

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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For the Love of Birds (and Birding)

By EMILY COOK

IN MI BACKYARD

With childhood roots downstate, I recall some of my earliest memories were of meetings held by Ionia County's regional Audubon club, called the Fog-Quarry Naturalists. They met at my parents' house. I grew up surrounded by individuals passionate about birding, and many weekend days were spent rising before dawn and embarking on a scavenger hunt with my dad to find as many species as possible. It wasn't unusual for us to sit in the dark, calling for owls. It was also entirely normal to venture into the local sewage treatment plant in search of waterfowl, something I now realize was likely a unique experience among my friends and classmates.

I recall finding the Ionia State Recreation Area's 200th bird species (a dickcissel) and spending more time than I am willing to admit looking for the elusive cackling goose, which is essentially identical to a Canada goose but just a bit on the small side. (We didn't find it.) I also recall the time we happened upon the county's roadkill deposit site and saw more than 50 bald eagles at once — on the ground, in the trees and circling the field where we stopped. It was awe-inspiring and unforgettable.

Now, as an adult, my birding experiences look a bit different. I still venture out with my dad, just not quite as often. I still grab my binoculars when I intend to hike a local "birding hot spot." I still come to a standstill when I hear an owl calling, though usually now it is unintentional, a byproduct of an early morning dog walk rather than an excursion for the sole purpose of finding owls.



Above left: Sandhill cranes. Photo: Mark Videan. Above right: Emily Cook leads a birding and nature hike at Upper Herring Lake Preserve. Photo: Doug Cook.

I am exceedingly fortunate to live in Arcadia where a natural area is never more than a 5-minute drive away. Part of me considers keeping the best places to explore close to my chest, while another part hopes others can experience the same thrills I had growing up. Some say, "It's just a bird," but there are others who understand the delight of standing on the water's edge and seeing a pair of sandhill cranes land or finally spotting a camouflaged snowy owl perched upon a power pole in the winter.

If you find yourself in the latter category, I encourage the exploration of some of the beautiful natural areas this region has to offer:

Arcadia Marsh

Of course Arcadia Marsh isn't a secret, but it has to be at the top of my recommendations, regardless. As one of the state's last Great

Lakes Coastal Marshes, the expanse of uninterrupted wildlife habitat is incredibly special. At a size of more than 400 acres and with an accessible boardwalk cutting through the middle (1.5 miles out and back), the opportunities to see unique birds and other wildlife are everywhere. In addition to dozens of bird species, keep an eye out for river otters, bobcats, or a black bear — some other residents who sometimes share this space.

Upper Herring Lake Preserve

Another out-and-back trail, Upper Herring Lake Preserve is especially peaceful in the moments at dawn or dusk. I love walking through the initial field in August, listening to the sounds of crickets and other late-summer insects. Stop by earlier in the season and you might hear and see the American

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Backroads and Beaches

Road trip to another gem: McDuffee Creek Nature Preserve

Story and photos by KEVIN HOWELL

When we moved to Mason County five-plus years ago, we looked forward to taking road trips to discover little hidden places few people know. It had been a while, so when my wife Jean and I heard about McDuffee Creek Nature Preserve, this seemed like the right time to go exploring.

McDuffee Creek is hidden on 300 acres east of M-37, down 14 Mile Road, between Baldwin in Lake County and White Cloud in Newaygo County. We found one entrance on Walnut Avenue on the west side of the preserve, where there's a parking area and trailheads. An old shelter stands just off the parking area with a picnic table and an awesome stone fireplace. A wooden plaque above the firebox reads, "Edwin H. Tryon 1885-1975." The sign is old and worn and a little hard to read. According to Marie Orttenburger, advancement manager for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan (the current owner of the property), the shelter may be a dedication to Tryon.

"The shelter was established when the property was used by the Kiwanis Club," Orttenburger told me. "We were not able

to find anything much about Edward Tryon in our searches, but we assume the Kiwanis Club dedicated the shelter/fireplace in his honor."

The property was first donated to the Muskegon Kiwanis Club in 1957, according to the land conservancy's website, by Charles W. Smith. It then passed to the Muskegon County Community Foundation and in 2023 was sold to the conservancy.

Four miles of easy-to-moderate trails take hikers through stands of tall pines, popples (aka quaking aspen) and portions of what was once a mix of cedar, beech, sugar maple and hemlock forest landscapes. There are also low wetlands along the Little South Branch of the Pere Marquette River and the property's namesake, McDuffee Creek, also a tributary of the river.

We were the only folks there that day, so we started at a slow pace. Trails we took were obviously mown paths with no trail signs other than a map at the trailhead, but they were easy to follow. We passed by those stands of tall, skinny "popples" and lowland plants. Jean identified what looked

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Area Events

ONGOING EVENTS

Wednesdays

Baldwin Farmers Market

3-7pm, Thru Aug 28. Parking lot behind Jones Ice Cream

Thursdays

Elberta Farmers Market

8am-12pm, Thru Oct 3. Dudley Penfold Memorial Marina Park, corner of M-22 & M-168.

Bear Lake Community Market

3-7pm, Thru Oct 31. Corner of US-31 & Lynn St. (across from Filer Credit Union).

Fridays

Ludington Artisan/Farmers Market

2-7pm, Thru Sept 21. Legacy Plaza Pavilion, 112 N. James St.

Onkama Farmers Market

12-4pm, Thru Aug 30. Parking lot 4850 Main St. Info: patinamichigan@gmail.com

Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers Market

9am-1pm, Thru Oct 19. Open Space Park, 832 Main St.

Manistee Farmers Market

9am-12pm, Thru Oct 7. Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary S. Pkwy.

Scottville Farmers Market

9am-12pm, Thru Oct 26. Miller's Marketplace, 202 N. Main St.

Thru Aug 16

Friday Kids' Cooking Classes, Frankfort

1:30-3:30pm. \$25. Kids 8-12 will learn basic kitchen skills & food safety while making tasty, healthy kid-friendly dishes. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Registration: oliverart.org or 231.352.4151.

Thru Aug 17

Manistee County Fair, Onkama

Fun for the whole family. Manistee County Fairgrounds, 7587 1st St.

Thru Aug 23

Weekly Kids' Summer Art Camp, Frankfort

10:30am-12pm, Monday-Friday. \$125/week for children ages 7-12. Each day will feature a new instructor and project. Register for one or multiple weeks. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Registration: oliverart.org, or 231.352.4151.

Remembering Stephen Elrick: A Retrospective Exhibit, Frankfort

Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Thru Aug 30

Outside the Box: Unleashing the Unconscious Mind Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. A Juried surrealist show featuring 37 artists from 16 states & Germany. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Thru Aug 31

Wood/Work Art Exhibition, Manistee

Free. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

So This Just Happened Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Solo works by Patti Higinbotham. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Relatives You Didn't Know You Had Art Exhibition, Ludington

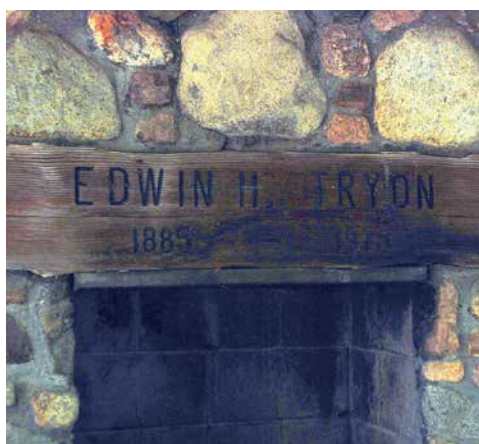
Free. Solo works by Jane Rosemont. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Thru Sep 6

Contemporary Conversations Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Works by Christopher Fellows, James Kipp, Brad Sprouse & Glenn Wolff. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

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Top: Checking out the map at McDuffee Creek Nature Preserve. Above: Sign on the stone hearth at McDuffee Creek shelter.

Area Events Calendar

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our Sept. 25 edition, submit your announcements by Sept. 14. 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. Despite our best efforts, errors may occur.

ONGOING EVENTS

Thru Sept 13

Summer Art Show, Arcadia
Free. Works by local artists. Pleasant Valley Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd.

Aug 30-Oct 4

Hooked: The Art of Fishing Art Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

Sep 6-28

LACA Member Art Exhibition, Ludington
Free. 2D & 3D works by LACA members. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

Sept 13-Oct 18

Creative Kaleidoscope: Annual Juried Art Exhibition, Frankfort
Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Awards will be presented at the opening reception, Sept. 13, 5-7pm.

Sept 13-Oct 19

Chani Devers & Ellie Harold Art Exhibition, Manistee
Free. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Sept 13-Oct 31

Birds Fly In: A Human Refuge, Manistee
10am-4pm Mon - Fri, noon-3pm Sat-Sun. Free. An immersive & expanding art, music & poetry experience by artist Ellie Harrold. Presentation/Q & A with producer/artist on Sep. 20, 5-7pm, with hors d'oeuvres and N/A beverages. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

DAILY EVENTS

August 14

Back to School Backpack Bonanza, Ludington
3-6pm. Stearns Outer Drive between the JC Mini-Golf & the playground. Activities also in the skate park parking lot, 950 W Ludington Ave.

STIX Summer Concert Series: The Band of Heathens, Ludington
5pm doors, 6pm show. STIX Ludington, 1963 N. Lakeshore Dr. Tickets: stixludington.com

LACA Concert Series: Jeff Haas's "Big Fun" Band, Ludington
7-9pm, Free. Waterfront Park, 300 S William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Echo Through the Timber Concert Series: Uneek Soul, Baldwin
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 15

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee
10am. Free. "78s for the People. Blues Jazz Chiasmus: Interplay @ 78rpm" by Alex Tank. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

Bus Day to Big Point Sable Lighthouse, Ludington
Free concert 1-3pm. Bus transportation 12pm-5pm. Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington State Park- 8800 M-116. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Live in the Alley: Cheryl Wolfram, Ludington
6-8pm, Free. East end of the alley behind Timbers/Mitten Bar-100 block of S James St. between Rath Ave. & James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Upbeat Cadillac Music Series: Jeff Haas's "Big Fun" Band, Cadillac
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Downtown Ludington's Movies in the Park
Free outdoor movie, "Trolls Band Together". Free Baby Badger rides for kids from 7:30-8:45pm before the movie begins. Concessions avail. Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

August 16

Live in the Plaza: 80 Cows, Ludington
6-8pm, Free. Legacy Plaza, 150 N James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Coyote Crossing Music Series: Michigan Rattlers, Cadillac
Doors 6pm. Concert 7-11pm. \$30 Adv, \$35 Door. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

Folk Fridays: Brian Oberlin, Baldwin
7pm. Free. Lake County Historical Museum Boat House Stage, 915 Michigan Ave. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 16

Summer Concerts in the Park: Full Stop, Frankfort
7-9pm. Free. In the pavilion at Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

The Garden Theater's Centennial Celebration, Frankfort
7-10pm. \$30. Dance to live music with The Lookout Cats feat. Miriam Pico, libations. 1920's attire strongly encouraged. Garden Theater, 301 Main St. Tickets: gardentheater.org

Manistee Community Band Concert: Rhapsody, Manistee
7:30pm. \$10-15. With Nikita Sokolov, pianist, Rhapsody in Blue. Manistee High School auditorium, 525 12th St.

Back to Bacharach, Manistee
7:30pm. \$25. Broadway veteran Karen Curlee & her all-star band, led by Mark Stewart, in a multi-media exploration of Burt Bacharach songs. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

August 16, 17

Frankfort Art Fair, Frankfort
1-7pm Fri, 10am-4pm Sat. Market Square Park, 420 Corning Ave.

Midwest Jet Pilot's Boondoggle, Baldwin
10am-5pm, Free for spectators. Informal & laid-back. Over 70 RC (remote controlled) jets soar all weekend. Visit with pilots & stroll Pit Row. Music. Food & beverages avail. for purchase. Free parking. Baldwin Airport, 8140 M-37. Bring lawn chairs or sit on the bleachers.

August 17

Collector Car Show, Frankfort
8am-3pm. Free. Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St.

Household Hazardous Waste & Pharmaceutical Collection Day, Manistee & Mason Counties
9am-1pm, \$15 suggested donation, Manistee Road Commission, 8946 Chippewa Hwy. (US-31), Bear Lake or Mason County Road Commission, 510 E. State St. (US-10), Scottville. Info: manisteecd.org or mason-lakeconservation.org

40th Annual Community Yard Sale, Bear Lake
All day. Various locations. Look for pink lawn signs.

18th Annual Thunder in the Creek, Branch
11am-midnight. Parade, ATV run, kids' games, pig roast, chicken drop & duck race, live music, silent auction, free rustic camping, fireworks. Benefit for disabled veterans. Ruby Creek Tavern, 7980 E Washington Rd. Info: 231.898.2377

Little Sable Lighthouse 150th Anniversary Celebration, Ludington
Family fun celebration. Info: spika.org.

Suds on the Shore Craft Beer & Wine Festival, Ludington
12-5pm. \$50. Over 21 only. Local craft beers, wines, ciders, meads, cocktails, food trucks, and live music. Rotary Park (City Park) 500 W Ludington Ave. Tickets: sudsontheshore.com

Kites & Castles: Beachside Family Fun, Manistee
1pm. Free. Family-friendly fun making sandcastles, flying kites & playing with beach toys on Fifth Ave. beach. Presented by Manistee District Library & Riverside Toys.

Onkama History Association Meeting, Onkama
2-4pm. Free. Open to the public. Drop in to share or learn about Onkama history & upcoming projects. Onkama Township Hall, 5435 Main St.

Skyview Quartet in concert, Ludington
7pm. \$20 ADV, \$25 Door. Cash bar avail. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: ludingtonartscenter.org or 231.845.2787

Log Cabin Concerts: Ruth & Max Bloomquist, Kaleva
7pm. Free/donations. Corner of Walta & Panu Streets. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Music in the State Park: Tom Noack, Ludington
7pm, Free/donations. Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Rain site: Lake Michigan beach house. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Jeff Haas's "Big Fun" Band, Baldwin
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 17

STIX Summer Concert Series: Legends of Rock: Tributes to Queen and Def Leppard, Ludington
5:30pm doors, 7:30pm show. STIX Ludington, 1963 N. Lakeshore Dr. Tickets: stixludington.com

August 17, 18

Michigan's Free ORV Weekend, Statewide
Michigan residents and out-of-state visitors can ride DNR-designated routes & trails without an ORV license/trail permit.

August 19

Jammin' Mondays on Betsie Bay: Men of Leisure All-Stars, Elberta
7-9:15pm. Free. Waterfront Amphitheater, Elberta Waterfront Park, 1120 Furnace St. Rain site: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 20

Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee
10am. Free. "Intellectual Freedom" by Julie Cirone, Executive Director, Manistee County Library. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Time with Teddy, The Therapy Dog, Manistee
3:30-4:30pm. Free. For kids only. Therapy dogs can improve moods, mental health, & boost confidence when reading to them in a relaxing, nonjudgemental setting. Bring your own book and work on your skills! Register: manisteelibrary.org

Canning & Processing Fruits & Vegetables Class, Scottville
6-7pm. Free. Scottville Public Library, 204 E. State St.

Manistee Shoreline Showcase: Men of Leisure, Manistee
7-9:15pm. Free. Rotary Gazebo, Douglas Park, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 21

Beach Sweep & Green Drinks, Ludington
7-8pm, Free. Volunteer to help AFFEW clean up the beach. Meet at south concession stand at Stearns Park, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Gloves/bags provided. Drinks/networking with members after. BYO-No Glass.

Northern Natural Summer Concert Series: Rachel Davis, Kaleva
7pm. \$25. Northern Natural Cider House & Winery, 7220 Chief Rd. Tickets: mynorthtickets.com. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

LACA Concert Series: Men of Leisure All Stars, Ludington
7-9pm, Free. Waterfront Park, 300 S William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Echo Through the Timber Concert Series: General Assembly Big Band, Baldwin
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

S. S. Badger Shoreline Cruise, Ludington
8:30pm boarding, 9-11pm cruise. \$58. Tickets include food & live entertainment. Theme: Bon Voyage to Summer. Cruises sail rain or shine. Info/tickets: www.ssbadger.com

August 22

Friends of Nordhouse Dunes: Weed the Wilderness Day, Free Soil
9am-3pm. Free. Join the US Forest Service & others to help eradicate invasive species. Bring water, gloves & snacks. Be ready to hike a couple of miles. Meet in the Nurnberg Rd. parking lot at the dunes.

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee
10am. Free. "An Artist's Life" by Ken Cooper, artist and president of the Old Kirke Museum, OSHS. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

GTRLC Wildflower & Butterfly Hike at Arcadia Marsh, Arcadia
10am-12pm. Free. Paula Dreeszen will lead a hike on the universally accessible boardwalk. Wear hiking shoes, bring water & a snack. Sunscreen, bug spray & camera/binoculars are suggested. Info/registration: gtrlc.org

Art of Giving: 76th Anniversary Gala Event, Frankfort
6-10pm. \$500 donation. Summer fundraiser with catered dinner & live music. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Donate: oliverart.org, or 231.352.4151.

Live in the Alley: Mike Lenich, Ludington
6-8pm, Free. East end of the alley behind Timbers/Mitten Bar-100 block of S James St. between Rath Ave. & James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 22

Upbeat Cadillac Music Series: Men of Leisure All-Stars, Cadillac
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S. Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Downtown Ludington's Movies in the Park
Free outdoor movie, "Luca". Free Baby Badger rides for kids from 7:30-8:45pm before the movie begins. Concessions avail. Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

August 22-25

Forest Trail Music Festival, Free Soil
General admission \$75, RV/Camper pass (20+ft.) \$50, early admission on Aug. 22 \$30, one day pass \$30+. 18+ artists/groups, campfire jams, & more. 352 W. Forest Trail Rd. Info/tickets: foresttrailmusic.com

August 23

Live in the Plaza: Twyce the Band, Ludington
6-8pm, Free. Legacy Plaza, 150 N James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Log Cabin Concerts: Feral Cats, Kaleva
7pm. Free/donations. Corner of Walta & Panu Streets. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Landsharks: Jimmy Buffet Tribute, Manistee
7:30pm. \$15-50. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

The Venue Summer Concerts: Cold, Cadillac
8pm. \$25. The Venue Event Center, 902 W 13th St. Tickets: thevenueeccadillac.com

August 23, 24

Grams & Jams Summer Sendoff, Baldwin
3-10pm. Tickets start at \$40. Live music with Marcy Playground & others, vendors, food, drink, cannabis. Field of Greens, 8330 M-37. Info/tickets: gramsandjams.com

Porch & Yard Sale, Lake Ann
9am-5pm Fri., 9am-3pm Sat. All proceeds benefit the Almira Historical Society. 19440 Maple St.

August 24

11th Annual Big Bear Butt Cruise, Kaleva
Big Bear Sportsman's Club's bike ride thru Benzie & Manistee Counties. Registration starts at \$65, includes breakfast, dinner on race day, T-shirt, campsite. 4 road rides avail: 60k, 130k, 170k, 210k. 4 gravel rides avail: 25k, 35k, 70k, 104k. All rides start & end at 8927 Puustinen Rd. Info/register: BigBearButtCruise.com

Parking Lot Craft & Vendor Sale, Ludington
10am-4pm. The 10 Spot, 5750 US 10. Info: Kayleen at 231.683.8058.

VFW Car & Vendor Show, Custer
11am-3pm. \$5. Food, games, music, auction, raffle. VFW Post #5096, 2022 State St.

Music on Bear Lake: performers TBD, Bear Lake
Free. At the sandbar.

Let's Go Fly a Kite, Frankfort

3pm. Free. Meet at Frankfort Beach by the turnaround to fly a kite. Info: 231.352.7251

Jammin' Mondays on Betsie Bay: Dave Keller Band, Elberta

7-9:15pm. Free. Waterfront Amphitheater, Elberta Waterfront Park, 1120 Furnace St. Rain site: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Music in the State Park: Salt City Dixie Jazz Band, Ludington
7pm, Free/donations. Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Rain site: Lake Michigan beach house. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Men of Leisure All Stars, Baldwin
7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Buckcherry in concert with opening band Siin, Manistee
6-10:30pm. \$35-65. 18+ only. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. Tickets: lrcr.com

Reggae for the Soul Show, Ludington
7:30-10pm. Free. Rotary Park, 500 W. Ludington Ave.

STIX Summer Concert Series: JUMP - America's Van Halen Experience, Ludington
6pm doors, 8pm show. STIX Ludington, 1963 N. Lakeshore Dr. Tickets: stixludington.com

The Venue Summer Concerts: Jerrod Nieman, Cadillac
8pm. \$51.20. The Venue Event Center, 902 W 13th St. Tickets: thevenueeccadillac.com

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ERDMAN RD. BEAR LAKE Between Potter & 13 Mile Rds.

Arcadia music festival ramps up

By PAT STINSON. Courtesy photo.

ARCADIA - A second stage will debut during the Aug. 30-31 Minnehaha Brewhaha Music Festival, featuring "more music, more brews, more food, and more fun on tap," according to Music Moves Me, the nonprofit festival host.

The event will take place on the grounds of Arcadia Marine, 17073 Northwood Highway (M-22), and primitive camping is available. Those attending are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

Ten-plus bands will perform. Festival attendees may sample from 70-plus varieties of domestic and craft brews and purchase food from vendors such as Norma's Tamales, Guiseppes Pizza and others. Child and adult games and activities will be available.

Ron Stoops, whose musical legacy was the inspiration for the festival, is spotlighted in an Arcadia Area Historical Museum exhibit called "Music Moves Us: A Century of Music." The museum, at 3340 Lake St., will be open 1-4 p.m., Saturday.

Kicking off the festival on Friday will be a 6 p.m. performance by the TC Knuckleheads followed at 8:30 p.m. by The Ride. The TC Knuckleheads' sound is described as "variety classic rock/rhythm and blues ... with soul." Dave Barth plays harmonica, vocals and lead guitar backed by "some of the best" Michigan musicians "on bass, drums, sax, keyboards and vocals." The Ride includes northern Michigan members of the Cookies, Zeal For Days, and Aldrich and Co. supporting frontman Spencer Oppermann. "Known for their extravagant entrances and dynamic shows, The Ride is ... a ride from country's heyday to ... hard rock nostalgia."

Then at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, the festival's 5k and 15k Fun Runs will take place for the fifth time. To sign up, go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Arcadia/MinihahaBrewhaha5k15k>.

Saturday's music begins at 11 a.m. with the Cross Cut Kings. The group's sound is described as roots, acoustic blues and Americana and includes Jim Bonney on guitar and vocals and Charlie Witthoef on harmonicas and vocals.

Jake Allen will perform beginning at 12:30 p.m. His music is self-described as "a kaleidoscopic sound ... including prog-pop, waves of ambient instrumentals, and complex musical layers." Allen's "immersive storytelling" and vocals as a solo guitarist captivate his audience.

Local singer/songwriter Darin VanderMolen and his guitar will take the stage at 2 p.m. He is known for his teaching, coaching, music producing and engineering around western Michigan.

At 2:45 p.m., Djangophonique will share its Django Reinhardt-inspired sound. The award-winning group (Best Jazz Album,



Artist of the Year - 2022) includes guitarist Andrew Brown, clarinetist Tyler Rindo, Jorian Olk-Szost on double-bass, rhythm guitarist Nicholas Martin and vocalist Katie Smith.

Manistee's Nick Veine will perform at 4:15 p.m. with his "eclectic mix of blues, country, jazz, and original music." His website states: "Think Johnny Cash meets James Taylor meets Alan Menken."

Performances continue at 5 p.m. with the Mark Lavengood Band, followed at 6:30 p.m. by Sean Kelly, 7:15 p.m. by Dye/Jones and the Get Down, and concludes with The Jim Cummins Band at 9:15 p.m. The Mark Lavengood Band brings energy that packs the dance floor. Best known for his dynamic slide guitar playing, multi-instrumentalist Lavengood is joined by band members for a sonic set. Local singer-songwriter Sean Kelly performs original songs and covers at area venues and has more than 100,000 followers on Spotify. Dye/Jones and the Get Down bring their own vibe with guitar, bass, drums, saxophone and horn. The Jim Cummings Band is a blues/rhythm-and-blues montage featuring Jim Cummings on guitar, bassist Jim Klein, percussionist Jesse Cornwall, vocalist Yeshua and keyboardist Chris Moberley. Fee Waybill of The Tubes calls them ".... absolutely the best band that I know, period."

Friday's ticket price is \$5 and includes performances by two bands and entry to the brew tent. Saturday's ticket costs \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the event. Admission includes performances by 9 musical acts. A souvenir tasting glass is \$5 and brew-tasting tickets are \$2 each. Children 12 and younger may attend for free. For advance tickets and information about the festival, Fun Run or camping, go to: www.music-moves-me.org

Music Moves Me supports music education and appreciation in the greater Arcadia area schools and communities. This year, MMM awarded \$8,555 to eight students, three to attend the Interlochen Arts Academy, three to attend Blue Lake Music Camp and two to attend Central Michigan University's Summer Music Camp. The nonprofit also provided funding for the "Music Moves Us" museum exhibit.

BIRDS FLY IN: A HUMAN REFUGE
ELLIE HAROLD

"MOVING AND POWERFUL!"

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SEPT. 13 THRU OCT. 31

THE GRAND BALLROOM
The Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts

PRESENTATION/Q&A WITH PRODUCER/ARTIST 9.20.24 | 5 PM - 7 PM
EXHIBIT HOURS MON - FRI | 10 AM - 4 PM
SAT & SUN | NOON - 3 PM

CELEBRATING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

RAMSDELLTHEATRE.ORG/ART

101 MAPLE STREET | MANISTEE, MICHIGAN

'Battle of the Brushes' to capture Frankfort

By MARK VIDEAN. Photo courtesy of Oliver Art Center.

FRANKFORT - Those who appreciate this waterfront city's beautiful Lake Michigan shore, charming Victorian homes, outstanding parks and glittering harbor are invited to participate and/or attend the second annual plein-air painting event hosted by Oliver Art Center on Saturday, Sept. 21. "Landscapes and Landmarks of Frankfort" is this year's theme.

Artists will begin working outdoors at 9 a.m. and will complete at least one 2-D work featuring a scene within the city of Frankfort. Each will submit their finished work, framed and ready to hang, by 3 p.m. Works will be hung and judged at that time. First- through third-place awards will be presented at an opening reception and exhibit to be held 5-7 p.m. inside the art center at 132 Coast Guard Road.

The public is invited to watch the artists as they work and to attend the evening reception, when all entries will be available for purchase.

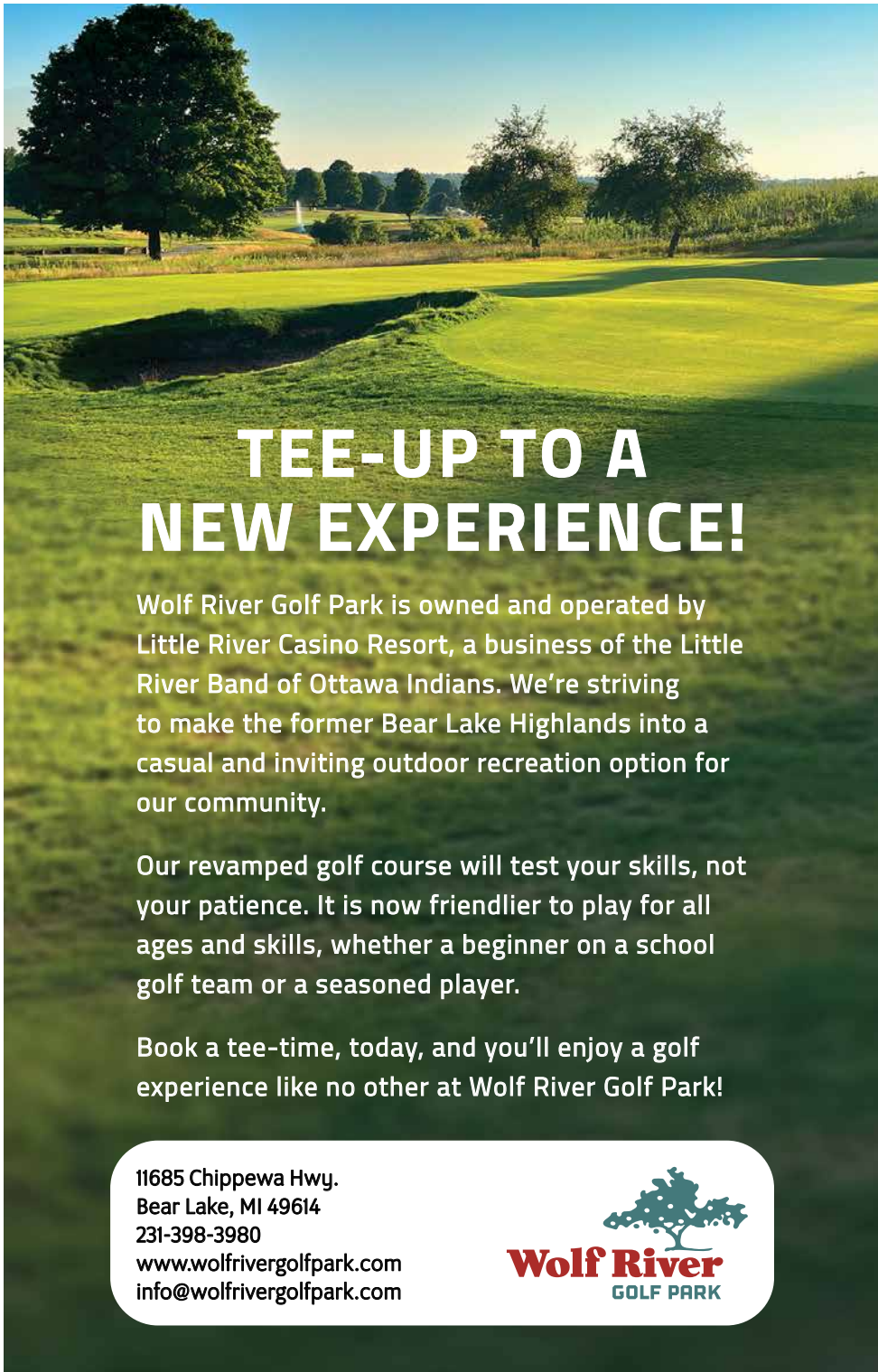
Artists interested in participating must register online by Sept. 14 at: <https://oliverartcenterfrankfort.org/plein-air>.



Pamela Spicer's painting won first place last year during Oliver Art Center's first annual plein-air painting event.

Registration is \$40 or \$30 for OAC members. Mediums accepted are oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, pencil, ink, etc.

Last year's theme was "Paint the Point," held at Point Betsie Lighthouse. Approximately 25 Michigan artists participated.




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BANANAS

about Grandma's recipe

Story and photos by **JOSHUA ELIE**

Other than me (she adored me), my grandmother, Sylvia, didn't like anybody. Loved cats, hated people. She wasn't mean, quite the opposite. Always sweet, kind, giving, played piano at her church ... but she had this way of needling people, and I think my father was her favorite target of all.



Grandma Sylvia.

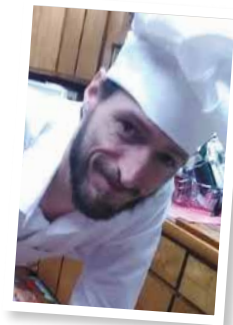
I remember when I was about 12, this long drive home from Denver with her and my parents. I had my headphones on and was buried in a biography, "Little Richard: A Life From Beginning to End", so I wasn't paying much attention to what was going on around me. Grandma Sylvia was getting nose bleeds from the barometric pressure change and stuffing tissues up her nose. She would stuff one corner in and just let the rest hang out, both nostrils. Mind you, this was a woman so prim and proper that I don't think she ever owned a pair of slacks. We stopped at a Waffle House, and I was so excited (they are still my favorite chain cafe south of the Mason-Dixon line) that I ran in, my parents and grandma following behind. She went directly to the bathroom

and came out silently furious. I didn't notice, and I guess my parents didn't say anything, but she had forgotten to take the tissues out of her nose. She sat down and quietly muttered, "You let me walk in here looking like a walrus; I have never been so humiliated." She was "humiliated" often because it didn't take much. I think that is the only time my family has ever sat down to eat without a single sarcastic comment from any of us. There must have been much more taking place in the car than I realized. Afterwards, I rushed back to my headphones and book, and my mother got into the car and sat with her head down. Looking out the window, I could see some flailing of arms by my father and some finger pointing by Grandma, then they both returned to the car in silence. My father may or may not have threatened to leave her there, but like I said, she adored me.

The next year Grandma Sylvia had an apartment near the law office where my mother worked, so I would spend a couple hours with her every day after school while my mother finished up. I moved things around for her, set up and took down her decorations and the rest of the time ... well, you know how I enjoy telling stories about how things used to be "way back when." So did she. She grew up in Detroit on the heels of the automobile industry explosion, and she would paint these pictures with her stories about the way people dressed, the cars, the streets, the overall culture, and her favorite, the soda fountain. I had Ducky's, Ludington has House of Flavors, and she had the Soda Fountain.

I was always told she was a great cook/

NORTHWOODS SAUCE BOSS



baker and an accomplished pianist, but we never once communicated on either of those levels. I never even saw her in the kitchen or heard her play, but I loved her banana bread. She would make sure I got a fresh loaf every week when I was around. I do remember my mother and her brother talking about how, when they were growing up, her salads always had a certain flavor that they could never figure out. Much later in life, they did. You see, she was a big fan of hand cream; she was always putting it on. Somehow, the cats didn't seem to mind, but if you're going to make a salad, I recommend you wash any cream off your hands, and Purell doesn't count.

Probably the reason Sylvia and I never connected in a culinary way is because she was a strict, kosher vegetarian, and I have always been big on meat and shellfish, plus she abhorred the use of alcohol. I did love her banana bread, though, especially toasted and spread with butter and cinnamon sugar. I tried her recipe last year but couldn't find a way to get the bread to bake all the way through, so what I do is mix the batter the same way and bake it as a cake. And a cake isn't a cake without frosting. This is not my grandmother's frosting.

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

Grandma Sylvia's Banana Bread/Cake

- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup banana puree (about 2.5 medium bananas)
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/3 cup nuts (chopped coarsely)

Mix ingredients in the order given. Line a 9.5" x 13.5" pan with parchment paper. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes.



Elie's Butter Rum Frosting

Using an electric handheld mixer or a KitchenAid with a beater attachment, beat 1/4 cup melted butter and 4 tablespoons of rum, adding powdered sugar until the frosting pulls away from the bowl.



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'Art Snake' tour sparks idea

By JUDY JASHINSKY

As an artist, I have participated in "Art Snake" several times, and this was another great year. Art Snake is a self-guided tour of artists' studios that are open to the public for two days in early July. The studios on the tour mainly encircle Portage Lake in Onkama, with a couple studios located in Arcadia, such as mine.

This year's perfect weather was helpful. There was a steady flow of visitors on both days, July 6-7. About half my guests had visited before, so they were familiar with my work. Many of them brought friends and family; I love the kids. The other half were new, so I spent time showing them around and answering questions about the work I was sharing. This year I was happy to present three large paintings that had been lost in storage for more than 25 years. My current portrait series, "Women Saving Democracy", is also on display and has grown to 62 works. (You can view the series at: judyjashinsky.com.) Some visitors remembered seeing the first 15 portraits last year.

One of the best things about having visitors this way is that, unlike an "opening" reception where it is difficult to have a conversation, Art Snake makes it possible to answer questions and get feedback. I make a conscious effort to present a price range that makes it possible for anyone to purchase a piece. A wonderful young lady returned to buy a piece she saw last year. Another

woman who has been collecting my work for years deliberately waited to buy during the tour, knowing that it would encourage others, which it did.

I have an idea for the future of Art Snake. We artists could compile a list of curators from western and northwestern Michigan museums, such as the Muskegon Art Museum and the Dennon Museum Center in Traverse City. Each could be sent an invitation to attend, along with a list of participating artists and their website addresses. If they are unable to visit during the event, they will have the artists' contact information. Art Snake can be a platform for professional artists wishing to expand their audience. It can also benefit people who aspire to be professionals. Visiting artists' studios is a good start.

As a Native American, Stockbridge-Muncee tribe, I would also like to mention that "Snake Medicine" includes the power of Creativity.

*Special Thanks go to artists Jamey Barnard and Kristine Harvey for the organization of Art Snake.

Judy Jashinsky is a painter working in multiple mediums. She is the owner and director of Pines of Arcadia, a nonprofit artist-in-residence program and a studio gallery south of Arcadia. Gallery hours are by appointment. Call 202-427-3088.



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Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Revisited

By DON HANSEN

Looking out my window toward the timber, I am pondering the strange trip that took us to Michigan. Almost one year ago, my wife and I sold our house in Iowa and moved to Ludington. We did not find a place to live until three days after we arrived, yet everything felt okay. Neither of us was known for being this reckless, especially since we left our home where we were born, raised and worked our entire lives. Nevertheless, here we are.

Which brings me to my purpose in writing this little ditty. More than 50 years ago, a man by the name of Richard Bach wrote a best-selling book entitled "Jonathan Livingston Seagull". According to Bach, he had heard a voice saying, "Jonathan Livingston Seagull", which prompted him to write this story. Bach, who was living and working in southeast Iowa, achieved a great deal of acclaim for this work which was read by many high school students. I was one of those.

The book tells the story of a young seagull

who chooses to seek another path for his life other than the mundane and dull life of the average gull. He chooses to strive to be the best flyer that he can be, to fly faster and further, with grace and skill. Flying is a purpose in itself, not just a means to get to food or shelter. As important as these things are, they aren't as necessary as the art and science of flight. Jonathan works toward perfection yet condemns any measure of that goal as a limit to true purpose. He strives to never quit seeking improvement in his flying, a goal he teaches to younger gulls in this life and the next.

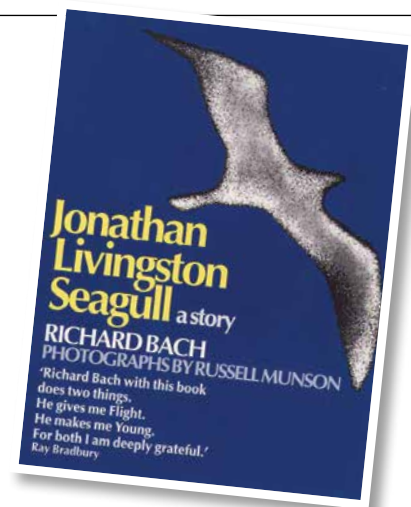
Flying is Jonathan's life, and his message is for us to strive to get better at everything we do because, though we may never fly, we all have a duty to be the best at whatever we do. Trying and failing, trying again and failing, trying again with some success. It's all part of life. I learned this in the mid-seventies, but it really hit home last year. We moved to Michigan. We stretched our wings. We went further. We did a Jonathan!

I reread this book at the request of a ring-billed gull (who shall remain nameless) at Stearns Beach last June. He told me that all the lessons of a brash, young seagull will make even more sense now that I'm older. Life is like flying; the present is what is most important. Using the skills you are born with and later skills you develop, you should strive to improve at every chance you can. Be like Jonathan. Defy mediocrity. Fly higher, further and faster.

A new chapter has been added at the end of the book with somewhat of a spiritual take on Jonathan's story. In it, his story has become more than a myth; it has taken on a religious aspect that he abhors. This adds to the debate over Jonathan's quest for individual betterment or what's best for the flock. The flock can be safe and secure, with little room for individuality, whereas when following your own flight path, you will learn what limits you may or may not have. Like Jonathan. Taking risks and going on adventures. Getting the most out of life.

I would truly rather fly with Jonathan.

Don Hansen lives in Ludington and is the author of four books and numerous articles published in his former hometown newspaper in Iowa. His books, available at Hoot & Honey in Manistee and the Book Mark in Ludington (and on Amazon), include the newly released "Meg and the Manistee Christmas" as well as "Meg and the Konkreet Krockadile", "There's a Booger in my Book!", and "Seven Who Served".



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ARCADIA NEWS

Making our parks pleasing to all


By **KRISTINA STIERHOLZ**

The town of Arcadia's Parks and Recreation Committee, with strong grant funding and volunteer support, has made major investments to upgrade its parks.

Located at the end of Lake Street, Sunset Station — Arcadia's easily-accessed public beach — is the jewel of Arcadia's parks. The beach took a beating with the last round of high water, so updates were in order. Asphalt and steel were removed to leave a natural beach with replanted dune grass, and Mobi mats were added for easy access. Restrooms at the entrance make it easier for sunbathers to stay all day, and kids can play on a swingset and slide.

Below the diminutive dunes, you can find swimmers, surfers, sunbathers, and rock-pickers. In every season, I have watched cars drive to the top of the entrance, pause for a refreshing Lake Michigan view, and then turn around and go on with their day. I've even done it myself when chores or the weather don't allow for the beach. Every evening, an impromptu gathering watches the sun set.

In addition to Sunset Station, Arcadia has spiffed up Grebe Park near the marina.



Sunset Station, by Deborah Besanson.

The fishing dock on Lake Arcadia was refurbished; families use it frequently. The latest popular addition is a self-serve kayak rental kiosk. For those who prefer to stay on land, a new bike-borrowing station, populated by donated bikes, gives them a chance to venture around town.

When they were little, my kids loved the children's playground at Pickert Park, at the corner of 2nd and Lake streets.

Arcadia has embraced its natural assets and continues to find creative ways to make them more accessible and available to everyone.

The Arcadia Marine, along M-22 north of Arcadia Marsh, will turn itself into a music park, August 30-31, when the Minnehaha Brewhaha music-and-beer festival takes place once again. See a complete schedule of events at: www.music-moves-me.org


A Hard Run

By **Louisa Loveridge Gallas**
Freshwater Reporter Poet in Residence

I always pitched dead center across home plate when I was ten. Frankly, I had a gift. I was steady, predictable, reliable as the dirt. You knew when I walked onto the mound what was coming next. I'd give you no surprising angles or dips. Just a long, underhanded arc, friendly and available. Everybody got a hit. When I pitched, they felt good while I got a rhythm going so smooth it took maybe a dozen or so batters before we got three outs off of the other team. Of course, Miss Lathrop pulled me out by the third inning to put in Amelia Quickby, who was tricky. With her, no one got on base. Yep, I was history early, but before I left the field those kids knew in their green bones what it felt like to hit that plump, white ball SMACK at the sky. I gave them more than once the long slide into home, the sweat of a hard run. Well, time passed. And for sure, life's a lot more ruthless than tricky Amelia Quickby. In fact, these days we've got a pretty tough world. Right? Let's hope our higher angels come up with some great plays. Real soon. One thing, though, I've tried to keep you in my game. Just know, when I'm around if I have anything to say about it, when I see you heading for home I'll make sure the umpire flings his arms wide and cries

"SAFE!"

Photo: Keith Johnston of Pixabay.



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Birding

continued from Page 1

woodcock do its spectacular "sky dance" in the evening light. Further down the trail, you emerge onto another boardwalk, often surrounded by blue flag iris in June and July. At the turnaround spot, you can pause and listen for the quiet sounds of herons hunting in nearby waters or try to identify one of the many sparrows flitting around the marsh grasses.

Dryhill Grasslands on Keillor Road
As part of the greater C.S. Mott Nature Preserve north of Arcadia, the Keillor Road grasslands tend to fly under the radar. There are no hiking trails or views of Lake Michigan. Instead, you are met with an uninterrupted panorama of the Manistee County countryside. For years the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has been working to restore the area to native grassland habitat, and now it provides a landscape experience relatively unique to the area. To stretch your legs, take a walk down quiet Keillor Road and scan the skies for hawks or eagles...and don't forget to open your ears to the call of the eastern meadowlark or field sparrow.

Regardless of where you choose to bird, and whether it is passionately or casually, I can almost guarantee you'll leave feeling



A view over Grasslands Preserve on Keillor. Photo: Emily Cook

a bit more in tune with the surrounding natural world.

Artist and naturalist Ken Kaufman said it best. "On a day like this, I can't imagine anything better that might happen in a person's life than for them to start paying attention to birds — to become aware of this magical world that exists all around us, unnoticed by many but totally captivating for those who know its secrets. This kind of spring day, with its bountiful myriads of colorful sprites just arrived from tropical shores, has to be one of the greatest gifts of life on Earth."

Emily Cook is a resident of Arcadia, where she lives with her husband and two collies. She is a conservationist by training and a writer and artist when time allows. She explores nearby nature trails and the Lake Michigan beach as much as possible.

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Backroads

continued from Page 1

like native bee balm (Monarda) plants, and we found plenty of wild raspberries and other flowering shrubs we couldn't readily identify. We didn't make it around all four miles of trail — some stretches under development required some wading across the streams — but took a section listed as a two-mile trail. Still, we only covered about half that distance due to aging backs and legs, and mosquitoes. (They really, really seem to be bad this year, or they just really, really like me!) Before turning back along a loop trail, we stood on higher ground and had a glimpse of the Little South Branch with water sparkling and rippling in the sunlight — pretty awesome!

Other areas we didn't cover included a southwestern section that possibly was once a pine plantation, now reverting to an oak savanna. "Once common on the landscape, oak savannas are now exceedingly rare and can support a number of imperiled plant, insect, and wildlife species," Orttentburger explained.

What we did cover was promising, and Orttentburger told me the land conservancy is continuing to make improvements. Since taking ownership of the property, the conservancy has gathered volunteers to place



Little South Branch of the Pere Marquette River from a high spot at McDuffee Creek.

boardwalks on the east side of the property where McDuffee Creek runs. They're "to support exploration of McDuffee Creek Nature Preserve while protecting the unique habitats found there," Orttentburger said. "We also plan to build a bridge over the Little South Branch of the Pere Marquette River to connect the two trail systems on the preserve." At the trailhead where we started our abbreviated journey, a short trail to the south leads to the Little South Branch. That's where the bridge will be built to connect to the trail heading through the oak savanna.

Those projects are possible through the generosity of donors to the land acquisition, Orttentburger pointed out. She said other



Native bee balm along the trail.

improvements include a trailhead sign at the south entrance, wayfinding signage through the trails, and interpretive signage.

Check out McDuffee Creek if you're looking for a little trip on the backroads of Newaygo County.

For more about McDuffee Creek Nature Preserve, go to: https://naturenearby.org/portfolio_page/explore/mcduffee-creek-nature-preserve/

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



Bitely Lake in the town of Bitely.

for a quick brew or lunch at the tavern, but time was short after our hike, and a cruise-through was all we could do. We will leave the menu sampling for a future trip when we have time to explore more of Bitely — maybe next year for Bitely Homecoming.

Find out more about Bitely on the community website: lilleytownship.org.

Marfia's painting in ArtPrize show

By PAT STINSON and MARK VIDEAN

Ludington artist Marie Marfia is among those selected to participate in ArtPrize this September. ArtPrize is an annual international art competition held in Grand Rapids during which \$500,000 in cash prizes are awarded. Prizes are based on the results of public voting and a jury of art experts. An additional \$200,000 in grant monies will also be awarded.

"Huzzah!" Marfia exclaimed in her newsletter last month. "I will be showing my latest skeleton painting" at the Pide and Stick, serving Mediterranean and Middle Eastern fare in the former Jolly Pumpkin pub space at 428 Bridge St. N.W.

Her pastel entry, "Skelly Odalisque," is based on the famous painting "The Grande Odalisque" by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres. An odalisque is the French term for a slave in a Turkish harem who was a concubine, chambermaid or attendant.

Marfia is known for painting posed skeletons she calls "skellies" in humorous renditions of famous paintings, such as "Skelly on the Half Shell" and "Skelly with the Pearl Earring." She also paints portraits, still lifes and landscapes.



"Skelly Odalisque." Photo: M. Marfia.

The Sept. 13-28 show extends across more than 160 city venues: museums, hotels, banks, breweries, bridges, restaurants and laundromats — any public spaces artists can find that agree to show their work. Founded in 2009 by Rick DeVos, the ArtPrize show attracts more than 400,000 spectators annually. More about ArtPrize is found at: <https://www.artprize.org>.

Follow Marfia on Instagram @ mariemarfia_skellies and @mariemarfia and find her website at: mariemarfia.com. Her work is available in Ludington at the gift shop inside Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison; My Happy Place, 208 W. Ludington Ave.; and 4 Directions Alchemy, 507 E. Dowland St. Her fine art prints and cards are available at: mariemarfia.etsy.com.

A side trip through Bitely

By KEVIN HOWELL

McDuffee Creek Nature Preserve's address is the town of Bitely, a few miles to the west, so we decided to take a quick tour of the town on the way back. Bitely, just off 14 Mile Road, is an unincorporated town in Lilley Township west of M-37. Its origins are from the 1800s as a logging town and a station on the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad.

We came into town on the north side, to a crossroad with the Bitely Grocery and Bitely Tavern on opposite corners. A sign indicated a North Country Trail access point, but we never found it. A building on another corner looked like a gathering place for events. A sign

there announced the Bitely Homecoming event in July, a big event for the community that includes a parade. A gift/souvenir shop, park and playground are near the intersection.

Our distinct impression of Bitely was that of a small lake town. Indeed, looking at a map we learned there are several lakes around: Lamoreaux Lake, Isaac Lake, Houseman Lake and, of course, Bitely Lake. Taking a road along Bitely Lake, we took note of homes lining the shore, especially a new one we later looked up. It was listed in the \$400,000 plus range. Nice place! With a U-turn, we headed back and found an access ramp to the lake. Up close, the lake sparkled in the sun and folks were cruising on pontoon boats and kayaks.

On another day we might have stopped

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Area Events Calendar

August 24,25

25th Annual North Country Trail Run, Manistee
6:30am. 50M Ultra Marathon, 50K Ultra Marathon, 26.2M Marathon, 13.1M Half Marathon. 3500 Udell Hills Rd. Info/Register: northcountrytrailrun.com

August 25

Grant Township Fire Department Chicken Dinner, Manistee
11am-3pm. Car show, raffles, T-shirts. Grant Township Hall, 835 W. Hoague Road.

August 27

Talks, Tunes & Tours, Manistee
10am. Free. "Songwriter Showcase" with Eric Engblade. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St.

Time with Teddy, The Therapy Dog, Manistee

3:30-4:30pm. Free. For kids only. Therapy dogs can improve moods, mental health, & boost confidence when reading to them in a relaxing, nonjudgemental setting. Bring your own book and work on your skills! Register: manisteelibrary.org

Weed the Park, Ludington

6-8pm. Free. Volunteer to help AFFEW remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Bring gardening gloves, trowel, water. Meet near the dog park at the end of Rath Ave. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

Manistee Shoreline Showcase: Dave Keller Band, Manistee

7-9:15pm. Free. Rotary Gazebo, Douglas Park, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 28

Food Bank Distribution, Manistee
11am. Free. No I. D. or proof of income required. First Baptist Church, 1201 Lakeshore Rd.

LACA Concert Series: Dave Keller Band, Ludington

7-9pm. Free. Waterfront Park, 300 S William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Echo Through the Timber Concert Series: Mary Rademacher and the Rad Pack, Baldwin

7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 29

First Person Stories & Songs, Manistee
10am. Free. "Strung Up, Not Hung Up: 16 acoustic guitar tunes in 45 minutes" by Howie Wilson. Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St.

Live in the Alley: Gabriel James, Ludington

6-8pm. Free. East end of the alley behind Timbers/Mitten Bar-100 block of S James St. between Rath Ave. & James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Sunset Beach Bonfire Series: Benny Hill Band, Ludington

8-10pm. Free. Bonfire & Music. Stearns Park Beach, 421 N Lakeshore Dr. Bring chair/blanket.

August 30

Live in the Plaza: Benny Hill Band, Ludington
6-8pm. Free. Legacy Plaza, 150 N James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Viridian Strings: Masterworks Unveiled, Frankfort

7pm. \$45 (OAC members \$40). Quartet will play works by Mozart, Brahms & Vaughan Williams. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Tickets: oliverart.org or 231.352.4151.

Log Cabin Concerts: Nick Veine & Company, Kaleva

7pm. Free/donations. Corner of Walta & Panu Streets. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

August 30

Summer Concerts in the Park: Jason Locke, Frankfort

7-9pm. Free. In the pavilion at Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

"Hundreds of Beavers" Movie, Manistee

10pm. Free. One night only. Vogue Theatre, 383 River St.

August 30,31

6th Annual Minnehaha Brewhaha Music Festival, Arcadia

6-11pm Friday, 11am-midnight Saturday. 5k & 15k runs. Live music, craft beverages, food trucks, games. Arcadia Marina on US-31 next to Arcadia Ice House. Bring lawn chairs. Info/tickets: music-moves-me.org

August 31

Cadillac Festival of Races, Cadillac
8am. \$25/Race. Kids' Fun Run is Free. 7M Relay, 10k, 5k, 1/4M Lake Swim. Info/Register: cadillacareaymca.org/cadillac-festival-of-races

High Bridge Hustle 5k, Brethren

9am. \$25. 4400 N. High Bridge Rd. Info/Register: runsignup.com

Bus Day to Big Point Sable Lighthouse, Ludington

Free concert 1-3pm. Bus transportation 12pm-5pm. Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington State Park- 8800 M-116. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

7th Annual Laborfest, Manistee

1-5:30pm Free. 5:30pm-12am, \$30 ADV, \$40 DOS. All ages event. 9 bands from 1pm-12am, My Son the Hurricane, headliner. Food & beverages avail. Douglas Park. Tickets: saltcityrb.com

Coyote Crossing Music Series: The Insiders, Cadillac

Doors 6pm, show 7-11pm. \$30. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S. 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

Music in the State Park: Eric Engblade, Ludington

7pm. Free/donations. Park Amphitheater, 8800 West M-116. Rain site: Lake Michigan beach house. Bring lawn chair/blanket/bug spray. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

Sounds from the Forest Concert Series: Dave Keller Band, Baldwin

7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

STIX Summer Concert Series: Dancing Queen: An Abba Salute, Ludington

6pm doors, 8pm show. STIX Ludington, 1963 N. Lakeshore Dr. Tickets: stixludington.com

August 31-Sep 2

Brethren Days, Brethren

Events include pancake breakfast, car show, bands, arts & crafts, vendors, tournaments, pig roast, parade, fireworks. All events take place in Dickson Township Park, unless otherwise stated. Info: Brethren Days on Facebook.

September 1

BenjaminBirdsong Concert, Ludington

6-8pm. Sponsored by Cornerstone Baptist Church. Waterfront Park, 300 S William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

September 2

Jammin' Mondays on Betsie Bay: Beth Bombara, Elberta

7-9:15pm. Free. Waterfront Amphitheater, Elberta Waterfront Park, 1120 Furnace St. Rain site: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

September 3

Manistee Shoreline Showcase: Beth Bombara, Manistee

7-9:15pm. Free. Rotary Gazebo, Douglas Park, First Street Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

September 4

LACA Concert Series: Beth Bombara Band, Ludington

7-9pm. Free. Waterfront Park, 300 S William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

September 6

Live in the Plaza: Benjamin Paetz, Ludington

6-8pm. Free. Legacy Plaza, 150 N James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

September 7

The Venue Summer Concerts: John 5 and The Creatures, Cadillac

8pm. \$36. The Venue Event Center, 902 W 13th St. Tickets: thevenueeccadillac.com

September 10

Weed the Park, Ludington

10am-12pm. Free. Volunteer to help AFFEW remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Bring gardening gloves, trowel, water. Meet near the dog park at the end of Rath Ave. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

September 11

The Venue Concerts: Songs of White Lion, Cadillac

8pm. \$31. The Venue Event Center, 902 W 13th St. Tickets: thevenueeccadillac.com

Harvesting Hope (formerly Empty Bowls), Ludington

6:30-9pm. \$100. Annual fundraising event for Lakeshore Food Club. Elegant farm-to-table dinner, pottery sale, silent auction, tales of hope. The Lake House, 704 Maritime Dr. Info/tickets: www.lakeshorefoodclub.org/events/harvesting-hope

September 12

Kalimba: The Spirit of Earth Wind and Fire in concert, Manistee

7:30pm. \$15-75. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdeltheatre.org

September 13

Live in the Plaza: Joe Irelan, Ludington

6-8pm. Free. Legacy Plaza, 150 N James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

STIX Summer Concert Series: Cooper Alan, Ludington

5pm doors, 7pm show. STIX Ludington, 1963 N. Lakeshore Dr. Tickets: stixludington.com

September 13,14

West Michigan Fun-Fly, Baldwin

10am-5pm. Free for spectators. Fun family event: many aspects of remote-control modelling are on display. See everything from RC jets to RC cars. Free parking. Baldwin Airport, 8140 M-37. Bring lawn chairs or sit on the bleachers.

September 14

Scottville Fall Celebration, Scottville

8am-8pm. Softball tournament, touch-a-truck, kids' activities, pedal pull, Miss Mason County & Princess Pageant, farmers and artisan market, live music with the Scottville Clown Band & rocking cover band Life Theory. Info: <https://scottvillecelebration.com>

Guided Birdwatching Hike, Thompsonville

10-11:30am. \$10 adults, \$5 kids over 5 or \$20 for families. Led by Angie Quinn. Meet at Mich. Legacy Art Park Trailhead, 1/4 mile from parking area, rain or shine. Bring binoculars if avail. Check Facebook 1 hour prior for severe weather cancellation. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

September 14

Onekama History Association Meeting, Onekama

2-4pm. Free. Open to the public. Drop in to share or learn about Onekama history & upcoming projects. Onekama Township Hall, 5435 Main St.

Dixon's Violin Concert, Ludington

Doors 6:30, concert 7pm. \$15 ADV, \$20 Door. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: ludingtonartscenter.org

TJ's Block Party, Manistee

7-10pm. Free. Live music with The Downtowners. Downtown Manistee in front of TJ's Pub, 399 River St.

STIX Summer Concert Series: Led Zeppelin 2 (tribute band), Ludington

6pm doors, 8pm show. STIX Ludington, 1963 N. Lakeshore Dr. Tickets: stixludington.com

September 15

Ironman 70.3 Michigan, Frankfort

Info/Registration: ironman.com/im703-michigan

Annual Blessing of the Animals, Free Soil

1pm. Free & open to the public. Bring your pets of all sizes to this unique church service. After the blessing, join in games & silent auction to raise funds for the farm. Circle Rocking S Farm, 5487 N. Tuttle Rd.

September 17

Fruit Tree Pruning Class, Scottville

6-7pm. Free. Scottville Public Library, 204 E. State St.

September 20

Live in the Plaza: Two Dudes in Flip Flops, Ludington

6-8pm. Free. Legacy Plaza, 150 N James St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

Tesla in Concert, Manistee

8-10:30. \$110-135. 18+ only. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. Tickets: lrcr.com

September 20-22

Earthwork Harvest Gathering Music Festival, Lake City

Over 70 performers, vendors, food trucks. Info/tickets/line-up: earthworkharvestgathering.com

September 21

Plein Air Frankfort 2024 Battle of the Brushes Painting Event, Frankfort

9am-7pm. Plein Air painting competition. See article on page 3. Info: oliverart.org

Beach Sweep & Green Drinks, Ludington

10am-12pm. Free. Volunteer to help AFFEW clean up the beach. Meet at south concession stand at Stearns Park, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Gloves/bags provided. Drinks/networking with members after. BYO-No Glass.

September 22

Betsie Valley Trail Run, Thompsonville

13.1M, 10k, 5k and 1-mile fun run. All courses start at the Webber Sports Complex (ballfield) and are out and back on the Betsie Valley Trail. Info/Register: northmittenevents.com/events

September 24

Weed the Park, Ludington

6pm. Free. Volunteer to help AFFEW remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Bring gardening gloves, trowel, water. Meet near the dog park at the end of Rath Ave. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

September 27

The Venue Concerts: Taproot with Hed P. E., Cadillac

8pm. \$36. The Venue Event Center, 902 W 13th St. Tickets: thevenueeccadillac.com

FRESHWATER REPORTER

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

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