

FRESHWATER REPORTER

ALWAYS FREE!

Fresh community stories from Manistee, Mason, southern Benzie, western Lake and Wexford. Online at: freshwater-reporter.com.

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AREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS INSIDE

Mothing shines a light on fascinating flyers: from 'drab' to dazzling

Story and photos by LINDA SCRIBNER

How many times have you stopped to watch a beautiful butterfly fluttering through the air or visiting the flowers in your garden? Most everyone can say they have done that. However, watching moths at nighttime has not been a common pastime ... until recently.

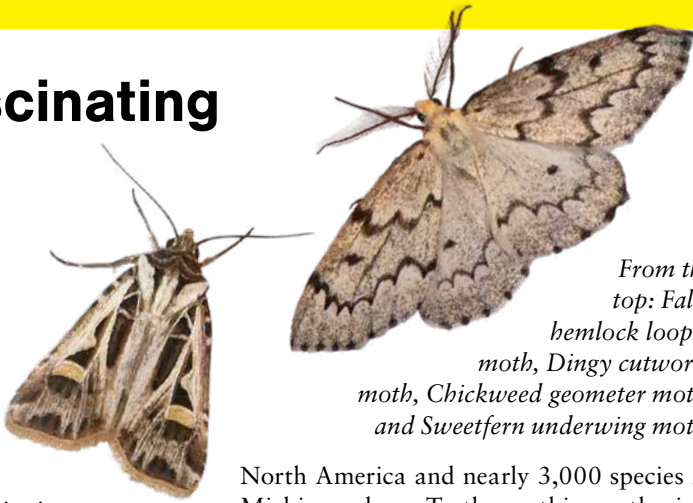
A new hobby called "mothing" is gaining popularity, mainly because it is inexpensive to do, and anyone can do it. All a person needs is a bright light, a white bed sheet, a rope and the willingness to stay up several hours after dark. A bright LED light bulb for your porch or driveway fixture will cost only a few dollars, and most people have an old sheet they are willing to tie between two trees near the light source. A more serious amateur naturalist might purchase a specialty UV light from a biological supply business, but even that is relatively inexpensive. Another attractive technique that costs only pennies is to prepare "moth bait" from an overripe banana and molasses and spread it on a tree trunk near the white sheet and light. (This recipe, from a Michigan "Tech" University biological sciences professor, has several variations: <https://kweenaw.wildones.org/moth-bait-recipe/>.)

What makes moths so special?

Both butterflies and moths belong to the group of insects called Lepidoptera, which started inhabiting Earth 200 million years ago in the dinosaur-reigning

Jurassic period. Over millions of years, these species changed, expanded and diversified. Moths are, and always have been, an essential part of our ecosystem, providing food for many animals and acting as important pollinators, many times more efficient in pollinating than bees. Moth caterpillars provide most of the food for young birds in the nest. A pair of chickadees feeding their young may gather up to 10,000 caterpillars in the 16 days before they fledge. Moths provide bats with 50% of their food, and even grizzly bears need a supply of small army cutworm moth caterpillars to build up fat for winter survival. (Read more on the Glacier National Park Conservancy website: <https://glacier.org/newsblog/grizzlies-and-moths>.)

Today we have about 175,000 moth species worldwide, 12,500 species in



From the top: False hemlock looper moth, Dingy cutworm moth, Chickweed geometer moth, and Sweetfern underwing moth.

North America and nearly 3,000 species in Michigan alone. To the mothing enthusiast in our state, that's a lot of potential viewing.

Before we share the details of our mothing experience, let's examine a little "moth biology."

There are several things that separate adult moths from butterflies:

- ▲ While butterflies are diurnal, or daytime fliers, most moths are nocturnal (though a few species will visit flowers in the daytime).
- ▲ The antennae of moths are usually feather-like or comb-like, while butterfly antennae are slender.
- ▲ At rest, moths usually hold their wings flat or tightly folded, whereas butterflies hold their wings up vertically.
- ▲ Butterfly abdomens are usually slender, while moth bodies are more robust and furry.
- ▲ In their lifecycles from egg to adult, the moth caterpillar spins a silken "cocoon" around its pupa, while a butterfly transforms from caterpillar to adult in a "chrysalis," which is a part of its exoskeleton.

Why are moths attracted to light?

Moths normally use the moon to navigate

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Juneteenth and its historical significance

By GRACE GROGAN

Three events — one in Idlewild, another in Manistee and a third in Traverse City — will take place this month to commemorate June 19, 1865, known as Juneteenth. (Idlewild: tinyurl.com/3effbz3r. Manistee: marjdi.org. Traverse City: tinyurl.com/3bkj8zxm)

The Juneteenth federal holiday honors Black Americans who suffered American enslavement, a period spanning 400 years — from the first captive Africans arriving in the colonies that became the United States, until 1865 — when all their descendants received their freedom.

Origin story

Imagine being a slave and learning that you had been declared free two-and-a-half years earlier but never released from bondage. That happened to slaves in Texas, a state still under Confederate control after the Civil War ended, even after the Emancipation Proclamation had been decreed on January 1, 1863.

I had not heard of Juneteenth until a few years ago. The name combines June and the 19th day of that month to commemorate Emancipation Day. This is the date in history, according to the National Museum of African American History and Culture ((NMAAHC), when 2,000 Union soldiers showed up in Galveston Bay, Texas, and the Army declared by executive decree that some 250,000 still-enslaved people in the state were now officially free. If you are wondering why slaves in Texas were not advised of their freedom, it is because Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation was a military measure enacted by the government. The decree required advancing Union troops into Confederate areas to enforce it.

Many Americans are not familiar with this important date. It was not until 2021 that President Joseph Biden designated it a national holiday, according to a June 18, 2025, Reuters' report, "What is Juneteenth and when did it become a US Federal holiday?"

NMAAHC's website tells of the first Watch Night that took place on Freedom's Eve, Dec. 31, 1862, and is still celebrated today. That night, in homes and churches across the South, free and enslaved African Americans awaited midnight and the new year, when the Emancipation Proclamation was to take effect.

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ANISHINAABE PERSPECTIVES

Irises and Indians

By LOIS BEARDSLEE

Sometimes when people think about Great Lakes Indians and our relationship to flora, they think of us in very primitive terms as mere foragers, never sophisticated enough to have altered the plants we lived with or to have controlled where they grew. In fact, we have a long history of altering our environment to control the location of various plants and animals. Controlled burning was practiced long before Europeans arrived, creating temporary rich prairie habitats that encouraged turkeys, prairie chickens (eradicated in Michigan), small woodland buffalo and blueberries. Plants and seeds were moved around, including those of wild rice and small varieties of corn, beans and squash. Wild hazelnuts, herbs and flower varieties were relocated — not just for food and medicines, but because people liked them. Almost every animal species alters its habitat. Lake Superior's caribou influence the biology of the soil on their lakeside trails with their footfalls and grazing. The landscape changes significantly every time a small herd is wiped out or relocates. Even germs and fungi interact with one another.



Endangered dwarf lake wild irises. Photo: Joel Trick, U.S. Forest Service. Public domain.

The original farmers

Most people think of wild irises when they think of Michigan's Indigenous population. We've traditionally used them for a variety of household applications, from medicines to soaps and weaving materials. But domesticated irises have been part of Native Americans' lives, too, ever since they were brought to North America from Europe with some of the first non-Indian migrants. Michigan's Native population was increasingly forced to adopt European-style agricultural practices, as land developers like former Indian Agent Henry Schoolcraft and former Gov. Lewis

Cass manipulated treaties and used threats of relocation to enrich themselves. Before northwest Lower Michigan was heavily marketed to non-Indians, and the culture of extirpation and replacement took over, the Native population that wasn't decimated by disease developed a strong economy based on farming. They were encouraged by missionaries who brought fruit trees and other truck-farming crops to the area for that specific purpose. It was the Presbyterian missionary, Father Dougherty of Grand Traverse Bay's Old Mission Peninsula, who originally brought tree fruits, including

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Area Events Calendar

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our July print edition, submit your announcements by June 18. 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.

FARMERS MARKETS

Mondays

Scottville Farmers Market

10am-3pm, Thru mid-September. Every other Monday in West Shore Bank parking lot, 107 W. State St. & along Main Street.

Honey Bee Market, Beulah

12-7pm. Thru September 7. A selection of arts, crafts, handmade goods, & homemade health & wellness products & more. On the lawn at St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 S Pioneer Rd.

Tuesdays

Honor Farmers Market

9am-2pm. June 2 - August 25. Maley Park, 10579 Main St. (US-31)

Wednesdays

Baldwin's Pure Market

3-6pm. June 10 - September 2. Parking lot behind Jones' Ice Cream, 858 Michigan Ave.

Thursdays

Elberta Farmers Market

8am-12pm. Thru October 1. Penfold Park, 1098 Lakeside Blvd.

Fridays

Ludington Artisan/Farmers Market

2-7pm. Thru September 18. Legacy Plaza Pavilion, 112 N James St.

Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers Market

9am-1pm. Thru October 31. Open Space Park, 800 Main St.

Manistee Farmers Market

9am-12pm. Thru October 4. Wagoner Community Center, 260 Saint Mary's Pkwy.

MUSIC SERIES

Mondays

Concerts in the Park, Onekama

7-9pm. Free/donations accepted. June 22 - August 10. Onekama Village Park, 4701 Main St. Rain site: Onekama Schools cafeteria, 5016 Main St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 22 Jim Hawley

June 29 Fifth Gear Band

Jammin' Mondays on Betsie Bay, Elberta

7-9:15pm. Free. June 15 - August 31. Waterfront Amphitheater, Elberta Waterfront Park, 1074 State Hwy. 168. Rain site: Waterfront Park Picnic Pavilion. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 15 Big L and Code: Blu

June 22 The Ivas John Band

June 29 Erena Terakubo Quartet

Tuesdays

Shoreline Showcase, Manistee

7-9:15pm, Free/donations accepted June 16-September 1. Rotary Gazebo, First St. Beach, Douglas Park, 100 S Lakeshore Dr. Rain Site: Orchard Beach State Park Shelter House, 2064 Lakeshore Rd. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 16 Big L and Code: Blu

June 23 The Ivas John Band

June 30 Erena Terakubo Quartet

Wednesdays

Echo Through the Timber Concert Series, Baldwin

7-9:15pm. Free/donations accepted. June 24 - September 2. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 17 Sears N Sears Quintet

June 24 Cat Daddy

LACA Summer Concert Series, Ludington

7-9pm, Free/donations accepted. June 17 - September 2. Waterfront Park, 1122 S William St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 17 Big L and Code: Blu

June 24 The Ivas John Band

Thursdays

Live in the Plaza Music Series, Ludington

6-8pm, Free. June 4 - September 17. Legacy Plaza, 112 N James St. Bring lawn chair.

June 4 Two Dollar Bills

June 11 Redux

June 18 Nick Veine

June 25 Mark Kinney

Music in the Streets, Beulah

7-8:30pm. Free. June 25th - August 13th. Downtown, 273 S Benzie Blvd. Bring lawn chair.

Thursdays

Summer Sounds Music Series, Thompsonville

7-9pm, \$15 ADV, \$20 DOS, 15 & under Free. Bring chair pad/lawn chair/blanket. Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Tickets: <https://michlegacyartpark.org/events/summer-sounds/>

June 25 Luunappi (6pm.)

Sunset Beach Bonfire Series, Ludington

8-10pm, Free. Bonfire & music. Stearns Park Beach, 420 N Lakeshore Dr. Bring chair/blanket.

June 25 The World Famous Scottville Clown Band

Upbeat Cadillac Music Series, Cadillac

7-9:15pm. Free/donations. Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion, 100 S Lake St. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 18 TBD

June 25 TBD

Fridays

Live in the Plaza Music Series, Ludington

6-8pm, Free. Thru September 18. Legacy Plaza, 112 N James St. Bring lawn chair.

June 5 Onager

June 12 Finding Feathers

June 19 Two Dudes in Flip Flops

June 26 Tom Zatarga

Saturdays

Sounds from the Forest Music Series, Baldwin

7-9:15pm. Free/donations accepted. June 27 - September 5. Wenger Pavilion, 876 Michigan Ave. (behind Jones' Ice Cream). Rain or shine. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 20 Big L and Code: Blu

June 27 The Ivas John Band

ONGOING EVENTS

Thru June 5

The Art of Tattoos Exhibition, Manistee

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

Thru June 12

Spring Art Show, Arcadia

Free. Arcadia Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd.

Thru June 19

Beyond the Print Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

June 1-Aug 31

Community Collage Project, Frankfort

\$40/canvas. Artists will donate their works on 200 mini canvases. 100% of sales will benefit Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

June 5-27

Normal is a Social Construct, Ludington

Free. Nina Martine Robinson explores vulnerability, discomfort & acceptance through the lens of an autistic woman. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St. Opening reception June 5, 6-7pm.

Specific to Sight: Mapping Time and Place Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Solo exhibition of Jamie Gannon. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St. Opening reception June 5, 6-7pm.

June 6-July 10

Summer Member Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception June 6, 5-7pm.

June 19-July 24

Saved from the Bin Art Exhibition, Manistee

Free. Artworks made from recycled/upcycled materials. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Opening reception June 19, 5-7pm.

June 19-Sept 11

Summer Art Show, Arcadia

Free. Arcadia Community Center, 3586 Glovers Lake Rd. Opening reception June 19, 5:30-7pm.

June 26-July 31

Jubilee! Ode to the Michigan Cherry, Frankfort

Free. Art exhibition celebrating all things cherry. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Opening reception June 26, 4pm.

Idlewild Float the Lake Sundays, Idlewild

1pm. Free. Join the local community on Idlewild Lake in canoes, kayaks & row boats, weather permitting.

June 7, 14, 21, 28



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DAILY EVENTS

June 4

A Night of Fine Dining, Ludington

6:30-8:30pm. Free/donations requested. Dinner & entertainment. Fundraiser for Blue Hat Ministries. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St. Register & choose entrée: <https://tinyurl.com/ftctrtf4f>

June 4, 5

Fish on for Freedom, Ludington

Free veterans' fishing event on Lake Michigan. Info/registration: fishonforfreedom.com

June 5

Learn the History of Ludington State Park, Ludington

2-3:30 pm. Free. Approx. 1 mile walk on paved paths starting at Hamlin Dam. Once home to the old town of Hamlin and later improved upon by the CCC, the park is a cherished outdoor/conservation destination. Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

The Spectral Silhouette Radio Show, Manistee

7:30-9:30pm. \$15-35. Award-winning original audio drama features music performed by the Black and Blue Hearts. Laughs, murder and ghosts. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

Live music: Roosevelt Diggs, Cadillac

8pm. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

June 5-7

Love Ludington Weekend

Celebration includes a street party, live music, street vendors, car show, blessing of the boats & more. Info: downtownludington.org

June 6

North Mitten Half Marathon, 10k & 5k, Fun Run, Thompsonville

8am-12pm. \$15-\$95 depending on race entered. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Info/registration: runsignup.com/northmitten

Plant Sale, Frankfort

9am-12pm. Rain or Shine. Includes perennials, herbs, and vegetable seedlings. Enjoy the famous Periwinkle Garden Club cookie sale & free coffee as you shop. Mineral Springs Park Pavilion, 630 Main St.

Spring Plant Exchange & AFFEW Native Plant Sale, Ludington

10am-1pm. Free. Mason Co. Garden Club members bring their perennials to exchange with the community. Bring your plants in labeled pots (no invasives). Bring a plant, take a plant. If you have no plants to share, donate \$5 to take plants home. Rotary Park (City Park), 500 W Ludington Ave.

Empire Asparagus Festival, Empire

10am-6pm. \$10/adult. Kids under 16, free. Family friendly with live music, food, drinks, 5k fun run/walk, recipe contest, book sale, magic show & more. Empire village. Schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/5cpxh3b>

Dedication Ceremony: Archibald Jones

Historical Research Center, Benzonia
2pm. Free. Benzie Area Historical Society & Museum, 6941 Traverse Ave.

Blessing of the Boats, Ludington

4-9:00pm. Blessing of the boats (boat keys), live music, food trucks, & beer sales. West end of Ludington Ave., between Loomis St. boat ramp parking lot & Stearns Park playground, just west of JC Mini-Golf.

S. S. Badger Shoreline Cruise, Ludington

8:30pm boarding, 9-11pm cruise. Tickets include food & live entertainment. Cruises rain or shine. Tickets: www.ssbadger.com

June 7

Cars & Coffee Car Meet, Ludington

10am-1pm. Free, open to public. Ludington Auto Club. The 10 Spot, 5750 US-10. Coffee for purchase at the Meraki Coffee Truck.

June 9

Weed the Park, Ludington

10am-12pm. Free. Help AFFEW remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Bring garden gloves, water. Meet at the gazebo at the end of Rath Ave. by Lincoln Lake. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

Neighborhood Block Party, Ludington

4:30-6:30pm. 500 Block of E Danaher St.

June 10

Invasive Species Education Workshop, Ludington

6pm. Free. Ludington Town Hall, 400 S Harrison St.

June 11

Farm Field Day 2026, Bear Lake

5-8pm. Free, donations accepted. Presented by Mason-Lake Conservation District. For farmers & public. Dinner provided. BrixStone Farms, 11240 Milarch Rd. Registration required: <https://tinyurl.com/tpvjbm2>

Lecture Series: More than a Marm, Benzonia

7pm. Donation. Marilla Museum's Douglas Glick will present on the gift of Evaline Bronte Ritchie and the huge impact she made. Benzonia Academy Lecture Series. Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave.

June 11-13

Midwest Jet Pilot Spring Fling, Baldwin

10am-5pm. Free for spectators. Over 100 RC (remote controlled) jets soar all weekend. Music. Food & beverages to purchase. Free parking. Baldwin Municipal Airport, 7668 S M-37. Bring lawn chairs, sunglasses, cooler.

June 12

Hello Summer Cocktail Party, Onekama

5-8pm. See advertisement, page 5.

In concert: Family Tradition with Zeke Clemons, Manistee

5:30-11pm. \$20 Door. The outdoor venue at Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy.

Lakestride Family Fun Run, Ludington

6pm. Free. One mile. Stearns Park, 950 W Ludington Ave.

In concert: Viridian Strings, Frankfort

7pm. \$10. "Freshwater Fantasies" chamber music. Works by Clara Schumann, Vaugh Williams & Schubert. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Tickets: oliverart.org

June 13

Lakestride Half Marathon, 5k, 10k, fun run, Ludington

8am. \$0-\$55 depending on race entered. Stearns Park, 950 W. Ludington Ave. Registration: runsignup.com

Legends of Labyrinth Disc Golf Tournament, Scottville

8am. \$25-\$50. Singles tournament. 2 rounds of 24. Labyrinth Course, West Shore Community College, 3000 N Stiles Rd. Info/register: discgolfscene.com

No. Mich. Walk with Us to Cure Lupus, Frankfort

9-10am Check in. 10am Walk begins. \$25 min. Fundraiser for Lupus Research Alliance. Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St. Info/regis: <https://tinyurl.com/3jvr94m>

Guided Nature/Birdwatching Hike, Thompsonville

10-11:30am. Free with Art Park admission (\$10 adults, \$5 kids over 5 or \$20 for families) Led by Angie Quinn. Meet at Mich. Legacy Art Park Trailhead. Bring binocs if avail. Check Facebook 1 hour prior for severe weather cancellation. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.



SUMMER SOUNDS

July 2 - 7-9pm - Liz Landry Trio

July 9 - 7-9 pm - Blue Water Ramblers

July 16 - 7-9pm – Full Tilt Comedy Presents Musical Improv

July 23 - 7-9pm - Rebekah Jon – Psychedelic pop-rock

Outdoor Amphitheater, located at 7300 Mountainside Road, Thompsonville, MI.
Advance tickets are \$15 for adults.
<https://michlegacyartpark.org/events/summer-sounds> Tickets at the Door are \$20 for adults.

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This Is What Women Know

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas

These two, women together,
partners, are quite old.
Older maybe than Rip Van Winkle
after his long sleep.

You know, poets go about
stealing poems in public,
so here at the café
I'm ready to respectfully eavesdrop
on their shared life,
but don't go too close!
Just a glimpse!

They linger together.
The hair of one is so thin-white
like the wisps of milkweed pods.
The other woman's fingers quiver
as she lifts her teacup.
I imagine way back when:
her hand, with a different trembling,
touched her partner, there,
at the soft back of her head
where she remembers suddenly,
like heat lightning,
remembers when her companion's
hair was startling-thick, lustrous black.

The couple has been together so long
while one speaks, the other briefly
drifts off into the distance yet returns
at just the correct moments,
with a nod, touches her hand,
like a tender dream pierces sleep,
and answering, she calls her life partner,
"Grace."

So, I learn her name and, like the gift
that comes sometimes to poets lying
in wait, "Grace" is just the perfect name
for what is unfolding before me
in a story long overdue
that must be written
to join the fairy tale of Snow White.

How to stay awake to beauty,
touch Old Love's hair, and listen,
when we are ancient,
with so much still to share,
to embrace.



Irises and Indians

continued from Page 1

cherries, to the area for Indians to farm in the mid-1800s. It was a way to counter the loss of Indigenous residents' land base after the socioeconomic tsunami of the fur trade and the subsequent overharvesting of trees and mineral extraction.

The fruit and farming industries of the region are touted as phenomena resulting from the positive impact of non-Native farmers by the homestead-oriented Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and a plethora of small historical museums and "history" books. However, the models for success were established by hardworking Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi residents. The first archetypal stone-and-log homes flanked by fruit trees and flower gardens were occupied by — you guessed it — Indians. They made a good living selling produce to non-Indians, but the pressure for free and cheap land increased, and Native residents were forced into smaller and smaller spaces and deprived of resources, including physical land and goods, as well as employment opportunities. This persisted through the 20th century, and imagery of northern Michigan's Indians as vanishing, poverty-stricken, and living hand-to-mouth producing arts and crafts from indigenous plants and animals came to dominate how we were represented to Michigan residents and the rest of the world. An alternate history that promulgated unequal resource allocation was created, and the American homestead fell into it.

But I remember Indian women of my parents' and grandparents' generations embracing and trading in new things, just as their ancestors did since the times of earliest contact. Things like scissors (translating into Ojibwe as "that wonderful thing"), cast-iron pots, and even ornamental bushes, flower rhizomes and bulbs. Domesticated irises were as much a part of Indian women's indulgences as they were among non-Indian homesteads.

My iris experiences

I love irises. They cross-pollinate and have become part of a thriving worldwide



Burgundy iris cultivar. Photo: Pam Dobner.

industry that includes a rainbow of colors and multiple shapes and sizes. The various colors seem to derive primarily from yellow and purple varieties that have blended to create surprising colors. Pale yellows have been bred to create whites. Purples have been bred to create bronze and beige varieties, which have been bred to create bright orange varieties. I'm always amazed



Yellow cultivated irises. Photo: Pam Dobner.

by the variations I see growing in my neighbors' yards. Whenever I feel I can, I knock on people's doors and ask if they would share with me roots from patches where I see they've grown too dense and need to be thinned. Otherwise, they rot or dry out and die back. I always offer to swap with my neighbors for other colors of irises or things I have in abundance, like frozen wild berries. People are always so gracious and nice, always willing to share. I've loved doing this, because it allowed me to save some of the older varieties of irises that dominated in northwest lower Michigan. Sometimes I drive past a house where I've been allowed to dig up irises, and I find that the original patch has been destroyed by road salt or utility trenching.

I also find dying irises that are shaded out in now-wooded areas that were once cleared for grazing and farming, including on our own farm. My husband was a cherry farmer when I married him, and, ironically, I was at the time the only Native American fruit farmer in northwest lower Michigan. I'm always careful to get permission to salvage any abandoned iris roots before taking them, and I avoid doing so on public land. One never knows what plant varieties different governmental agents might consider protected — including invasive species, like ornamentals. Irises found in the woods are my favorite kind because they don't bloom without access to about a half day of sunlight. I have to wait a few years for the rescued roots to be rehabilitated and nurtured to the point that they bloom and grow more, larger roots. I'm usually surprised by the blooms. Sometimes I can trace relationships with various families in

former homestead locations by observing how different iris varieties were shared among housewives.

Last year I was looking forward to finding out what one such variety looks like, anticipating its bloom—probably for the first time in a half-century. But last spring the root growth was set back for several years by a population boom of snowshoe hares, who seem to adore domesticated irises but rarely eat native wild irises. Go figure. I tried to chase off the snowshoes by squirting them with water, tossing rocks and sticks at them and running out to that particular flower patch in my nightie like a screaming lunatic. I gave up, resigned myself to go without irises there for a few years, and enjoyed watching the wascally wabbits change color from white to brown in the spring, and then back to white from brown in the fall.

What we share

But, in the interest of fighting stereotypes, I'm asking all of you to think of Indians when you think of houses with ornamental flower beds with lovely irises, rather than just associating us with stuff like sweetgrass and snowshoe hares and beadwork. And think of us when you think of who your local school district should be hiring for teachers. Think of us when you think of who



Cultivated blue iris. Photo: Pam Dobner.

you might want to be your neighbors, who you choose to smile at or share things like socioeconomic opportunity with. Think about how different versions of history and land use have divided us and how we share common histories in things as humble as old varieties of irises.

Lois Beardslee is an Anishinaabe award-winning illustrator and author of both fiction and nonfiction such as "Not Far Away: The Real Life Adventures of Ima Pippiig" and Michigan Notable Book "Words Like Thunder." She illustrated her latest work, "We Live Here," a poetry collection inspired by a traditional Anishinaabe seasonal year, and a Midwest Book Award winner.



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Radio Show



FRIDAY
JUN 5
7:30 P.M.

TICKETS \$15-\$35

This pulpy audio drama is an original work with music performed by **The Black and Blue Hearts**, and centers around **mystery, murder, ghosts, werewolves, and great beer!**

FRIDAY
JUN 26
7:30 P.M.

THE WORLD FAMOUS

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Regional Center for the Arts

BALDWIN NEWS

Mark your calendar for ‘An Evening with Abigail Adams’

By **CHRIS CROSTHWAITE**, Lake County Historical Museum

Step back into the uncertain yet extraordinary days of a nation being born with one of its most thoughtful and compelling voices during “An Evening with Abigail Adams.” The free outdoor event will begin at 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, at the Lake County Historical Museum Boat House, 915 N. Michigan Ave. (M-37).

This is a unique opportunity to hear history told not as legend but as lived experience — honest, heartfelt and enduring. This one-woman production promises not just a story but a connection to the spirit of a revolution that continues to shape our world today.

Abigail Adams — wife, mother and one of the keenest observers of America’s earliest struggles — offers a perspective often overlooked. Though history frequently places her husband, John Adams, at the

forefront of the nation’s founding, her voice echoes just as powerfully.

Chris Crosthwaite, a museum volunteer, will portray Abigail as she welcomes guests into her world, offering a personal account of the American Revolution as it unfolded around her. Through her eyes, audience members will experience the tension, hope and sacrifices that defined the colonies’ bold pursuit of independence. She will share her reflections on the momentous decision to break from Great Britain, the toll of war on families and home life, and the challenges of maintaining strength while loved ones fight far away. Through stories drawn from her own life and letters, Abigail brings history to life in a way that is both powerful and deeply human.

This is not a tale of battles fought on

distant fields but of resilience within the home — of managing a household alone, raising children amid uncertainty and holding firm to ideals when the future is anything but certain.

“Abigail” will also share her forward-thinking hopes for the new nation, including her famous appeal to “remember the ladies,” reminding us that the fight for liberty reaches beyond independence alone.

The performance will take place at the open barn doors of the Boat House with the audience seated in the adjacent parking lot. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs, and donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. For more information, call (231) 898-6500 during regular museum hours, Wednesday through Saturday, 12-4 p.m.



Portrait of Abigail Adams, wife of President John Adams, by Gilbert Stuart. Public domain.

KALEVA NEWS

Creating the village of Kaleva

A version of this story, “Remember When: The Kaleva Depot” originally appeared in the *Manistee News Advocate* (2018) and is edited for length and updated to include some recent news. Reprinted by permission.

Story by **CYNTHIA ASIALA**

Kaleva’s train engine is on track to get a fresh coat of paint this season, thanks to a grant to the Kaleva Historical Society from the Manistee County Community Foundation.

The story of Kaleva’s train depot begins with the area’s white pine trees, eyed by developers in the late 1800s to build cities far from Manistee County. The village that is now Kaleva was called Manistee Crossing in 1880. It formed around a depot built where two railroad lines met, the Manistee and Northeastern (M&NE) and the Chicago and West Michigan, later purchased by the Pere Marquette (P&M). To transport the white pine trees, the two railroad companies raced to build tracks to meet at Manistee Crossing. At the time, the town consisted of a depot, post office, store and a house that became a hotel.

After the forests were gone, the Michigan Land Society sold the land to Jacob Saari, who formed a company that persuaded Finnish people to come here. They named the town Kaleva, after the Finnish epic poem, and attempted to attract immigrants from Finland and across the U.S. by giving the streets names like Osmo, Panu, Tavi, and Wuoksi. Many settlers bought their

land sight unseen and took the train to Kaleva. They disembarked to a dismal scene of stumps and sand. Many stayed, and the railroad became a necessity for travel and receiving and sending goods. Legend has it that at one time 19 trains per day traveled through Kaleva to points east and north, as well as west and south. A friend remembers traveling to and from Traverse City for a day of shopping with a classmate.

The original depot burned in the early 1900s, along with the businesses that had been established on Walta St. across from the depot. The present depot was built around 1908, using exterior bricks made in Manistee. The depot continued to be an important means of transportation for merchants, farmers, creameries, coal suppliers and many others. Young men left for the services and wars on the trains, and passengers embarked on trips to near and far away destinations from the depot. The sound of the train whistle was a familiar sound to everyone.

The last trains traveled through Kaleva in the late 1970s. The tracks were disassembled and all that was left were memories and the abandoned depot. The village of Kaleva



Left: “Before” photo of Kaleva’s train engine. Photo: P. Stinson. Right: Freshly painted and barely recognizable. Photo courtesy of C. Asiala.



took possession of it and replaced the roof. In 1996, the Brethren High School Service Learning class was founded. This class chose to preserve Kaleva’s history and culture. One of the first projects was to renovate the depot and form a railroad museum.

The opening took place in June 1998. The school band played, the mayor, the superintendent and a state representative spoke, an errant passenger showed up late for her train, and the students basked in the admiration of what they had accomplished.

For several years, a train club from Benzonia contracted to use the depot and staffed the museum on summer Saturdays. Local retirees, dubbed the Depot Crew, decided to help with upkeep and ongoing improvements. Eventually, an M&NE engine, which had actually traveled through Kaleva during its lifetime, became available

for the cost of moving it to Kaleva. The Depot Crew found tracks, laid them — yes, these retired 70- and 80-year-olds turned into John Henrys — and finally the engine made its way to Kaleva. The Village cooperated in this project.

Today the depot is a stop on the Manistee County River Valley Quilt Trail, which leads visitors to historic sites in the area. The quilt square was chosen because it resembles the crossing of train tracks, how the Kaleva Depot came to be almost 140 years ago.



The Kaleva Historical Society maintains and staffs the depot with generous contributions from several Kaleva area businesses and regional services. To read the entire story of the depot, go to: <https://www.kalevamichigan.com/remember-when>.


Cynthia Asiala is Freshwater Reporter’s Kaleva correspondent.

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MI BACKYARD

In defense of bats

By **EMILY COOK**

A definite highlight each spring is sitting around a fading backyard campfire and looking up into the dusky blue skies above. Some stars are beginning to appear as the final glow of sunlight recedes below the horizon. Perhaps some lingering spring peepers trill in the nearby wetlands. Soon, those sounds disappear with the arrival of a new season. Bats dart from one side of the yard to another, often appearing as though they are on a collision course with one another but never making impact. I lean back and watch their efforts to eat insects out of the sky.

I will always root for the underdogs of the natural world, bats being one of them. I place them in a category with turkey vultures and opossums. A human-made narrative has formed about these animals and their role in our world, that they are less exciting than many others and often considered pests. However, this could not be further from the truth. Turkey vultures are nature’s “clean-up crew.” By consuming carrion, they drastically reduce the spread of disease. Likewise, opossums eat thousands of ticks each year, helping slow the spread of Lyme disease. This is especially important in Manistee and Mason counties which have some of the highest cases of Lyme in Michigan.

Misunderstood mammal

Bats may be the most misunderstood of them all. These tiny mammals are fighting against the impacts of pesticide use, climate change and the rabies rumor mill to serve some of the most important functions within an ecosystem. The 1,500 different bat species globally are imperative to insect management and plant pollination. An average bat can consume more than half its body weight in insect pests each night; that’s a lot of mosquitoes!

Michigan alone has nine species of bats, most being quite small at only around 3-5 inches long. When their wings are spread, their span can be closer to a foot across. This is why they can look quite large zipping through the sky but can also be found in



A little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) hanging in a cave. Photo: Ann Froschauer/USFWS, Public Domain.

compact areas. They easily fit through half-inch openings. Like most wild animals, bats prefer to avoid contact with humans, but they will take advantage of gaps in attic vents and openings in chimneys because low-lit, quiet home spaces make ideal roosting locations.

Physical characteristics

Bats are remarkable creatures for a multitude of reasons. As the only mammals that can fly, they have a skin-like membrane that stretches between “fingers,” allowing them to maneuver flawlessly in complete darkness. They may fly erratically, zig-zagging around, but the phrase “blind as a bat” is a misnomer. Bats have excellent vision. They can see far better than humans in low light and rely on their eyes to see long distances. They know exactly where they are going, and any erratic movements are made with the sole purpose of catching prey insects and avoiding any potential impacts.

Regardless of how excellent a bat’s vision is, it’s the nighttime navigation that truly deserves high praise. Utilizing echolocation, bats emit pulses of high frequency sound (rarely audible to the human ear) to determine the exact distance, size and shape of everything around them. If you find yourself outside being buzzed by a bat, you can relax knowing they don’t care about your hair. You most likely have a much more enticing buffet of insects near you, and you are simply in their way. Since echolocation

allows them to identify objects as small as a few millimeters wide, they’ll know to avoid you and aim for the prey they want.

Beyond devouring many pest insects, including those that can wreak havoc on commercial produce, bats serve an important function in pollination and seed dispersal. Though Michigan does not have any nectar-feeding bats, many other species that exist globally do feed on nectar. These particular bats move from plant to plant, picking up pollen and moving it to other flowers while they continue to feed. Next time you sip on a margarita, you should take a moment to thank a nectar-feeding bat. Tequila is produced from the agave plant, which bats primarily pollinate.



Little brown bat with White-nose Syndrome: Photo: Ryan von Linden/New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Public Domain.

Bat vulnerabilities


Despite the many adaptations of bats to be incredible hunters and flyers, they are also an extremely threatened animal, with many species currently endangered and at risk of extinction. Climate change and habitat loss are primary causes that significantly impact bat populations. Severe weather events, increased drought and changes in migration timing cause higher mortality and less reproductive success. Lower reproduction especially puts them at risk since most bats only give birth to one baby (pup) per year, even in the best conditions.

Additionally, the general misunderstanding of bats leads to so many of their unnecessary deaths. They are often killed for simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Most bats found indoors are innocently roosting or hibernating during colder months. While bats, like other mammals, can certainly contract rabies, most do not. (It’s important to note that one should always seek professional help when moving a bat; “most” doesn’t mean “none”.)

Perhaps the largest impact on bat populations, however, is the fungal disease called “White-nose Syndrome” (WNS). Millions of bats have died due to this disease in the last 20 years. Most infected bats have fuzzy, white growth around their nose, ears and wings. The fungus itself typically isn’t what kills them. WNS awakens hibernating bats, so they go through their winter fat stores before they are ready, causing starvation before warmer temperatures (and insects) return.


In North America, 90-100% of bats in some sites affected by WNS have died. These are primarily hibernating bats, which comprise more than half of the region’s 47 species. While research continues to be conducted, it is believed to be spread by bats coming in contact with one another, often inevitable when they roost close together. In our region, Manistee County confirmed WNS 10 years ago and Lake County had suspected cases. If, during a bat’s regular hibernation months, you see one flying, acting confused or seemingly stunned, don’t handle it. They should be managed by professionals to protect not only yourself but entire bat populations. I found the following website to be incredibly helpful while learning about the finer details of White-nose Syndrome: www.whitenosesyndrome.org

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Area Events Calendar

continued from Page 2

June 13

Antique Tractor Pulling, Scottville
10am-2pm. Free for spectators. Western Mich. Old Engine Club sanctions dead weight tractor pulling for antique farm stock tractors. All tractors must have been built prior to 1956. Riverside Park, 700 S Scottville Rd.

13th Annual Blessing of the Bugs VW Car Show & Beach Cruise, Manistee

10am-2pm. Manistee Moose Lodge, 1010 Robinson St.

Summer Arts & Crafts Fair, Ludington

10am-4pm. The Barn at Shagway, 5949 Shagway Rd.

Northern Michigan Music Festival, Cadillac

11am-midnight. \$10 parking, \$5 admission. 14 Michigan bands, vendors, food trucks, beer tent. Proceeds benefit the park. Veterans Serving Veterans Community Park, 3740 S 41 Rd.

American Teenager presentation, author Niko Lang, Manistee

2pm. Free/donations. "American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era" PFLAG & MARJDI event. WSCC Building, 400 River St.

Summer Kick Off Party, Free Soil

4-11pm. Wear Hawaiian shirts & grass skirts. Smoked pulled pork dinner, tropical drinks, silent auction, special musical treat: 8-11pm. The Hof Bar & Grill, 3220 E Free Soil Rd.

In concert: That Arena Rock Show with Zeke Clemons & Pinter Whitnick, Manistee

5:30-11pm. \$20 Door. The outdoor venue at Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy.

Live music: Luke Winslow-King, Rachael Davis & Zak Bunce, Cadillac

8pm. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

June 13-14

Michigan's "Three Free" Weekend, Statewide
Free ORV Weekend coincides with Summer Free Fishing Weekend. Fishing licenses & Recreation Passport requirements are waived. Residents can fish & ride the off-road trails & visit state parks and boating access sites, all free of charge. All other fishing/ORV rules & regs still apply.

June 14

Five Color Tea Party, Idlewild
2-5pm. \$15. Attend dressed to impress. 6260 S Nelson Rd.

Live music: Sound Bath, Benzonia

7pm. By donation. Benzie Area Community Emergency Fund concert. Led by Jill Mann of Peaceful Vibrations with crystal singing bowls, Tibetan singing bowls, gong, chimes, & more. 891 Michigan Ave. Bring mat, cushions, blanket, etc. Wear comfy clothes. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/3dnp3xxd>

June 16

Michigan Legacy Art Park Golf Classic, Thompsonville

8:30am registration opens, 10am shotgun start. \$125 for 18 holes. Prizes & snacks following golf. Cash bar. Proceeds help support the Art Park. Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.

June 17

Beach Sweep & Green Drinks, Ludington

7-8pm. Free. Help clean the beach. Meet at south concession stand at Stearns Park, 420 N. Lakeshore Dr. Gloves/bags provided. Drinks/networking after. BYO. No Glass. affew.org

June 18

Dune Wildflower Hike at Old Baldy Trailhead, Arcadia Dunes

10am-12pm. Free. Join GTRLC docent & plant expert Paula Dreeszen on a 2.5-mile hike. Wear hiking shoes, bring water & snack. Sunscreen, bug spray & camera/binocs suggested. Registration required: gtrlc.org

June 19

Live music in the Hoop House, Benzonia
6:30pm. Doors open, 7:30pm Music starts. \$10 suggested donation, kids free. See Grow Benzie's new facilities makeover. Music by Barefoot, food, drinks, tours. Grow Benzie, 5885 Frankfort Hwy. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

June 19, 20

AAUW Used Book Sale, Ludington

Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-12pm. All funds raised go to college scholarships for local HS grads. United Methodist Church of Ludington, 5810 E Bryant Rd.

June 19-21

Juneteenth Festival 2026, Idlewild
19th, 5-8pm. Opening Plenary, African Amer. Chamber of Comm., 812 Essex. **20th**, 11:30am, Parade. 12-5pm at Williams Island: Live music, vendors, exhibits, food, kids' activities. 7pm Comedy Show. See below listing. **21st**, time TBD, Worship Service, First Baptist Church of Woodland Park.

June 20

Cadillac Open Disc Golf Tournament, Cadillac

8am. \$45-70. Singles tournament. 2 rounds of 18. Kenwood Heritage Park, 2506 North Blvd. Info/register: discgolfscore.com

Frankfort Craft Fair

10am-3pm. Featuring 70+ art and craft vendors. 400 S Main St.

Juneteenth Parade, Idlewild

11:30am-12:30pm. Lake Dr. & Williams Island, 1002 E MLK. Info: 231.729.1489

48th Annual Spirit of the Woods Folk Festival, Brethren

12-8pm. Free. Arts & Crafts show, live music. Dickson Township Park, 14279 Coates Hwy.

Dune Jam, Manistee

12-10:15pm Music, 10:30pm Drone show. Free/donations. Fundraiser for First Street Beach proposed amphitheater. Luke Winslow-King Trio, Downtowners & more. Manistee Lions Club Fish Boil, 4-7pm, Lion's Pavilion. First Street Beach, 249 Lakeshore Rd.

In concert: Viridian Strings, Arcadia

7pm. Free. "Charted Waters" string trio music. Works by Taneyev, Jean Cras & Mozart. Pines of Arcadia, 15027 Lake Bluff Rd. Tickets: oliverart.org

Live at the Garden Summer Concert Series: Daisy May & Little Dipper, Frankfort

7:30pm. \$25. The Garden Theater, 301 Main St. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/3dn45jcz>

Summer Comedy Showcase, Ludington

7pm doors, show 8-10pm. \$17.85. Ages 18+. Six comedians from Grand Rapids area. Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 1354, 108 S Harrison St. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/5n92xney>

5th Annual Comedy in the Wild, Idlewild

7pm Doors, 7:30-11pm Show. \$49.87. Age 18+. Five comedians. Mid-Michigan Event Center, 19 Joy Ave. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/4cs72ecv>

June 20, 21

Gus Macker 3-on-3 Charity Basketball Tournament, Ludington

8am-6pm. \$200/team. Stearns Park Beach, 421 Lakeshore Dr. Team registration: macker.com

June 21

Ludington Auto Club Cars & Coffee Meet, Ludington

10am-1pm. Free, open to the public. Coffee for purchase at Meraki Coffee Truck. James St. between Ludington Bay Brewing Company & Jamesport Brewing Company, 410 S. James St.

Solstice Ensemble in Concert, Frankfort

7pm. \$10. Five musicians play baroque to tango using flute, violin, recorder, cello & piano. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Tickets: oliverart.org

June 21-28

Live music: Sound Garden Project, Arcadia
Takes place around the village. Two concerts and "sound" pop-ups. See story, page 7.

June 23

Weed the Park, Ludington

6-8pm. Free. Help remove invasive plants. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts. Bring garden gloves, water. Meet at gazebo at end of Rath Ave. by Lincoln Lake. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr. affew.org

"Natchez" Film & Discussion, Manistee

7pm. Free. New documentary about an unsettling clash between history & memory in this small Mississippi town. A MARJDI event. Vogue Theatre, 383 River St.

June 24

Patriotic Pops: Manistee Community Band & Festival Chorus, Manistee

7-8pm. Free. Lions Pavilion, First St. Beach, 249 Lakeshore Rd. Bring lawn chair.

June 25

Special Needs Barn Dance & Potluck, Free Soil

11:30am-1:30pm. Free. Must register by June 23. Bring a dish to pass (no sweets) & your own table service. Hot dogs, lemonade & ice water provided. In the wheelchair-accessible barn at Circle Rocking S Children's Farm, 5487 Tuttle Rd. Info/registration: www.circlerockingsfarm.org or 231.462.3732 (no texts).

Coffee with the Councilors, Ludington

12pm. Free. Learn about city updates, share ideas & connect with city council members. Book Mark, 201 S Rath Ave.

Fairies & Forts, Thompsonville

6-8pm. Free. Family art projects at Discovery Grove, stories & songs at amphitheater, followed by a parade to the Stockade Labyrinth. Dress in the theme of Fairies and Forts. Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain Resort, 7300 Mountainside Dr.

"Sunset at the Lake" Concert with Pulse Quartet, Arcadia

8pm. Free. Part of the week-long Sound Garden Project. Lakeside Amphitheater at Camp Arcadia, west end of Oak St. at Lake Michigan. Seating provided.

June 25-28

50th Anniversary of Flea Roast & Ox Market, Irons

Thurs & Sun, Free. Fri & Sat, \$5/person; Under 12, free. OR \$20 a carload. BRING CASH - there's no credit card processing. Live music, carnival, kids' games, adult cornhole/horseshoe tournaments, chainsaw carvings, 5k run, raffle, rodeo, fireworks, bingo, food & beer tents, merchandise vendors & souvenir booth. Skinner Park, 10-1/2 Mile Rd., east of Brooks Road. Event schedule: facebook.com/Irons.Area.Tourist.Association

June 26

Summer Kick-Off Party, Frankfort

6-10pm. Diverse lineup of food trucks & The Sidecar container bar serving Furnace Street Distillery spirits. Live music, outdoor seating. Menus on Main, 1048 Main St. Alternative rain date June 27, 6-10pm.

In concert: The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Manistee

7:30-9:30. \$20-50. Most popular, sought-after big band in the world formed in 1936 and touring consistently since, playing an average of 300 dates a year globally. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: ramsdelltheatre.org

Live music: Whey Jennings & Justin Jeansonne, Cadillac

8pm. Coyote Crossing Resort, 8593 S 13 Rd. Info/tickets: coyotecrossingresort.com

June 26, 27

Night Crawler Hunt & Take a Kid Fishing, Frankfort

9:30pm Friday. Free. Bring kids, bucket & flashlight to hunt for nightcrawlers. 8am-1pm Sat. Free. Kids test their luck at local fishing docks. Participants will receive a free fishing pole. Free lunch at 12pm Sat. at Mineral Springs Park pavilion. Mineral Springs Park, 630 Main St. Info: 231.352.7251.

June 27

Quivational Disc Golf Tournament, Ludington

\$40-60. 2 rounds of 18. Leviathan Course, 517 N Jebavy Dr. Info/register: discgolfscore.com

6th Annual WillStrong Benefit Soccer Tournament, Ludington

8am. \$250/ team. 100% of proceeds go to local Childhood Cancer Campaign. This 6 vs 6 soccer tournament is family friendly. Bryant Soccer Fields, 1002 N Lavinia St.

Coast to Coast Gravel Grinder, Ludington

8am-2:30am. 204-mile or 100-mile Bicycle Race. 204-mile race starts in Au Gres & finishes at Stearns Park, 100-mile starts/finishes at Stearns Park, 950 W Ludington Ave. Hosted by Michigan Adventure Racing. Info/registration: <https://micoasttocoast.com/>

4th Annual Brew to Brew Trail Day, Beulah & Frankfort

10am-2pm. \$40 for a T-shirt & 2 beer vouchers to Stormcloud Brewing, Frankfort, & Five Shores, Beulah (good for a week). Benefit for Betsie Valley Trail. Register & pick up shirts & vouchers at the trailhead building in Beulah or Stormcloud in Frankfort. Self-directed event. Info/registration: <https://tinyurl.com/55jndusc>

Pere Marquette Motoring Club Car Show, Ludington

10am-2pm. Mason County Fairgrounds, 5302 W US-10.

Garden Tractor Pulling, Scottville

11am-3pm. Free for spectators. Western Mich. Old Engine Club sanctions garden tractor pulling for both dead weight sled and transfer sled. Riverside Park, 700 S Scottville Rd.

Bus Day to Big Point Sable Lighthouse, Ludington

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

Let's Go Fly a Kite, Frankfort

3-5pm. Free. Registration at Frankfort Beach at the turnaround. Free kite to first 100 participants. Rain date June 28. Info: 231.352.7251

Al-a-palooza! A Musical Tribute to Al Taylor, Onekama

6-8pm. Free. Beach & Buffett with Doc and Donna Probes & The Riptides. Onekama Village Park, Portage Lake Ave. Bring lawn chair/blanket.

"Music at the Marsh" Grande Finale Concert with Pulse Quartet, Arcadia

6pm. Free. Part of the week-long Sound Garden Project. Bring lawn chair. Ketch 22 Dining Pavilion, M22.

In concert: Manitou Winds, Frankfort

7pm. \$10. Chamber ensemble explores uncharted genres, highlights new or obscure composers. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd. Tickets: oliverart.org

June 27, 28

3rd Annual Live at Idlewild

1-7pm. Gates open at 12pm. Day pass \$55, weekend pass \$85. Outdoor music festival. Peabo Bryson, Take 6. Onsite food & merch vendors. RV parking avail. Bring lawn chairs. Tickets: <https://liveatidlewild.com>

30th Annual LRBOI Jingtamok Pow Wow, Manistee

Free. Public welcome. Drumming, dancing, vendors, arts & crafts, food & beverages. Free camping with showers & bathrooms (first come, first served). No dogs, drugs, alcohol, violence or politics. LRBOI Pow Wow Grounds behind the tribal gas station, 2596 Loon Dr.

June 28

Strawberry Social, Benzonia

2-4pm. \$5/person or \$15/family. Choose Strawberry Shortcake with strawberries on a biscuit (provided by Market Basket) or a Strawberry Sundae with strawberries over vanilla ice cream (donated by Hilltop Coffee and Ice Cream). Fundraiser for the Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave.

Worship in the Park, Ludington

6-8pm. Free. Organized by Lighthouse Baptist Church. Waterfront Park, 1122 S William St.

June 28

Horse North Rescue Open House and Festival, Interlochen

11am-3pm. Free. Family event. See the horses, kids' crafts & games, silent auction, food truck, & learn how they rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome horses in need. Horse North Rescue 1476 N Betsie River Rd.

June 29

Candidate Forum, Ludington

7-9pm. Free. August primary candidates will be asked questions. Waterfront Park, 1122 S William St.

June 30

Scottville Clown Band Patriotic Concert, Ludington

7pm. Free. Waterfront Park, 1122 S William St. Bring chair/blanket.

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By LINDA SCRIBNER

Lights left on all night, such as those in large parking lots or even a single light in your backyard, can alter the routines of nighttime creatures like bats and owls. They learn they have an easy food source by visiting lights that illuminate their prey. Human interaction in the natural world (or interference in the natural order) is usually not a good thing, with the possibility of causing injury or death to both predator and prey. As such, a mothing enthusiast should limit the time their porch light is on every night and also stagger the nights of the week they moth in order to avoid any ill effects.

If our persistent night lights alter the routine of nighttime predators, can they also harm the moths we are attracting? In four months of mothing in 2025, we never found a dead moth on our porch or on our white sheet. After we turn off our light for the night, the moths gradually drift off. In contrast, bug zappers in backyards attract thousands of different kinds of insects every night, and the mortality rate is almost 100%.

National Moth Week July 18-26, 2026

About 13 years ago, a group of friends in New Jersey started "Moth Nights" to raise awareness about the importance of moths. These events became so popular that they soon expanded to other states.

In 2026, week-long events are scheduled in all 50 states and worldwide. (Find yours at: <https://nationalmothweek.org>.) Participants in Moth Week are encouraged to act as citizen scientists and report their observations to databases such as iNaturalist or Project Noah.



IO moth.

Moths

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by orienting their bodies at a particular angle to the moon's light so they can fly in a straight line. When they come in contact with a street light or our porch lights, they become disoriented. They try to maintain that same angle as they do with the moon, but it is difficult, and they end up flying in circles around the artificial light. Eventually they will instinctively fly upward and escape or land nearby to rest and regain their orientation. Mothing enthusiasts take advantage of the resting stage to photograph and study moths that are present.

How does a moth survive?

Essential to a moth's life is its ability to hide from predators, such as birds and bats. Some moth species use camouflage; their body colors match and blend in with the substrate they rest on. Other moths mimic traits of would-be prey that predators have learned to avoid. A few species have large "eyes" on their wings that they use to startle, while others fly fast and erratically or release a toxic smell. Still others taste bad.

Some reference books have stated that "moths are drab," an evolutionary adaptation to help them survive. Many moths do appear plain or drab at first sight, but a mothing experience can prove otherwise.

Our mothing procedure

Most moth enthusiasts start in the spring when warmer nights of 50 degrees are consistent, for instance around May 1 in Manistee. However, a warm night in April can surprise you. Our mothing sheet was up

on April 23 this year, for the first time, and three new species were identified, even on a 45-degree night!

Whenever it isn't raining, we turn on our lights for about three hours, starting at dusk, but we sometimes wait for a "3 a.m. to dawn" time frame. We check the sheet frequently whenever it is up. What we found over time was that moths have "seasons" and "times." Some will come for only two weeks in June or July, while others may be seen almost every night until October. Some



This DIY portable mothing set-up (mine uses a twin-sized sheet and is 60 inches by 53 inches) allows the moth-er to travel to different locations and habitats. Though a rope, a white sheet and two trees work just fine, this is more versatile. It is simply made of PVC pipe, with bungee cords and grommets to attach the white sheet.

arrive at the light at a specific time every night; we can always count on the false hemlock looper moth to show up at 11 p.m. The spectacular silkworm moths fly in the pre-dawn hours and are worth every minute of our lack of sleep.

To help in moth identification, we take simple photographs, use field guides and occasionally an app called "iNaturalist." At first, identifying a moth can be a little difficult, but in a short time a person will see traits, like size and shape, that initially helped group moths into families, making identification easier. Even without knowing a moth's name, you can learn so much about these unique insects.

In a nutshell

The biggest takeaway from the whole mothing experience is the diversity of moths we have in our area alone, and the beauty and intricate patterns of every moth we saw. None of them are drab! After only four months of mothing in 2025, we identified over 175 species of moths while standing on our front porch, with just a light, a white sheet and a growing curiosity.

We are looking forward to a new season, and we encourage you to at least try this for a few warm evenings. You may find it addictive. Mothing is like that box of chocolates in the "Forest Gump" movie ... you never know what you might get.

Linda Scribner is an amateur naturalist who lives with her husband, Chuck, in Manistee County. Outside almost every day, together they study birds, plants, mushrooms, moths and aquatic insects, in addition to keeping honeybees and fly-fishing for the elusive trout.

ARCADIA NEWS

Sound Garden Project to bring PULSE quartet to Arcadia

From a news release

Music Moves Me, Inc., an educational nonprofit based in Arcadia, will present the quartet PULSE as their Musicians in Residence, June 21-28. Their goal is to have "Music Move All of Arcadia" by hosting musical events at various locations throughout the village during the group's eight-day residency.

The residency is presented through a partnership with the Minnehaha Brewhaha Music Festival and Interlochen Public Radio's The Sound Garden Project which focuses on "planting classical music in unexpected places."

"Music Moves Me approached IPR The Sound Garden Project with a collaborative proposal to infuse musical opportunities in the Arcadia community," Connie Macek, MMM spokesperson, said. She added that the residency is also made possible through the donation of local housing.

According to the organizers, PULSE "will

bring its genre-defying, electrifying live music into both natural and everyday community spaces," including beaches, pickleball courts, Lake Michigan, dining venues, a centennial camp resort and scenic overlook, as well as a variety of community pop-ups.

Through "fun, spontaneous encounters with music" their hope is to "surprise, delight and deepen community connection." Free music-listening opportunities will take place as follows:

- **Sunrise Sounds.** Wake up to morning music at favorite Arcadia locations.
- **Open Rehearsals.** Get a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process at the Grebe Park pavilion, 16966 First St.
- **Sound Samples.** Interactive musical experiences will take place in parks, lakeside, Arcadia dining, coffee shop, and ice cream establishments, community recreation spots and other unexpected places.

- **Sunset Sounds.** Music can be heard at gathering spots along beaches and overlooks as the sun slips into beautiful Lake Michigan.

For a complete list of sites and times, visit the Music Moves Me website: <https://music-moves-me.org>.

In addition to the above, there will be two free concerts offered at wheelchair-accessible venues.

The first is "Sunset at the Lake" at 8 p.m., Thursday, June 25, at the open-air amphitheater of Camp Arcadia, a centennial family camp, lodge, lecture, and recreational facility on Lake Michigan at the west end of Oak Street. Seating is provided at this event.

The second concert, "Music at the Marsh," will take place at 6 p.m., Saturday, June 27, at Ketch 22, in the covered outdoor dining pavilion bordering the Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve along M-22. Visitors are invited to arrive early, set their own lawn

chair, then stroll the adjacent preserve's accessible boardwalk to experience one of the few remaining Great Lakes coastal marshes.

For the latest information, visit: <https://www.interlochenpublicradio.org/the-sound-garden-project>.

For more about the Minnehaha Music Festival, visit the Facebook page or call/text Dan Macek, Music Moves Me secretary, at (989) 860-8622.

Music Moves Me supports and promotes music education through collaboration with schools, community groups, students and parents across northwestern Michigan. The organization annually awards scholarships for music students, provides classroom grants and offers community music collaborations. They have funded the endowed Ronald Stoops Memorial Scholarship at Interlochen Center for the Arts in memory of their father, an avid musician and performer.

MARJDI Presents
Upcoming Events

JUNE 13	“AMERICAN TEENAGER” Presentation by author NICO LANG, “American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era” 2 pm, WSCC Building, 400 River St, Manistee; PFLAG & MARJDI event!
JUNE 20	IDLEWILD JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL 12:00 – 3:00 pm, Join historic Idlewild in Baldwin for its 12th annual parade and festival, 997 MLK Drive, Idlewild MI
JUNE 23	“NATCHEZ” Film & Discussion Celebrate Juneteenth with this new documentary film, an unsettling clash between history and memory in this small Mississippi town. 7 pm, free, at the Vogue Theatre, Manistee
JULY 4	July 4th Parade Join the MARJDI “Welcome” contingent in Manistee’s July 4 th parade; 10am, July 4 th at the corner of Division and River Street
AUGUST 27	ANNUAL MARJDI PICNIC! Join us at 5 pm at the Lion’s Pavilion, First Street Beach, for food, music, and community!

MANISTEE AREA RACIAL JUSTICE & DIVERSITY INITIATIVE --A FISCALLY SPONSORED PROGRAM OF THE MANISTEE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Bat houses placed in Arcadia. Photo: Emily Cook

Bats

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Tiny powerhouses

Knowing how the populations of these tiny creatures have been and are currently affected by the world makes seeing them dart above me in the summer skies feel extra special. I feel encouraged to do what I can to help them, including putting up some bat houses as a safe place to roost and providing education on how they really aren’t all that spooky. It is a miraculous feat to be a single pup born and to survive through habitat loss, weather events, disease and continued misunderstanding. Bats may be small, but they are also mighty.

For more information about these extraordinary creatures, visit the websites of Bat Conservation International (www.batcon.org), Bat World Sanctuary (www.batworld.org) and Merlin Tuttle’s Bat Conservation (www.merlintuttle.org).

Emily Cook is a resident of Arcadia, where she lives with her husband and two collies. She is a conservationist, writer, artist and avid gardener. She can nearly always be found exploring the nearby nature trails and beaches of Manistee and Benzie counties.



Long-tongued bat approaching a banana blossom at night, drinking nectar, Costa Rica. Photo: FotoRequest, Adobestock.

Juneteenth

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Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, declared that all enslaved people in Confederate-held territory “are, and henceforward shall be free,” (<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation>). The Proclamation redefined the Civil War as a struggle against slavery. Notice the wording. The Emancipation Proclamation only freed slaves in Confederate states. It did not apply to rebel areas or border states under Union control. Though a Confederate state, Texas did not have large-scale fighting or Union troops present. They ignored the proclamation, bondage continued, and enslavers moved there, viewing Texas as a haven for slavery, (<https://www.history.com/articles/what-is-juneteenth>).

Prison labor

The Thirteenth Amendment signed February 1, 1865, and ratified in December 1865, made emancipation a national policy. The amendment states: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

Appallingly, the punishment clause led to the enslavement of convicts. Discrimination laws made it easy for officials to arrest African Americans and other poor residents to use for convict-leasing. State and county governments “leased” incarcerated people to individuals and private corporations in exchange for fees. This coerced slave labor was cheap and practiced regularly from 1844 to 1901 at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, which had been a slave plantation. Prisoners were treated worse than when enslaved, according to NMAAHC. It was replaced with plantation-style prison labor that continues today.

Education barriers

One year after receiving their freedom, the freedmen in Texas organized the first annual celebration on June 19. For decades, Juneteenth commemoration days included barbecues, music, prayer services and other activities. A history.com story, “What is Juneteenth?”, described the spread of Juneteenth celebrations as Black people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country.

Freedom did not remove challenges; it changed them. Almost four million mostly illiterate, recently freed Americans needed an education. Segregation laws prevented Blacks from attending predominantly white learning institutions. Reading was crucial for protecting freedom, obtaining employment and communicating with separated family members. The NMAAHC website states that more than 90 institutions of higher education were founded for Black Americans between 1861 and 1900.

Blacks were encouraged to seek education but not to reach for the stars. Booker T. Washington, a former slave and founder of Tuskegee University, described establishing the first schools for Black children and adults as an act of “lifting the veil of ignorance.” At the same time, Washington was aware of white mob violence in the South. Realizing that Blacks attempting to reach a higher status would encounter racial violence, Washington encouraged them to learn trades, mainly in agricultural and mechanical fields.

John D. Rockefeller Jr. donated \$63 million to the General Education Board to support the education of African Americans between 1902 and 1960. J.M.L. Curry, a GEB board member, stated: “White supremacy does not mean hostility to the Negro, but friendship to him,” (<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/emancipation-and-educating-newly-freed>). Curry did not view Blacks as equals, confirming Booker T. Washington’s fears.

Descendants of slaves can be proud of their ancestors’ achievements. Despite the brutalities endured, they continued striving toward equal education and the elimination of segregation.

Today’s Juneteenth

It took 156 years for Americans to recognize the significance of Juneteenth and establish it as a federal holiday. Ironically, in 1980, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday. Today, only 30 states recognize it as a paid legal holiday for workers. Michigan became one of those in 2023, (<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/5358851-ijuneteenth-paid-holiday/>).

For those concerned that President Trump could abolish the holiday, he would need an act of Congress to permanently cancel Juneteenth but could still issue an executive order that “could change the way federal holidays are administered,” at least for one year, according to a USA Today April 2, 2026 report, “Is Juneteenth still a federal holiday or did Trump cancel it?”

Juneteenth reminds us that the U.S. slavery of Black people existed and was legal, and that white slave holders subjected those in bondage to cruel and barbarous treatment.

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

~ George Santayana, “The Life of Reason” (1905)

Grace Grogan was born and raised in Michigan. In 2019, she began living and traveling full-time in an RV with her partner, Paul Cannon. In 2025, she settled in Arizona, returning to the beautiful Great Lakes State every summer.



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