and ran across my old snow skis. Seeing them reminded me of my godfather Dr. Patrick C. Easto, "Uncle Pat" to me. He was a sociology professor at Eastern Michigan University for 34 years, though what I remember most about him was his mastery of the art of schmooze. To call him a ladies' man would be far too conservative, and he really loved to party "high society." What made him even more entertaining was, before he would come up here to the "sticks," two or three times a year, he would read books about everything we do up here for fun.



Joshua and Uncle Pat play with Legos.

I was maybe 8 or 9 and already an avid angler when he decided he wanted to "teach" me how to fish. He bought the fanciest rod and reel and filled a tackle box full of all that stuff that only seems to work on TV. He insisted we had to be to the lake at dawn for "dock knocking," which is when you cast your line onto the dock and slide your bait off, to land as close to the dock as possible. I do not endorse this technique. Before the first cast he showed me a "secret" trick. Take a bead of sweat off your forehead and use it to lubricate where the sections of rod fit together, so they come apart more easily later. It works, too. First cast his bait didn't land on the dock, but the top half of his rod did.

After he hooked a couple docks, he decided we should go deeper because that's where the "big ones" are. I think

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Michigan's amazing fall fungi

By **PAT STINSON** and **LINDA SCRIBNER**



Notice the spore-bearing "teeth" of the Hedgehog or Belly Button Mushroom
Hydum umbilicatum

Linda Scribner's eyes light up as she talks about her 15-year fascination with wild mushrooms, particularly those that emerge in fall. One of approximately 300 people to receive State of Michigan certification as a Wild Mushroom Expert, Scribner is uniquely qualified to help lead hikes and offer fungi identification workshops, as she has for several years to area conservation district audiences, Audubon groups and others. She said her emphasis is on identification, not consumption. Her presentation includes a list of about 13 features people can use when identifying mushrooms, as well as the history of the individual fungus, its name and its importance to the area.

Scribner pointed to one of her handouts as she explained she would like more people to discover what she calls the "intriguing names, unique shapes and ... rainbow of colors" offered by Michigan's fall fungi.

"I want to pique their interest to look around," she said. "Unlike a bird or bug that can fly away, you can look at them,

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HEDGEHOG OR BELLY BUTTON MUSHROOM

Appropriately named after the tiny spiny mammal, the Hedgehog Mushroom is fairly common in our woods and easily identified by its spines and color. Photo by Linda Scribner.

Community Calendar

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our October 12 edition, please submit announcements by October 2. Be sure to include the address where the event takes place, for visiting readers. Email your events/press releases to: editor@freshwater-reporter.com. Email any time for our online calendar. Always check with the venue 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.

MARKETS

Wednesdays

Benzie Community Farm Market, Benzonia
2-6pm, Thru Sept 28. Grow Benzie, 5885 Frankfort Hwy.

Thursdays

Farmers Market, Elberta
9am-12pm, Thru Oct. 13. Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.

Artisans Market, Ludington

3-7pm, Thru Sept. 22. Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

Fridays

Farmers Market, Ludington
3-7pm, Thru Sept. 23. Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St.

Saturdays

Farmers Market, Manistee
9am-12pm, Thru Oct. 1. Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary's Parkway

Farmers Market, Frankfort

9am-1pm, Thru Oct.15. Open Space Park, Main St.

ONGOING EVENTS

Thru Sept. 24

Banned Books Week

The annual celebration of the freedom to read.

Thru Sept. 25

Michigan Trails Week

Find a new trail adventure or revisit your favorite route.

Thru Oct. 21

Annual All-Media Juried Art Exhibit, Frankfort

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

Thru Oct. 29

Dark Matter Exhibition: Artworks by Christopher Fellows, Manistee

12-3pm Wed.- Sat. Free. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Artist reception Sept. 24, 6-8pm.

Thru Oct. 29

Call for Art Community Art², Manistee

All ages/artistic abilities! Help create a wall of 6"x 6" canvases for holiday sales at Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Cost: \$5 for 2 canvases, \$10 for 4. Pick them up via the First St. entrance 10am-5pm, Mon-Fri. Artwork due 3pm 10/29. Proceeds benefit RRCA's school trips, workshops, theatre camp.

Sept. 23-Jan. 6

"The Seasons" Fall Art Exhibition, Arcadia
Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd. Opening reception 5-7pm, Sept. 23. Info: 231.889.7069

Sept. 30-Oct 9

ExhiBEERtion III Pop-up art Exhibit, Frankfort

Mon.- Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. 12-4pm. Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Beer-inspired artworks, coinciding with Frankfort Beer Week.

Oct. 5-29

Flora & Fauna Art Exhibit, Ludington

Tues., Thurs., Fri., 11am-4pm, Wed. 11am-6pm, Sat. 11am-2pm, Free. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

DAILY EVENTS

September 22

100th Anniversary Walking Tour of Historic Camp Arcadia

2-3:30pm, Free. Meet on the central patio. Camp Arcadia, 3046 Oak St. RSVP at 231.889.4361

Live Music: Performer(s) TBA, Ludington

4-7pm, Free. Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

Manhattan Short Film Festival, Ludington

7pm, \$10. Filmgoers vote for fav film & actor. Results from US showings go to NYC fest headquarters to name winners. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets in LACA gift shop/online: www.eventbrite.com/e/manhattan-short-film-festival-tickets-404289900977

Halloween Havoc Bump-n-Run & Demolition Derby, Onekama

3-8pm, Manistee County Fairgrounds, 7587 1st St.

September 23

Live Music: Performer(s) TBA, Ludington
4-7pm, Free. Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

Live Music: Nate Dill, Ludington

6-9pm, Free. Ludington Bay Brewing, 515 S. James St.

Live A Cappella Ensemble: Tonic Sol-fa, Manistee

7:30pm, \$25-35 adults, \$10 under 17. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Info/tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

September 23-24

Octoberfest in Ludington

5-9pm Fri., Free. Beers for Peers. Part of S. James St. will be blocked to traffic for this event. Live music and pints for purchase from Mason County brewers. Proceeds to benefit Lakeshore Food Club.

1-6pm Sat., \$5. Craft beer, wine, cider & eats from local restaurants. Drink tokens sold on site. 1pm Polka Music, 3pm Jimmy Dodson, 4pm Rocket Fuel Haulers. Lawn games. Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Tickets: Eventbrite.com

September 24

Crystal Lake Alpaca Farm Day, Frankfort

10am-5pm, Free. Crystal Lake Alpacas, 4907 River Rd.

Manhattan Short Film Festival, Ludington

11am, \$10. Filmgoers will each be able to vote for their favorite film and actor. Results from showings across the country will be sent to NYC festival headquarters to determine winners. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: www.eventbrite.com/e/manhattan-short-film-festival-tickets-404289900977 or in the LACA gift shop.

Demolition Doomsday, Ludington

11am pits open, 2:30pm grandstands open, 4pm show begins. \$15 grandstand, \$25 pit passes (all ages). Mason County Fairgrounds, 5302 US-10

Apple Smash Fest, Kaleva

12-8pm, Live Music, Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

Live Music: High Lonesome, 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.

Bringing History Alive: Tales & Curiosities, Copemish

2-5pm. The Marilla Historical Society presents an interactive story-telling event, with live music & refreshments. Marilla Museum & Pioneer Place, 9991 Marilla Rd.

Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction for Tracy Cooper, Free Soil

3-7pm. Help support Tracy through her cancer treatment. Free Soil Community Center, 8480 N. Democrat St.

September 25

Free Rabies Vaccination Day, Manistee

11am-2pm, Free. Parkdale Veterinary Wellness Center, 420 E. Parkdale Ave. Info: 231.723.8998

Family Fun & Music at the Museum, Lake Ann

1-4pm, Free. Live music, kids' games, cider, donuts, apples. Hosted by the Almira Historical Society at the Museum, 19440 Maple St. Info: 231.313.1960

Auditions for the play "Oliver", Manistee

2-4pm, Manistee Civic Players are calling all actors. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Info: theatre@manisteecivicplayers.org

September 26 & 27

Auditions for the play "Oliver", Manistee

7-9pm, Manistee Civic Players are calling all actors. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Info: theatre@manisteecivicplayers.org

September 27

Invasive Plant Removal, Ludington

10am-12pm, Free. Help treat & remove a variety of invasive plant species. Bring H2O, gloves. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirt, closed-toe shoes. Meet at dog park at the end of Rath Ave., Cartier Park.

Manhattan Short Film Festival, Ludington

1pm, \$10. Filmgoers will each be able to vote for their favorite film and actor. Results from showings across the country will be sent to NYC festival headquarters to determine winners. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: www.eventbrite.com/e/manhattan-short-film-festival-tickets-404289900977 or in the LACA gift shop.

Pastels Fall Foliage Workshop, Ludington

6-8pm, \$40 members, \$45 nonmembers, includes supplies. Pastel artist Marie Marfia will help participants create a fall painting. You may bring favorite supplies and/or photo reference. Registration: www.ludingtonartscenter.org or 231.845.2787. Marfia info: mariemarfia.com

September 28

Macroinvertebrate Workshop, Irons

5-6pm, Free. Learn why the Mason Lake Conservation District collects snails, insects, crayfish, etc. to judge the health of the river. Sauble Township Hall, 8906 W. 6 Mile Rd.

September 30

Manhattan Short Film Festival, Ludington

1pm, \$10. Filmgoers will each be able to vote for their favorite film and actor. Results from showings across the country will be sent to NYC festival headquarters to determine winners. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: www.eventbrite.com/e/manhattan-short-film-festival-tickets-404289900977 or in the LACA gift shop.

Live Music: Redux, Ludington

6-9pm, Free. Ludington Bay Brewing, 515 S. James St.

September 30-October 1

Writers' Retreat, New Era

10am-9pm, \$185. Two-day poetry workshop with Phillip Sterling. Live reading & reception. Only 15 spots avail. 8502 W. Stony Lake Rd. Register: ludingtonwriters.org/workshops

October 1

Walk to End Alzheimer's, Ludington

9am registration, 10am promise garden ceremony, 10:30am walk. Walk is about ¼ mi. Waterfront Park, 391 S. William St. Info/registration: act.alz.org

Fall Festival, Beulah

10am-5pm, Free. Pumpkin decorating, face painting, games, sidewalk chalk art, mask & trick-or-treat bag decorating, classic car & motorcycle show, horse-drawn wagon rides, soup contest. Beulah Park, 7122 Prospect Ave.

Fall Festival & Arts & Crafts Show, Onekama

10am-3pm, Free. Family fun, food, games, music. Onekama Village Park, Main St. Arts & crafts Show is in the lot next to the School Sign.

Barn Dance, Beulah

2-9pm. Headliner K. Jones and the Benzie Playboys & others TBD. Special menu. Fall mead release of Smashing Pumpkin. 841 S. Pioneer Rd.

Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club Fall Banquet & Raffle, Brethren

6pm. Benefit for the Kid's Field Camp & other community events. At the clubhouse on Bear Creek, 12555 Coates Hwy., about a mile west of Brethren. Registration: bobcatgene1@gmail.com or text Gene at 231.655.9418

Live Music: Max Lockwood & Eric O'Daly House Concert, Cadillac

7-9pm, \$17.53 Adults, \$9 students 13-18. At the home of Paul & Nancy Brown, 4320 E. 46 Rd. Info/tickets: gopherwoodconcerts.org

October 2

Cemetery Tours, Baldwin

1 & 3pm, Free. Guided tours of Pleasant Plains & Webber Twp. Cemeteries led by the Lake County Historical Society re-enactors. Info: 231.898.6500.

Live Music: Victoria Vox, Ludington

3pm, \$10 ADV, \$15 DOS. Award-winning, ukulele-toting, singer/songwriter. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Info/tickets: ludingtonartscenter.org or in the LACA gift shop.

October 4

Fall Migration Guided Bird Walk, Onekama

9am, Free. Led by renowned bird expert Dr. Brian Allen. North Point Park, 8999 Greenway St. Registration: Parks@OnekamaTwp.org

Special Needs Hayride/Halloween Costume Party, Free Soil

3:30pm, Attendance limited to 28. Must R.S.V.P. 231-462-3732 by September 30th, Circle Rocking "S" Children's Farm, 5487 N. Tuttle Rd.

October 7

Live Music: Kyle Brown, Ludington

6-9pm, Free. Ludington Bay Brewing, 515 S. James St.

October 8

Rusty Fish Gravel Grinder 100 Mile Bike Race, Manistee County

8am, \$100, \$195 tandem. Info/registration: rustyfish100.com

I Spy Howling Harvest Hunt, Manistee

10am-1pm, donations appreciated. Nature walk & scavenger hunt with small prizes for participants. Hot dogs & chips after the walk. Dogs welcome. Orchard Beach State Park, 2064 Lakeshore Rd. Benefit for Homeward Bound Animal Shelter.

Grab & Go Art Fundraiser, Ludington

10am-2pm, \$35/artwork. Area artists donated their work on 8 x 8 in. canvases, each available for purchase to benefit the Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

"Throw Like a Girl" Women's Disc Golf Tournament, Scottville

8am check in, 9am tee off, \$35. The Labyrinth Course, 3000 N. Stiles Rd. Register in store: Grip N Rip, 5770 US-10, Ludington or online at www.discgolfscene.com

Fall Festival Craft Fair, Frankfort

10am, Free. Outdoor craft fair with fall-themed booths and items. Open Space Park, 727 Main St.

Mutt March Parade, Frankfort

11am-12pm, Free. Pet owners will dress up themselves and/or their pets to win prizes. Main St.

Founder's Tribute, Baldwin

3-5pm, Free. Tributes to Baldwin Founding Families, entertainment by Four Score & Seventy Barbershop Quartet. Wenger Pavilion (behind Jones Ice Cream). Info: 231.898.6500

Craft & Art Fair, Beulah

1-7pm, Honey Bee Market. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S. Pioneer Rd, Beulah

October 9

UpCycled Art Exhibition & Auction, Frankfort

10am-4pm, Repurposed & salvaged items made into unique works of art. Grow Benzie, 5885 Frankfort Hwy.

October 14

Live Music: Ben Traverse, Ludington

6-9pm, Free. Ludington Bay Brewing, 515 S. James St.

40th Anniversary Revival of Jay Stielstra's "The North Country Opera", Ludington

7:30pm, \$20 ADV, \$25 DOS. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Info/tickets: ludingtonartscenter.org

October 15

Crafting for Critters, Manistee

9am-6pm. \$30. Bring your own craft and enjoy a fun day at the Wagoner Community Center, 120 St. Mary's. Dress in 60's tie-dye theme. Special prize for the gnarliest beatnik. Includes lunch, prizes, silent auction, more. Benefit for Homeward Bound Animal Shelter. Open to first 40 who register: <https://homewardboundmanistee.org/events>

Chief Day, Kaleva

12-8pm, Live music, Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd. Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

Live Music: Crosscut Kings, Cadillac

7-8pm, \$17.53 Adults, \$9 students 13-18. Cadillac Elks Lodge, 122 S. Mitchell. Info/tickets: gopherwoodconcerts.org

Irish Night featuring Celtic band Crossbow, Manistee

7pm, \$35. Music, cash bar, small bites. In the ballroom, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Live Music: REO Speedwagon, Manistee

8-10:30pm, \$70-85, Little River Casino, 2700 Orchard Hwy. Info/tickets: lcr.com or 800.514.3849



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Mystery Girl Solved! (Sorta)

By **GORDON BERG**

In the April issue of Freshwater Reporter, this writer made a plea to the community to help identify the infant girl who shares a gravesite with my great-grandmother. It felt like placing a note in a bottle and tossing it into the ocean. Hopeless.

A few days later, the outpouring of love from friends and strangers was like glancing up at the horizon and seeing an armada of ships coming to the rescue. It was overwhelming. Genealogists from Onkama to Grand Rapids to Omaha combed websites like Ancestry.com for clues. The folks at Oak Grove Cemetery pitched in. The community, itself, engaged with the search, offering valuable anecdotal breadcrumbs leading us forward.

That said, the closer we got to an answer, the more elusive it became. We may never know precisely why 7-month-old Amanda A. Anderson was buried in my great-grandmother's unmarked gravesite in the spring of 1895. But thanks to so many sleuths, two scenarios seem most likely. Both involve two men named John Anderson. Both were Scandinavian immigrants who attended the Messiah Lutheran Church in Maxwelltown. Either one could have been Amanda's father. Both stories are tragic and speak to the hardships of life back then.

John Anderson #1, The Widower

Little is known about this man, but in the world of genealogical sleuthing, he must be considered as a possibility. His specifics are few because the U.S. Census records from 1890 burned in a fire in Washington, D.C. years ago. By the 1900 census, we know that he died of typhoid in 1895 as a widower. His wife may have died months earlier while giving birth to a child, possibly Amanda. During those times, one child in five never made it to their second birthday. Infant mortality was so common back then that people seldom celebrated a child's first birthday. There was simply too much uncertainty about any infant's survival.

John Anderson #2, The Neighbor

John was born in 1868 in Finland to Anders Anderson and Liza Jacobsen. He married Amanda Mattson on Dec. 23, 1893, in the Messiah Lutheran Church in Manistee. She was the daughter of Mat(hias?) Jacobson and Lina Matson. She, too, was born in Finland. When they were married, he



was 25, she was 19. He was a "laborer." She was a "domestic."

John and his wife, Amanda, rented a house on Kosciusko Street, in the heart of Manistee's Maxwelltown. Even today, the folks in Maxwelltown are as genuine as they come. Real salt of the earth. Maxwelltown

is a neighborhood in every best sense. Neighbors work together, look out for one another, and at the end of the day, they share a few beers and swap a few stories at the Painted Lady Saloon ... just like they did back in the 1890s.

Only five houses away from the Andersons, on "K" Street, were Nels and Anna Martinson, my great-grandparents. Anna died tragically in March 1894, suddenly leaving Nels to care for their four young children. I know from oral family history that he made an emotional appeal to the members of the Lutheran church. He asked for four families to each take one of his four children into their care while he continued working as a blacksmith and until he found a new wife to help with the children.

I want to believe one of those couples was John and Amanda Anderson, who would have been about three months pregnant at the time. An act of such generosity and selflessness has a way of deepening friendships. It creates bonds that beg to be repaid if an opportunity presents itself.

Nels remarried on Sept. 5, 1894. Together, he and his new bride went to each of the homes fostering Nels' children to bring them home. If one of those homes was John and Amanda's, they were likely ready to be on their own again as she was ready to give birth to a child of her own. Amanda Elvira Anderson was born Sept. 9, 1894. She was baptized Nov. 18 at the Messiah Lutheran Church.

Amanda A. Anderson died of meningitis and was buried in my great-grandmother's gravesite on April 25, 1895. Age 7 months. Just like the burial records.

But wait. The infant in my great-grandmother's grave is Amanda "A." Anderson. Not Amanda "E." Anderson. Heather Schram even dug out Oak Grove Cemetery's original burial ledger from April 1895. There is no ambiguity about the middle initial. It is clearly written as an "A," not an "E." I've seen it for myself.

So, what happened? Could Amanda "A." and Amanda "E." be the same person? Could the cemetery recordkeeper in 1895



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have heard the name "Elvira" as "Alvira" and entered the middle name beginning with the letter A?

That missing 1890 Census would have illuminated this, too. The only other clue we have is from the 1900 Census. John and Amanda noted that they had five children, but only four were living. They didn't give the name of the deceased child. Could Amanda be the unnamed child?

If, and this may be a BIG if, both Amandas are the same person, it may be that "Amanda A." is the daughter of John and Amanda (the mother) Anderson.

No doubt infant Amanda's death hit "K" Street hard. Amanda's parents were likely distraught that they had no means to bury their daughter. And I'd like to believe that the close ties among the neighbors of Maxwelltown moved Nels and his new bride to offer the space in my

great-grandmother's gravesite to welcome Amanda. It would have been a fitting way of repaying John and Amanda's act of selfless generosity just a few months earlier.

The full details of the Mystery Girl may never be known. I do know this: I owe Amanda a debt of gratitude. She rekindled old friendships and created new ones. And she deepened my appreciation of our ancestral home of Manistee and the heart that still shines brightly in Maxwelltown today.

Amanda, your gravestone is coming soon. With love. From all of us.

Gordon Berg is a descendant of Manistee's Bergs, Swansons and Martinsons. His debut book "Harry and the Hurricane" is about his father's life as a young boy and how he survived the Miami Hurricane of 1926. harryandthehurricane.com



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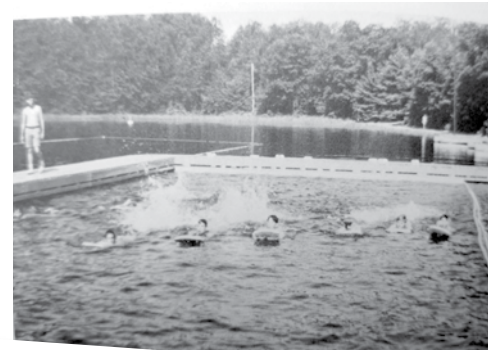
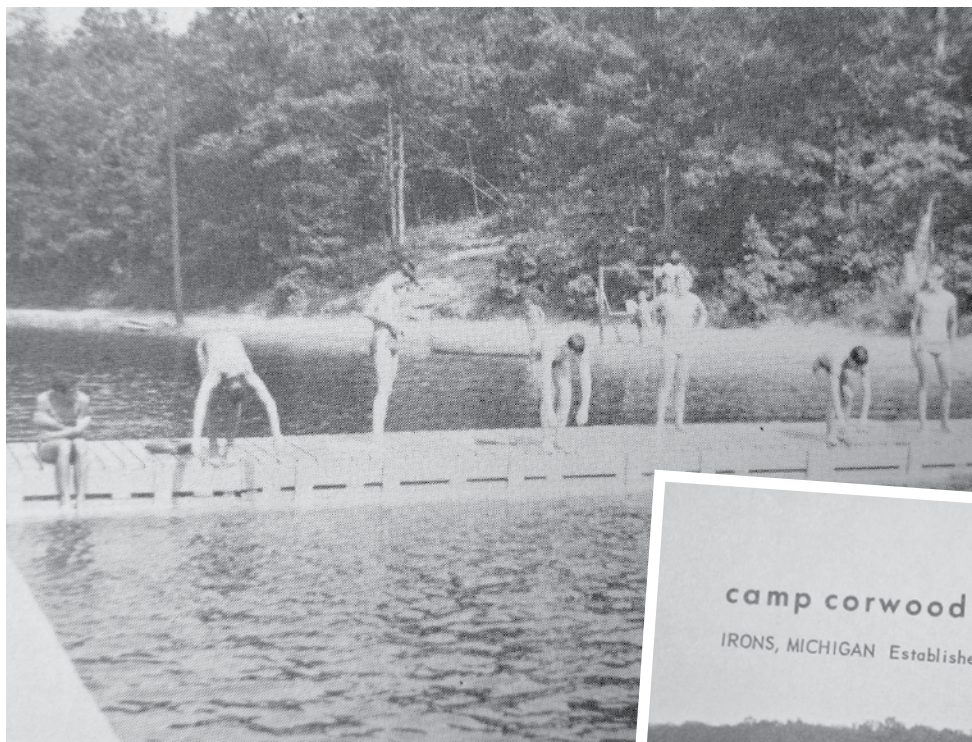
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Photos from the old Camp Corwood brochure.

Swimming

continued from page 1

"We would put buoys out, and it was 50 meters on the outside," Van Fleet recalled. "That's where the big kids swam."

I recently spoke to three swimmers at Wile Lake from the swimming team at Manistee Area Public Schools. They were at the camp for team building with Coach Van Fleet.

"I've been swimming since seventh grade," Tatum Jensen said. "I like how the team is like a family, and we are all really close to each other."

Swimmer Marina Reid spent a year in the middle school swimming program and then did "Summer Swim" for a few years.

"That is a program that they have, where you come in and swim every day," Reid said.

Gigi Hanson joined last year. Jensen and Reid chimed in, explaining Hanson's role.

"She's a diver!"

"We have some swimmers, some divers on the team."

All this swimming and diving takes place in the pool at the Paine Aquatic Center in Manistee. I showed the young swimmers an old brochure from Camp Corwood and asked them, hypothetically, about holding swimming practice in a lake, rather than in a pool.

"It's not chlorine."

"It's kinda windy!"

"I'd be definitely, like, seaweed on your feet wouldn't be nice."

The girls didn't put so much as a toe into Lake Wile during their visit. After all, those docks and swimming platforms are long gone. Van Fleet explained that the

insurance industry began evaluating the safety of camps in the late '60s.

"They classified children's camps as very dangerous," he said.

Van Fleet recalled the night when representatives from the insurance company visited Camp Corwood. Staff members were told that changes had been made in the way risk would be assessed at camps. With that, and changes in employment law, the camp shut down. This happened across the state and the country. But swimmers still needed a place to swim.

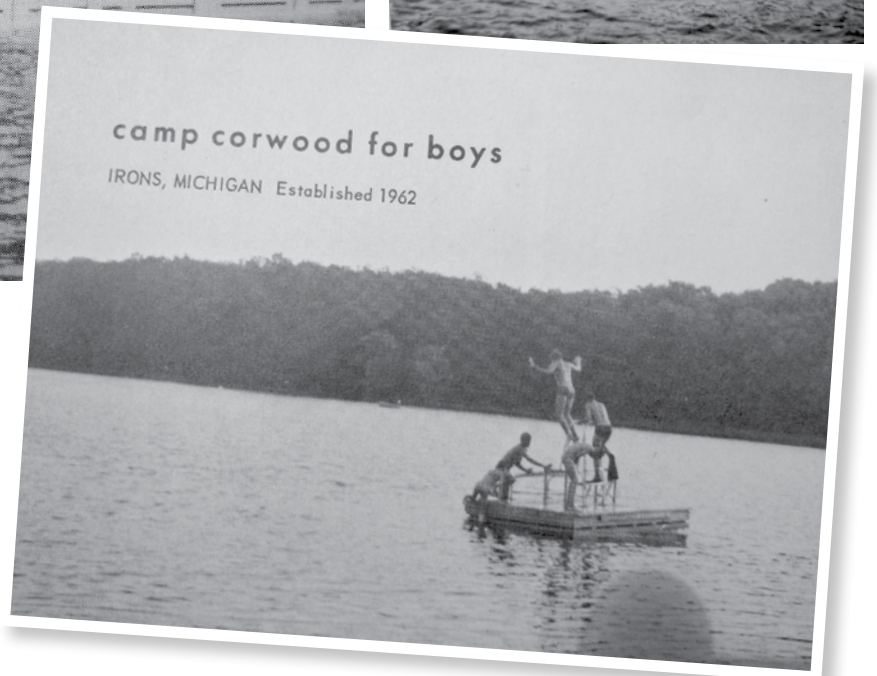
Manistee swimmers

At the Paine Aquatic Center in Manistee, students are taught swimming and safety around water to reduce drownings. To keep young swimmers from approaching swimmers who are panicked, the Red Cross teaches, "Throw, tow, don't go." There have been many double drownings when untrained swimmers try to help someone in trouble in the water.

Coach Van Fleet was instrumental in the building of Manistee's Paine Aquatic Center on the grounds of the middle and high schools at 525 Twelfth Street. The teaching, recreational and competitive pool is 4,600 square feet with 8 lanes for swimming and diving, according to MunsonHealthcare.org. The 1,000-square-foot, warm-water pool is used for therapy and instruction.

"We had eight people this morning at 5:30 waiting at the swimming pool door to swim laps and to work (out) at the small pool," Van Fleet said. "And that's changed

The cover of an old brochure for Camp Corwood, founded in 1962 by Corey Van Fleet.



the culture of Manistee to a great extent because it (has) given seniors an exercise venue that's non weight bearing, and so no matter how much you hurt, you go in the water, and you can exercise without pain.

"We've probably taught 10,000 kids to learn to swim, and some of them have saved somebody's life, some, maybe, their own."

"This is our 12th year of operation," he continued. "I'll bet ya we've trained 125 lifeguards."

But, most of all, the Paine Aquatic Center has provided a safe place for swimmers to swim.

Van Fleet said 50 swimmers just finished the summer program. Manistee schools are in a cooperative with Onekama schools and Manistee Catholic Central.

"We've had kids from the other schools participate and go to the state meet and score," he said.

Benzie swimmers

Swimmers in Benzie County need a place to swim. An aquatic center would provide programming for kids who want to compete, for those of all ages who are injured and need water therapy, and for

safety-around-water programs. Swimmers can swim all year in a safe environment and take the skills they learn to the open waters of the lakes and streams.

Recently, the Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center (a group of swimming instructors and enthusiasts, currently without a home base) completed its second year of offering free swimming skills and water safety lessons to children in grades K-6 at Bellows Beach in Frankfort. Fifty children completed the sessions. With a brick-and-mortar center, those skills and lessons could be offered all year.

Van Fleet is optimistic about the prospects of building an aquatic center in Benzie County.

"I am on that committee; we will make it happen," he said, adding that the center will be "tied to" the fitness program at Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital in Frankfort.

"In the meantime, we've got the ducks lined up pretty well," he said.

Stewart A. McFerran is a lifelong swimmer. He teaches swimming at the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA. He wants to see an aquatic center built in Benzie County.



MI BACKYARD

The richness of yarrow

By JENNIFER DEVINE

Note: Safely foraging wild plants for home use takes practice. Always go with an experienced forager to learn how to identify plants in the field.

Growing freely from the sandy soil and thriving in the dry, hot days we've had, patches of common yarrow caught my attention as I strolled on the Manistee Riverwalk. I couldn't help falling behind my group while appreciating this wild weed's beauty. Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is a hardy native perennial that has a history far richer than I could have thought. No matter where you are in the Michigan peninsulas and islands, you can find yarrow in a rainbow of colors. However, white is the most commonly found "wild" version in sunny, dry roadsides, fields, rocky shores, grasslands, riverbanks and meadows. You probably won't find it in constantly wet conditions or shady areas, such as the forest.

Benefits

Whether from your home garden, foraged or bought over the counter, yarrow is an excellent source of zinc, flavonoids, vitamins A and C, niacin, amino acids, carbohydrates and proteins. In fact, the USDA database asserts yarrow's deep roots mine the earth's subsoil for potassium, calcium and magnesium. Sources such as Gaia's Garden and Edible Forest Gardens say the roots also mine for phosphorus and copper, adding to yarrow's nutrient-rich list. As a polychrest (defined as "a drug medicine of value as a remedy in several diseases," according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary), the plant has a long-standing homeopathic reputation for relief of body ailments such as jaundice, hepatitis, IBS and gut issues, inflammation, fevers, mouth aches, pain, and nosebleeds. The above-ground portion of the plant contains chemicals with coagulant, sedative and anti-inflammatory properties.

History

Historians and botanists agree that, during the Trojan War, Chiron the Centaur taught Achilles to treat his soldiers' wounds with yarrow, nicknamed "soldier's woundwort," one of many monikers the plant was given. The botanical name is *Achillea*, for Achilles. According to forager Monica Wilde



Pink yarrow, a "volunteer" in a tomato patch. Photo: Pat Stinson.

(monicawilde.com), in a 1957-'61 excavation of a 60- to 80,000-year-old Neanderthal burial site in Iraq's Shanidar Cave, one of nine burials found by archaeologists contained eight species of herbal flower heads. Among them were bachelors button, grape hyacinth and yarrow. No other burials contained flower heads, which caused scientists to speculate that the 30- to 45-year-old man they named Shanidar IV was a healer.

Native Americans have used yarrow for a far longer period of time than other plants. This led many to believe that the plant is not a European transplant because it has a long oral and written history among tribes in North America. The Navajo consider yarrow a sacred Life Medicine. (native-languages.org)

In WWII, the Ministry of Health recruited the young to forage for yarrow. They scoured the countryside to increase the country's pharmaceutical supply during a shortage, as indicated in the book "Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies: Revealing Their Natural History".

Appearance

Stem: grooved, sturdy, small hairs
 Height: up to 3' tall, no branches except near the top
 Flower: atop the branched stem, compact cluster of 1 or more flower heads containing up to 25 daisy-like flowers
 Leaves: alternate, 3"-5" long with many leaflets branching into many more leaflets, giving a fern-like and lacy appearance.

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Common yarrow. Photo: Jennifer Devine.

Seed: tiny, less than 1 millimeter, ovular, needs cold stratification (See: joyfulbutterfly.com.)

Stats

When the flower heads are crushed, they emit what some describe as a licorice scent. However, my olfactory senses take in a thyme or pine-like aroma that many others also whiff. Common look-alikes are Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) also known as Queen Anne's Lace, Sweet Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). Be careful if you go foraging. Even touching a poison hemlock can create a painful rash, and no part of this plant should be ingested. Yarrow has the potential to become

invasive, as it spreads by rhizome, so divide the plant every two years. The flowers make a beautiful summer addition to areas needing color into October or until the first frost of fall. This plant attracts nectar-loving insects, such as native bees and three butterfly species: American copper, Lorquin admiral and Monarch. Need another reason to grow this native species? Yarrow is deer and rabbit resistant.

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.

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Harvest Memories

By **VALERIE CHANDLER**. Photos by Valerie Chandler, unless otherwise indicated.

I was born with a hypothetical “black thumb,” so everything I try to grow either never sprouts or dies prematurely. My sister was blessed with the proverbial “green thumb” and can grow plants from seeds and revive nearly dead ones. The garden-growing part of my Native American genes obviously didn’t pass to me. I’m thankful for farmers and those with home gardens who grow the vegetables and fruits I can or put into my freezer.

My Native ancestors did plant gardens and harvested traditional foods and preserved them for the next year. One gardening practice my ancestors used, and many Native Americans still use today, involves companion-planting three staple



Three Sisters planting. Beans climb corn stalks as squashes shade the ground. File photo.

vegetables — corn, beans and squash — referred to as the “Three Sisters.” The squash spreads and secures a base, the corn stalks grow tall and sturdy, and the beans grow around the corn stalks. Together, the three support and provide nutrients to each other.

The labor put into the harvest wasn’t always fun. As a child, I remember helping my parents pull weeds, careful to not accidentally pull a plant. My sister and I would also help water the garden, which a lot of times ended with us playing and making mud, but the plants still got the water they needed.

I was blessed to grow up with both sets of my grandparents living within walking distance. My maternal grandma was 100% Polish, so making and canning sauerkraut was a necessity that often involved multiple family members. Of course, I wasn’t allowed to slice the cabbage because of the sharp blades on the cutter, but I remember pounding or “stomping” the cabbage with the wooden pounder for what seemed like forever. It also felt like forever until the cabbage had fermented enough to be canned, but waiting was worth it as

nothing tastes better than homemade.

Every year it was a given that we had to can tomatoes. My Mom didn’t let me get involved with processing those until I was older because of the heat involved, and I think she was afraid of a juicy mess. I liked preparing the tomatoes, even though I personally do not enjoy them unless they are mixed into something like soup or chili or made into a sauce. I think I liked the feel of slipping the skin off the plump tomato, cutting it up and then stuffing the pieces into the jar, like a puzzle. After all the jars were removed from the canner, we would listen and keep count of the “pops” of the canning lids as they sealed. We did the same thing with beets, except that we would prepare the pickling brine to add to the jars before they went into the hot-water bath.

Speaking of pickling, the abundance of cucumbers always meant batches of pickles had to be made, both dill and the bread-and-butter types. I loved the smell of the fresh dill and couldn’t wait for the pickles to be ready to eat. Besides the loads of cucumbers, we always ended up with a copious amount of zucchini. We didn’t do much with the zucchini other than my mom and I baked a lot of bread to put into the freezer. Despite the bread being delicious, my mom started coming up with new recipes for a little more variety. Those recipes are still treasures.

Probably my least favorite part of the harvest was snipping the green beans for freezing and/or canning. We would have paper grocery bags full, and it seemed like it was a bottomless bag. My parents preferred the purple-colored beans, so by



The writer’s daughter Nichole loves sunflowers and plants them around her home for the pollinators. Notice the big bumblebee.

the time we were done snipping, our fingers were stained. Even though shucking corn was messier, I would much rather do that than snipping the endless amount of beans.

For my family, the fall harvest even meant



Above: Tomatoes, delicata squash and kidney beans harvested two weeks ago from Nichole’s garden. Below: Jars of canned tomatoes processed this summer.

going out into the field to dig for potatoes. It was a dirty job, but it had to be done, and it was kind of like a treasure hunt to see what kind of odd-shaped potatoes we could find. Sometimes, we made a game of it to see who could find the smallest, largest and strangest-shaped potatoes.

In addition to vegetables, my family canned peaches and pears. My maternal grandma worked at a local orchard, so she would always bring home apples, which meant we made applesauce. I think my sister and I thought it was more fun to play with the cone-shaped food sieve and pestle, but just like sauerkraut, homemade beats store-bought every time.

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.



Watermelon and pumpkin growing in Nichole’s garden.



Unbroken

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas

i. unbroken

How faithfully spears of goldenrod retrieve
light on this lonely roadside beneath skies
scorched from blazing fires.
Midday sun eclipsed
by smoke and grit.
The fierce Van Gogh yellow
of this tough flower,
stem unbroken,
endures apocalyptic storms.
Nature's soldier.
I imagine the artist himself,
alone, close to the end,
in bright fields, flash of crow,
brush on fire, the sweep of his arm,
intense blue eyes distil
all his wounds,
his passion, his genius,
into gold.

May my soul's
autumn palette
paint thick hot strokes
on my vintage years
so I can burn,
burn
with the world's fire
until the last coal
spends its flame.



ii. poems by your side until the end
When your head is full of wind
all birds inside you heading south
you feel the chill as leaves withdraw
their loyal green
all metaphors tilt and shift
for your next season
yet you are at ease,
so companionable
with summer's losses,
you surrender to the waning light
on into autumn's shadow.
Even as you feel more release,
more free, turning away,
poems take over to write
your intimacy
with eternity,
how you let go,
as ancient leaves
who leave the tree
to ride the wind
fly, fly,
become dust
that glimmers
in sunlight,
then spirit.

Mushrooms

continued from page 1

study them and photograph them.”

Her handout states Michigan has more than 2,500 species of mushrooms. Though the state is known for its spring morels, she said she wants to share the uniqueness and variety of Michigan's fall mushrooms.

“There are hundreds more of these intriguing, beautiful mushrooms,” she said.

Scribner, who holds a bachelor's degree in biology, said her Michigan certification means she knows “the (20) mushrooms the state says are safe (for most people) to eat.” Prior to taking the course, she said her self-study included reading any books she could find on the topic as well as material she found on the internet. She prepared for four months to take the state's test and said her studies were more difficult than all the calculus courses she took in school.

“It's such a fascinating topic,” she remarked, “but it's so complicated.”

She said more people care about local food and foraging now, but she offers this caveat about wild mushrooms.

“It's not dangerous to look at them, not dangerous to touch them, but it is dangerous to digest them,” she cautioned.

A mushroom sometimes is known by more than one name, so Scribner advises beginners to make the effort to learn their Latin names, to avoid confusion when communicating with others anywhere in the world. Linda supplied lively descriptions for us of seven fall mushrooms we chose from her photo archives. She hopes to raise awareness about the exciting variety of fall mushrooms by sharing some showy ones here. (Read the full story online at: freshwater-reporter.com.)



“Carbon Antlers” or “Candlesnuff Fungus”
Xylaria hypoxylon

CARBON ANTLERS

Growing on rotting logs or stumps, this tiny fungus can vary in shape, from singular “spikes” to more branched forms, resembling deer antlers. Photo by Linda Scribner.



“Earth Tongues”
Geoglossum difforme

EARTH TONGUES

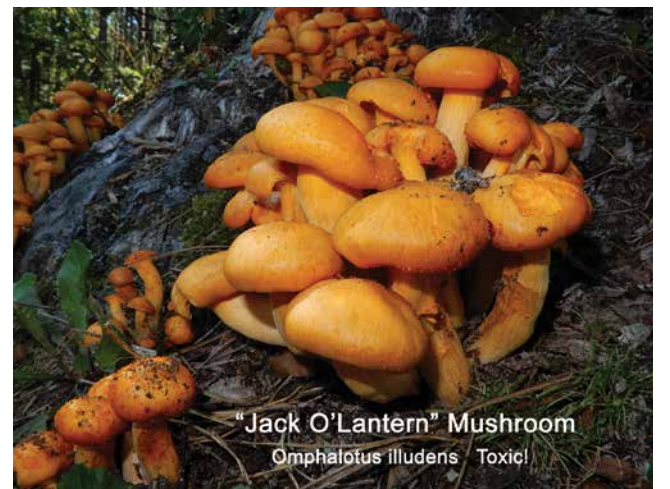
Small, black and usually overlooked, the Earth Tongue is often overlooked, but its slightly “eerie” shape is memorable! One old reference book stated that this mushroom was reminiscent of the “Earth sticking out its tongue to catch every drop of rain.” Photo by Linda Scribner.



The blue “milk” of the Indigo Milky Mushroom
Lactarius indigo

INDIGO MILKY CAP MUSHROOM

While other members of the mushroom family *Lactarius* ooze a white or yellow latex, Indigo Milky Cap is unique because its “milk” or latex is a bright blue that slowly turns green with time. This sticky, gummy substance protects the mushroom from insects or slugs eating it. Photo by Linda Scribner.



“Jack O'Lantern” Mushroom
Omphalotus illudens Toxic!

JACK O'LANTERN MUSHROOM

Sometimes called “Evil Jack” because of its toxicity to people and its ability to kill its host tree, Jack O'Lanterns have a unique characteristic of glowing in the dark. Its greenish glow, called bioluminescence, attracts insects, which crawl over it and help to disperse the mushroom's spores. Photo by Linda Scribner.



“Plums & Custard”
Tricholomopsis rutilans

PLUMS & CUSTARD

Odor can be a useful tool in mushroom identification. Upon cutting its flesh, a mushroom may smell “earthy” ... some like apricots or raw pastry dough ... and others “fishy” or “garlicky.” In contrast to Plums & Custard's beautiful and stunning contrasting purple and yellow colors, you will not be impressed by its very unpleasant smell! Photo by Linda Scribner.



“Turkey Tail”
Trametes versicolor

TURKEY TAIL

The contrasting variety of colors, browns, creams, oranges and even blue-greens, and its overall shape of its many fan-shaped caps, resembles the tail of a wild turkey. The true Turkey Tails (*Trametes*), with visible pores on the underside of the cap, and the False Turkey Tails (*Stereum*), similar in appearance but with no pores and a smooth underside, are the most common mushrooms found in our woods. Photo by Linda Scribner.



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Sauce Boss

continued from page 1

he missed the part in the book where it says to put the choke on when starting an outboard engine. After countless pulls, each including a colorful metaphor and a lecture about my father's aversion to engine maintenance, we made it all the way to the middle of the lake and back to the loading ramp, without firing the engine once!

Uncle Pat was now ready for a drink and a nap, which he exclaimed boisterously upon reaching land, for the whole lake to hear.

He used to come up every year for my birthday to take me snow skiing at the most expensive resorts. I don't think he was all that interested in skiing because he spent most of his time in the lounge, where he chatted up the ladies and pointed out the window, bragging up what a great skier I was and how much he enjoyed spending time with me. The art of the schmooze at its best.

He really did enjoy spending time with me, though. One year he called my mother, sadly telling her he couldn't take me skiing for my birthday because he twisted his knee while skiing and had to have surgery to put in a bolt. I remember her laughter when she told him I wouldn't be able to go, anyway, because I broke my leg skiing a week earlier. I hit a jump, ascending about 20 feet into the air, and landed perfectly. All I could hear was the cheering from the people riding in the chair lift. It wasn't until I tried to slow down and hit a patch of ice ... Oh, snap! This was back in the days when we had straps on the skis instead of brakes, and those are what got me. My boot came out of the binding. I do not suggest anybody else do this, but now I keep my bindings so tight that the ski will snap before my boot comes out.

After hearing this, Uncle Pat had to come up and visit. We played with Legos (the best B-day present you could ever give



Elie's "Fancy" Bloody Mary

- 1-pint or 2-cup glass
- Ice
- 3 oz / 2 shots Polish vodka (Sorry, Russia. Poland wins this one.)
- 1 oz Italian dressing
- 1/2 oz green olive juice
- 1/2 T hot sauce (or to taste)
- 6 oz or 3/4 cup Clamato juice
- 1 celery stick

Fill glass three-quarters full of ice. Add all ingredients, Clamato last. Salt and pepper to taste. Stir. Pairs well with procrastination.

a child), and he taught me how to make "high society" Bloody Marys. Through the years, I learned how to make them better.

I am a simple country boy, by choice. It's the only kind of life I ever want to live, though it's still fun to pretend to be all fancy every once in a while. Put on some smooth jazz, don the coat and tie, make a "fancy" drink, light up a Cuban cigar and sit outside on the deck, watching my chickens peck the ground.

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

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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