

Rocks Landing

New restaurant on the shore of Crystal Lake

By Aubrey Ann Parker
Current Editor

Steve Tebo was born in the Upper Peninsula, but he grew up in Marinette, Wisconsin. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing in 1988, spent a year volunteering abroad in Saint Lucia in the southern Caribbean (he had considered the Peace Corps, but that was a two-year commitment), and then he moved to Chicago, where he spent the next 17 years in corporate advertising. “I had a solid—if unremarkable—career in advertising to engineers,” Tebo says. “It was more ‘Dilbert’ than ‘Mad Men,’ like people think of. My last job in that world was in fiberoptics, back in 2005.”

But, more than a decade later, it all seems so ridiculous now to Tebo, who honestly doubts that he could still properly tie a tie. During our interview, Tebo is wearing a T-shirt and jeans; not



Kristin and Steve Tebo on the deck of Rocks Landing, their new restaurant at Chimney Corners Resort on the northwest shore of Crystal Lake. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

coincidentally, that is the uniform for the front-of-the-house staff at his new restaurant, Rocks Landing, in the former beachside dining room at Chimney Corners Resort on the northwest shore of Crystal Lake.

“Because that’s what I intend to wear,” he says. This self-disclosure sums up Tebo well—his expectations of others are never more than those that he sets for himself. And, more than that, he wants everyone in his restaurant to be happy, staff included.

“I love food. I love eating out. One of the happiest places for me is in a restaurant,” Tebo says. “So I tried to start this thing off with a good staff that is happy, and that will be infectious for the guests.”

Three-Way Ownership
This is not Tebo’s first rodeo—he has previously served as owner of a restaurant for five years,

Please see Rocks on page 7

Voices from the Past

Oral history from the hardwood logging era

By Andy Bolander
Current Contributor

Last month, a dangerous remnant of Michigan’s lumbering history made itself known on the western shore of Duck Lake in the North Campground at Interlochen State Park, just outside of Benzie County, about seven miles (as the crow flies) from where the Betsie River gets its start out of Green Lake. An old, rusty saw blade became exposed near the historic site of Wylie Lumber Mill, with park rangers stating that high water levels must have forced the blade out of the ground.

In obvious and not-so-obvious ways, the effects of the hardwood logging era are still visible in our environment today. The random reappearance of blades like that of the Wylie



Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) has been popular for more than 100 years in Benzie County. Photo courtesy of the Benzie Area Historical Museum.

Lumber Mill may not be commonplace, but walk through any Benzie County woods, and you can see the logging industry’s long-standing effects—the greatest impact was the removal of the hardwood forests that covered most of Benzie County, in addition to the fires that resulted from the logging practices of the time. (Wildfires, some of which burned so hot that they killed most of the organic matter/humus in the topsoil, making it infertile.)

Types of Woods
Today, there are zero examples of virgin forest in Benzie County, since all of the trees that were here before 1850 have been felled.

Please see SUP on page 6

Showcase for Michigan Artists Turns 70

Ever-evolving art

By Greta Bolger
Current Contributor

The organization that was founded as “Crystal Lake Artists’ Colony” in 1948 is still thriving 70 years later as the Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, or the Oliver Art Center (OAC) for short. Then, as now, the vision of providing an ongoing opportunity for Michigan artists to exhibit and sell their art is central to the mission of the art center. The fact that OAC was recently recognized with third place in the *Traverse Magazine* Reader’s Choice for “Red Hot Best” art gallery in a multi-county region is a clear indication that this venerable Frankfort institution is only improving with age.

“The Oliver Art Center has been the



A scene from “Mad Men” or the original Crystal Lake Arts Colony, housed in a stable on Sutter Road, out near Crystal Downs Country Club? Photo courtesy of the Oliver Art Center.

center of arts education in Benzie County for 70 years,” says Mercedes Michalowski, executive director of OAC. “It is because of the community that we have been able to grow and thrive for so many years. We are looking forward to the next 70 years of being able to serve the community.”

Colorful History
The Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, now celebrating its 70th year as a cultural cornerstone of Benzie County, has a long and storied history in the region. Founded in 1948 as the Crystal Lake Arts Colony, the original art center was housed in a stable on Sutter Road, out near Crystal Downs Country

Please see OAC on page 2

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“Come as a Guest, Leave as a Friend”

OAC

Continued from page 1

Club.

Following a fire in 1957, the stable was rebuilt and continued as a home for the arts for more than two decades, incorporating as the Crystal Lake Art Center (CLAC) in 1981. Ten years later, in 1991, the Benzie Arts Council and CLAC merged into one organization.

As classes became more popular, planning for expansion began. In January 2000, CLAC decided to sell the old art center property and purchase a building in downtown Frankfort, the former NAPA Auto Parts store (in the space that is now

Subway, next to Family Fare grocery store). This location doubled the art center’s floor space and increased options for programming, enabling increased membership and the transition from an all-volunteer team to professional staffing.

Crystal Lake Art Center operated successfully at their 10th Street location for several years, but as membership and participation in the art center continued to grow, the CLAC board of directors once again began considering its options for a larger facility.

When the historic U.S. Coast Guard Station on Betsie Bay became available, the board launched a capital campaign to renovate the building, and the community responded enthusiastically, with 331 individual donors contributing more than \$3.4 million, making possible a stunning transformation of the facility into a platinum LEED-certified building, designed by architect Mike Quinn, with construction managed by 45th Parallel Construction Management.

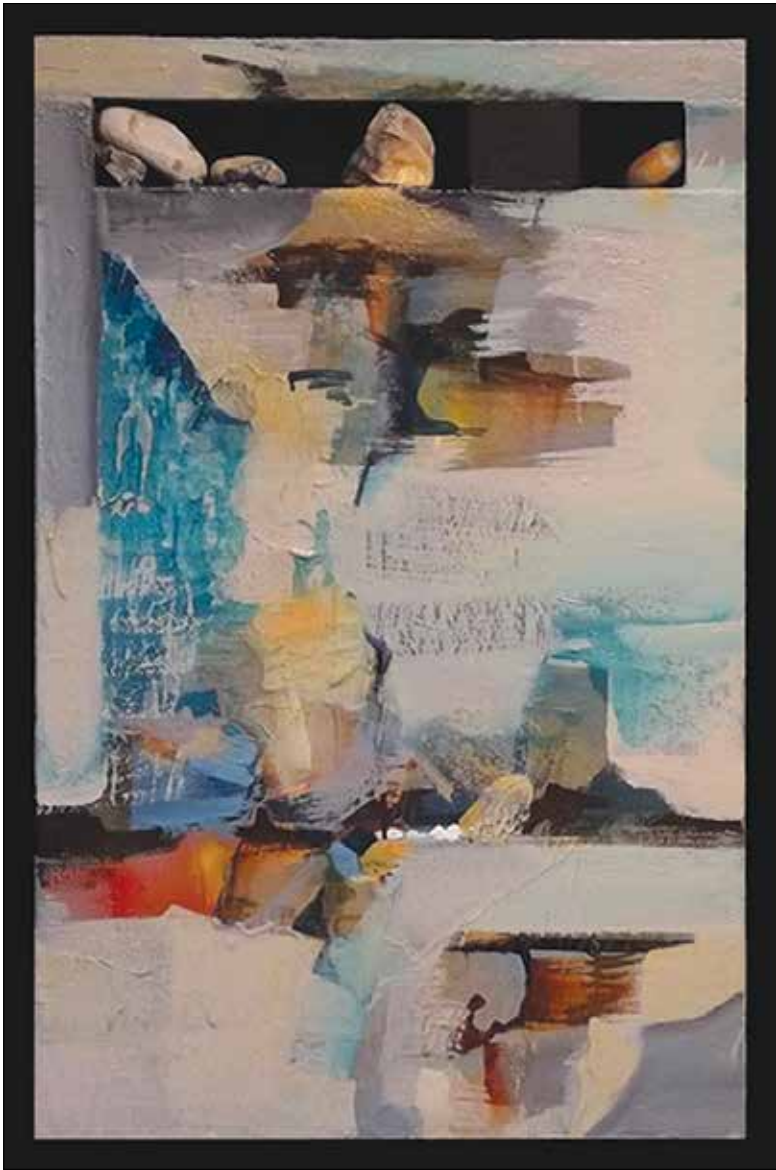
LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and platinum is the highest “green” certificate possible—to get this rating, the building had to be constructed, and must be maintained, to extremely high standards. For instance, the OAC uses only non-toxic cleaning products, and it is “super-insulated” and climate-controlled using geothermal cooling and energy-recovery ventilation systems, in addition to high-efficiency lighting and low-flow water fixtures.

The new building opened in 2011, and it later received the Michigan Historic Preservation Network’s 2014 “Building Award.” It is located at the south end of 2nd Street in Frankfort and features three floors that house two exhibition galleries, four spacious classrooms, a demonstration kitchen, office space, storage and artwork-preparation space, an outdoor deck, and a ceramics studio, all of which are accessible to people with disabilities.

The next step in the Oliver Art Center’s evolution is the launch of the Endowment Fund, which will help to ensure that OAC continues to contribute to the quality of life and economic stability of Benzie County well into the future.

The current art center was re-branded as the Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts just before opening in 2011, named for a summer resident who was a major supporter, artist, and patron of the arts. Of note: Elizabeth Lane Oliver was wife of Dr. Paul Oliver, whom the Frankfort hospital is now named after, thanks to his contribution of so much time and financial support to the hospital.

(A bit of fun Frankfort hospital history: in 1931, Adele Oliver, RN, opened the Haldeman Hospital, the first hospital in Frankfort, that was intended only for maternity patients;



“Beneath the Earth and the Sea” is an 18-by-28-inch multimedia piece of art from Barbara Webb and Jane Smeltzer, who will be presenting at the June 16 “Meet The Artists” event at OAC.

this well-staffed facility operated until 1937, according to Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital’s website. Then, in 1937, the Anna Markham Memorial Hospital in Frankfort, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Powers, was made ready for the care of maternity patients. By 1944, the “Benzie Hospital Association” organized to raise funds for the construction of a new hospital building in Frankfort. Work began the following year, and it was decided to name the new facility after Dr. Paul Oliver.)

“Meet the Artists” Event on June 16

In addition to mounting 10 full-scale exhibitions every year—including member shows, group shows, and juried shows—the Oliver Art Center also offers artists and visitors a unique opportunity to view and purchase a wide variety of artwork in its gift shop, named “Mary’s Gift Gallery” after long-time member and supporter Mary Dilts.

In an effort to have patrons see the creative process up close and personal, 10 working artists will be on-hand from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, in the Fisher Classroom at the Oliver Art Center. All of the featured artists offer work in the OAC gift shop in several different media:

- George Bailey: small word carvings
- Sally and Doug Cook: fiction writing

and self-publishing

- **Peggy Hawley:** watercolor and notecards
- **Jon Hawley:** non-fiction writing (including his book about the Point Betsie Lighthouse)
- **Laurie Krebs:** polymer clay modeling of small animals, ornaments, and jewelry
- **Donna McDermott:** oil painting
- **Dick Taylor:** wood carving
- **Dawn Thomas:** contemporary jewelry
- **Barb Webb and Jane Smeltzer:** abstract acrylic painting and rustic framing techniques
- **Kathy Wood:** jewelry from reclaimed materials

Visitors will have the opportunity to meet and talk with each artist and to learn more about their work. Additionally, visitors of all ages can also enjoy exploring art and gifts from the more than 100 Michigan artists who are featured in the gift shop, including items for children. Punch and cookies will be served.

A survey of the featured artists finds an array of talents: see below.

Jeweler Transforms “Junk” Into Statement Jewelry

After a long career with the State of Michigan, Kathy Wood of Lansing was searching for a new art form. She had always created art in some way—from sewing to cross-stitch, stained glass to mixed media, book art to fabric journals—and creating something new out of something old had always been a passion. When she noticed that the painted stepping stones in her garden were beginning to deteriorate, she pondered what their next life might look like.

It was not long before Wood was combining her stained glass skills with some new jewelry-making techniques to create one-of-a-kind necklaces and earrings, made from reclaimed ceramics.

Wood’s work is offered in the Absolute Gallery in Lansing, as well as in Mary’s Gift Gallery at the Oliver Art Center. She loves being part of a gallery environment.

“I love the fact that the gift shop at OAC is located within a gallery,” Wood says. “People are coming here to appreciate one-of-a-kind art, and that’s a great environment to offer my jewelry for sale.”

At the June 16 event, Wood will demonstrate several stages that are involved in making her jewelry, and she will describe the process from beginning to end.

Literary Arts Also Thriving

Sally Cook and her husband, Doug, will also be on-hand at the “Meet the Artists” event on June 16, sharing their experiences with fiction writing and self-publishing. Sally has written two young adult fantasy novels, which are sold in the gift shop, the first entitled “The Changeful Map,” and the second, “The Unchanging Island.” The full-length novels—written for readers who are middle-

school age and older—are published under her maiden name, Sally Stout. The books are the first two of a three-part series, which will be completed by the third book, as yet untitled, and currently in the works.

Sally is part of the fiction-writing group that is organized through the Oliver Art Center. The core group of four writers has met regularly since early 2016, providing helpful critique and encouragement.

Doug, an expert on self-publishing on several different platforms, has been actively involved in bringing several books to print, including Sally’s books and his own, “The N.J. Brewer Chronicles.”

The Cooks will discuss the many aspects of working productively in a writers’ group, writing and revising fiction, and the ins and outs of self-publishing. Sally, whose books are available at local libraries and at The Bookstore in Frankfort, is also very pleased that her books are offered in the art center gift shop.

“It’s really wonderful when someone buys and reads your book and tells you how much they enjoyed it,” Sally says. “I just love the feedback.”

In addition to the fiction and poetry writing groups associated with OAC, the art center also sponsors a “Spring Read” in April and a “Fall Read” in October each year, for which anyone can submit original work to be read aloud, and all are welcome to attend.

Shared Vision Creates Compelling Art

Barbara Webb and Jane Smeltzer have developed a creative partnership that transforms wood, metal, reclaimed objects, canvas, and paint into works of art. Their collaborative style can be described as abstract contemporary and rustic, and their work appears regularly in gallery exhibits at OAC, as well as in the art center’s gift shop.

Smeltzer is a lifelong Benzie County resident, while Webb moved here from Toledo 25 years ago. Their presentation at the “Meet the Artists” event will include a discussion of their creative process, with examples of their work. They look forward to sharing their experience and joy in making art together.

“We love having our work in Mary’s Gift Gallery at Oliver Art Center and rejoice in the fact that any sales we make also benefit the art center,” Webb says. Their work is also carried by Sanctuary Gallery at The Commons in Traverse City.

Greta Bolger is board president of the Oliver Art Center, located at the south end of 2nd Street in an historical U.S. Coast Guard building. The gallery is open daily year-round, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays from 12-4 pm. (Except when closed for special events, holidays, and snow days.) Admission is free. For more information, visit OliverArt.org, email info@oliverart.org, or call 231-352-4151.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Mondays

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. Infants and toddlers (+ their parents/caregivers) will have fun rhyming and moving with Miss Char, as well as a focus on repetition. Each week, children build their repertoire of rhymes, both old and new. There is an informal playgroup following Circle Time. 10-11am.

Yoga class for seniors led at no charge by Michelle Leines at The Gathering Place Senior Center. 10579 Main Street in the Honor Plaza. 231-525-0600. 10-11am.

Cards at The Gathering Place. We have a dedicated group of card sharks who play Pinochle weekly during lunch, but we aren't limited to Pinochle: grab your friends and join us for euchre, cribbage, and rummy, too! 12-1pm.

Grow Benzie Farmers' Market: Beginning June 4, every Monday at 3:30pm and 5pm, there will be free cooking and nutrition-education classes. All are welcome! Fresh vegetables and fruits, baked goods, bread, jam, honey, maple syrup, artisan crafts, and more will be featured at each market! You can also tour our new edible trails and try out mini-golf! The Grill Benzie Food Truck will be there so bring the family for dinner! 5885 Frankfort Highway (M-115) between Benzonia and Frankfort. 3-7pm.

Qi Gong with Jessica at Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 5:30pm.

Tuesdays

Sunrise Rotary Club's weekly meetings are over breakfast at the Cold Creek Inn of Beulah. Come join us! 7:30-9am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 9-10am.

Music by the Melody Makers at The Gathering Place. 10:30am-1:30pm.

Computers with Dustin: Stop in and let Dustin help you unlock the mysteries of the computer. You may bring your own or use one of our public computers. These sessions are FREE! Benzonia Public Library. 11am-1pm.

Knitting Group at Benzonia Public Library. A "knit-along" project for those who want to work on the same project, or bring your own project if you prefer; we'd love your company! Need help? If you are having troubles with a current project, bring it along and we'll help you get it straightened out. Call Michele at 231-383-5716 with any questions. 1-3pm.

Chair Yoga class for \$5 at The Gathering Place. 3:30-4:30pm.

Yoga with Kari at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

Yoga flow with Lauren at Oliver Art Center. 6pm.

Wednesdays

Mat pilates with props with Anna at the Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10am.

Stay Fit with Doris at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Gentle yoga with Lauren at Oliver Art Center. 10:15am.

Open studio at the Oliver Art Center. Participants are strongly encouraged to become members and to contribute a donation of \$2 per visit. 10am-4pm.

Bingo at The Gathering Place. Cost is \$1 per card or bring a prize. 12:30-1:30pm.

PLARN at the Gathering Place. Crochet plastic mats to donate for the homeless. For more info, call Dawn at 231-525-0601. 1:15pm.

Yoga with Kari at Oliver Art Center. 231-383-1883. 5:30pm.

Thursdays

Elberta Farmers' Market at the Elberta Pavilion Park. 8am-12:30pm.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10am.

Bible Study at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Computers with Carol at the Darcy Library at 7238 Commercial Street in Beulah. Ask Carol computer-related questions. Read to Denny, the cute little dog! 12-5pm.

Board Game Day at the Darcy Library of Beulah. 2-5pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center, including families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), \$60 fees cover one adult or one adult and child pair. It can be as fun or focused as a student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times in the studio. Price includes: 25 pounds of clay, glaze, and firings. 3:30-6:30pm.

Yoga with Kari at the home of Linda & Dave Schweyer in Bear Lake. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 4-5:30pm.

Samporna yoga with Anna at Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 5:30pm.

Open Mic Night at St. Ambrose Cellars at 841 S Pioneer Road just outside Beulah/Honor. 231-383-4262. 6-9pm. 6pm.

Open Mic Night at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 8pm.

Fridays

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 9:30-10:30am.

Yoga flow with Lauren at Oliver Art Center. 10:15am.

Tech Support to help you navigate the tech world. Please call in advance to schedule your appointment with Robert. The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Wii Bowling at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers' Market at Open Space Park on Main Street, between 7th & 9th streets, along the beautiful waterfront. 9am-1pm.

Farmers' Market and Flea Market at the Interlochen Eagles #3503 at 20724 Honor Highway/US-131, three miles west of Interlochen. Consisting of Michigan-grown fruits and veggies, flea marketers, cottage food vendors, artisans, arts & craft vendors, and independent reps. 12-4pm.

Body Sculpting on the ball with Deanne at

Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10 am.

Gentle yoga with Lauren at Oliver Art Center. 10:30am.

*Yoga classes at Discover YOU Yoga and Fitness in Frankfort every day of the week, except Saturday. For a complete schedule and more information on classes and rates, visit discoveryogami.com.

ON DECK

Thursday, June 7

Fundraiser for Goddess Within - A Red Tent Revival at St. Ambrose Cellars. Rachael Davis, E. Minor, and Blake Elliott perform music, with goddess prose performed by Rodasi Campbell. Based out of Benzie County, we are grassroots women raising funds to buy a tent and cozy rugs for our traveling women's tent. 4-9pm.

Friday, June 2

Northern Michigan folk legend Jim Crocket—with friends—at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Friday, June 8

eBay Basics at Benzonia Public Library: Interested in clearing some clutter from your house, garage, or pole barn and adding some cash to your wallet? Learn how to sell your stuff on eBay. Top-rated power sellers Steve and Laura Ayers will serve as coaches to help you learn the process. Participants will need to set up an eBay account and PayPal account prior to visiting the drop-in session. Bring your laptop plus an item or two to photograph and list, so that we can help walk you through the process. 2-3pm.

Friday, June 8

Lake Ann Brewing Company's 3rd Anniversary Extravaganza. Prizes, music, fun, and lots of beer! Mike Moran takes the stage around 6pm, with Soul Patch to follow. 5:30-11pm.

Friday, June 8

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Blake Elliott took both sets of her parents' last names to create her stage moniker. Raised with a piano- and guitar-playing mother and an Interlochen-trained percussionist father, Blake was around music her whole life. Inspired by the beauty of her home state and this big adventure called "life," she writes songs that tell stories of love and heartbreak, dive bars, good whiskey, and everything that can come from them. St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Friday, June 8

Summer Reading Kick-Off at Darcy Library: Come see a special showing of the movie "Camp Rock" and register for our summer reading program! 6:30pm.

Friday, June 8

Gabriel James performs at Stormcloud. 8pm.

Friday-Saturday, June 8-9

Free Fishing Weekend in Michigan: everyone (residents and nonresidents) can fish Michigan waters without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply. Michigan has offered the free fishing weekend annually since 1986 as an easy, affordable way to showcase the state's vast water resources. With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline; 11,000 inland lakes; and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, fishing and Michigan are a natural fit.

Saturday, June 9

Betsie River Clean Sweep: meet us for a free pancake breakfast at Benzonia Congregational Church, then head out to clean up the Betsie!

Free T-shirt or dry bag for participants. Please pre-register with the Benzie Conservation District: 231-882-4391 or john@benziecd.org. 8:30am-2:30pm.

Saturday, June 9

16th annual Northern Michigan Alliance for Lupus Walk in memory of Josephine Vanham: A walk along the Betsie Valley Trail from Frankfort to Elberta, then back. The goal of each Walk is to help the Alliance for Lupus Research (ALR) to further its mission to prevent, treat, and cure lupus by raising funds for lupus research. All participants are encouraged to raise a minimum of \$25, and 100% of the money you raise will support cutting edge lupus research programs to fight an autoimmune disease that affects predominantly young women. Check out LupusWalkFrankfort.org for more information. Registration begins at 9am at Mineral Springs Park in Frankfort. Walk is from 10am-12pm. This year, there will be a silent auction between 9-10am, during registration. Door prizes will be awarded. Free picnic for all registered walkers after the Walk.

Saturday-Sunday, June 9

Betsie Valley District Library's Summer Reading Program Sign-up: come into the library to have your ROCKSTAR picture taken for free when you sign up for the Library Rocks Summer Reading Program! Read two hours each week, mark or color the pictures on your log for that week, and come into the library to claim your prize every week all summer! Read each week to earn a different prize! Beginning readers can have a parent or big brother or sister read to them. At the end of summer, we will have a celebration party for everyone who has read for 20 hours and earned their reading certificate of accomplishment. 12-2pm.

Saturday, June 9

Dede Alder, a veteran of Earthwork Music Collective, will perform at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Saturday, June 9

Northern Michigan folk legend Jim Crocket—with friends—at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30pm.

Saturday, June 9

Jim Hawley performs at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 7pm.

Sunday, June 10

Boater Safety Class at the Benzie County Sheriff's Office. The class will teach boaters how to be safe on the water, including tips on how to be a courteous operator, as well as laws and regulations. This course applies to all manner of watercraft. Those 14 years of age and older and born after December 31, 1978, may operate a personal watercraft only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate. To pre-register for the class, call 231-882-4484 ext. 227; leave name, number, and birth date of student on the answering machine. 9am-1pm.

Sunday, June 10

Summer Reading Kick-off at Benzonia Public Library: Weekly prize drawings begin June 22 and run through August 24. Many prizes to choose from - the more that you read, the more opportunities to win, so come in and register! 12-2pm.

Sunday, June 10

Death Cafe: Stephanie is the special guest speaker from Munson Healthcare Services, and she will be speaking about Advanced Care Planning. Since we never know what may happen, a little planning now will save those dearest to you from unnecessary stress later. RSVP by calling Betty at 231-651-0370. Potluck and discussion at Llama Meadows Eco-Farm at 1176 West St. in Benzonia. 3:30-5:30pm

Monday, June 11

Two high school groups from St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin - the school's Chamber Choir

and Jazz Band - will perform a concert. Mr. Chris Bergh holds the baton as the Jazz Band director, and Mr. Shawn Gudmunsen directs the Chamber Choir. The connection between Benzie County and St. Croix Falls, which is on the far west side of the state, may seem like an odd pairing. But St. Croix Falls is where the Reverend Dinah Haag, currently pastor at First Congregational Church of Frankfort, headed the choral department for seven years. Mr. Gudmunsen is one of her former students. Although there will be a basket for a free-will offering, raising money is not the goal of the evening. The goal is to experience the great potential that lies in your young people, and the joy that music can bring to all ages. So bring your family, your neighbors and friends for a evening that is sure to be a delight! Frankfort United Methodist Church. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 12

Garlic mustard is one of the most ecologically harmful invasive species in our region. Come help the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) to remove it from one of our favorite natural areas - Railroad Point. Tools will be provided; bring gloves if desired. 10am-12pm.

Tuesday, June 12

New Third Coast performs at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30pm.

Tuesday, June 12

Trails & Treasures: Join Ron Rademacher, author of “Michigan Back Roads,” to discover beautiful trails and nearby treasures. The Trails - 30+ walking trails that are easy and FUN, no special skills or equipment required, just a pleasant stroll in the woods. The Treasures - since the trails are short, learn about nearby attractions to make a day trip of it. Program is suitable for all ages and runs about 50 minutes, including time for Q & A. A hospitality and book-signing period will conclude the program, with books available for purchase. Enjoy an evening of fun as we explore Michigan. Benzonia Public Library. 6:30-7:30pm.

Wednesday, June 13

Dune Wildflower Hike: Join GTRLC volunteer preserve steward Paula Dreeszen for a look at some beautiful summer wildflowers in an equally beautiful place. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes! 10am-12pm.

Thursday, June 14

Free cooking class/demonstration/tasting with Allison and Shari from “American Kitchen” cookware. We will learn to cook (and sample!) three recipes - caramelized pork, sweet & spicy ginger green beans, and bread pudding. Crystal Crate & Cargo in Beulah. 4-6pm.

Thursday, June 14

Troy Graham performs at St. Ambrose. 6pm.

Thursday, June 14

Red Tail Ring performs at Lake Ann Brewing Company. The Michigan-based band of Laurel Premo and Michael Beauchamp create lush, intricate arrangements of original folk

music and traditional ballads with banjo, fiddle, guitar, and close harmonies. 6:30-9:30pm.

Thursday, June 14

Voices from the Past, based on “Daylight in the Swamp,” a book that is based on oral history’s of logging in Northwest Michigan, collected by William and Edith Overlease. Stories of direct participants from the 1890s to 1916, though some accounts go back to the 1880s. The transcriptions retain the dialect and vocabulary of the old lumberjacks and workers. This work is an unparalleled primary source for anyone interested in the lumbering history of Northwest Michigan. These tapes have been digitized by The University of Michigan. Andy Bolander will discuss the tapes, playing segments that illuminate the history of logging in Benzie County. Mills Community House. 7pm.

Friday, June 15

Brett Mitchell performs at Stormcloud. 8pm.

Friday, June 15

Hot N’ Bothered will perform at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 7pm.

Saturday, June 16

The Benzie Democrats are hosting a picnic and voter registration event in Lake Ann at Burnett Park on Saturday, June 16th from noon - 2pm. Family friendly with food, games and info on candidates. Free. Need more info? Call (231) 227-1112

Saturday, June 16

22nd annual Frankfort Craft Fair on Main Street. 10am-4pm.

Saturday, June 16

Stormcloud Brewing Company is turning five years old this June, and you’re invited to join the birthday celebration and fundraiser. The event includes: Beerthday Bash with lawn games, live music, beer-can chicken on the grill, and Nightswimmer Stout birthday cake. BONUS: Join in the fundraising fun during the 3rd Annual Fun Ride/Walk from Elberta to Stormcloud on the Betsie Valley Trail and Fundraiser in the Pub, both to raise money for the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail. Beerthday Bike Ride around Crystal Lake begins at 9am, we’ll get rolling from downtown Frankfort at the pub; meet back at Stormcloud after the ride for refreshments. Fun Ride/Walk Fundraiser begins at 3pm at the Betsie Valley Trailhead. For each person who joins, Stormcloud will donate \$5; participants are encouraged to dress in costume and decorate their bikes for a chance to win prizes. Beerthday Bash is 4-10pm. Live music by Darin Lerner Jr. goes from 6-8pm, followed by BlueFooted Booby, songs you know and love performed by Traverse City musicians.

Saturday, June 16

Blind Dog Hank will perform rock, rhythm, folk, and blues at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 7pm.



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SUP

Continued from page 1

The oldest woods in the county are roughly 100 years old—the nearest old-growth hardwood forests can be found in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and the Sylvania Wilderness in Ottawa National Forest, both in Michigan's



When we cut down all the trees. Photo courtesy of the Benzie Area Historical Museum.

Upper Peninsula. Characteristics of an old-growth hardwood forest include mature trees, some two to three feet in diameter; a canopy with small gaps; fallen and standing dead trees. A pop-culture example of a virgin forest can be seen in the 1983 Star Wars film, *Return of the Jedi*—the home of the Ewoks is supposed to be the moon Endor, but this portion of the movie was actually filmed at Humboldt Redwoods State Park in California. The virgin stand of Redwoods are striking, and the trees are much larger than can be found in Michigan, but it conveys the impression of a virgin forest very well. Visual differences in old-growth vs. second-growth include the size of the trees, the space between the trees, and ground cover that is low and varied, not much brush to be seen. The rare examples of second-growth forest here in Benzie County are different from what we typically see elsewhere—there is a full canopy, which provides little light to pass through, resulting in little growth on the floor of the woods. The trunks are straight and without branches. Here in Benzie County, parts of Pete's Woods Trail in the Arcadia Dunes/C.S. Mott Nature Preserve provide a good example of second-growth forest.

Railroads Change The Map

Beyond just the types of woods to be walked through, there are other ways that we can see the influence that the hardwood logging era had on Benzie County. For instance, the Betsie Valley Trail follows the path of the Frankfort & South Eastern Railroad, which operated from 1888 to its acquisition by the Ann Arbor Railroad in 1892. The F&SE was built by Frankfort business leaders to bring hardwood logs to the sawmills on Frankfort Harbor. Some of the hardwood species would not float in the Betsie River, so the railroad was built to transport the less-buoyant logs. The railroads changed the map of Benzie County—Thompsonville, Nessen City, Bendon, and Homestead Station were created by the introduction of the railroads. On the east shore of Crystal Lake, Crystal City was a new stop on the F&SE; when the Ann Arbor Railroad took over the line, Crystal City's name was changed to "Beulah," and the name stuck.

Meanwhile, Penfold Park, the current location of the Elberta Farmers' Market, was the location of a shingle mill that was owned by Lawrence W. Crane. Moreover, the Benzie Shores District Library—in downtown Frankfort on the Betsie Bay—was once the location of the Butler Mill, and Open Space Park was the Butler lumber yard. Big Platte Lake had two sawmills on its shores: Averytown on the east shore and Edgewater on the west. Part of the Lasso Loop of the Platte Plains

Trail in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is the bed of the narrow gauge railroad that ran between Edgewater and its pier on Lake Michigan. Additionally, the village of Honor was started in 1895 by a British company, the Guelph Patent Casket Company. The town was named for the daughter of an executive in the company. Prior to 1895, the area was referred to as "Collison," but the Buchan and Acha families were also residents prior to the arrival of the casket company. The Pere Marquette Railroad and the Manistee

and Northeastern Railroad each had branches to Honor. The M&NE—built by Buckley and Douglas, two lumber barons in Manistee—connected with the Empire and South Eastern Railroad (which was approximately seven miles long) at Empire Junction, thus making the northwest portion of the county accessible for logging. So Honor was crucial in cutting the hardwoods to the west of Lake Ann, about one-third of the county—and the railroads made it an economical choice to log the area.

Oral Histories, Now Digitized

Between July 1965 and August 1968, William and Edith Overlease interviewed a group of Benzie County residents who had worked in the woods in Benzie County between 1890 and 1916. The transcript of these interviews was completed in 1973, and it was later edited and published as a book, titled "Daylight in the Swamp." When listening to the recordings of the interviews, occasionally the voice will trail off on a topic, and you can hear the silence as the gentleman remembers his times in the woods—I wonder about what the silences contain for the interviewee, whether the break was due to fatigue, or indigestion, or if there was an unvoiced personal memory that had come to the surface. This past spring, the Benzonia Public Library sent a set of cassette tapes of the Overlease interviews to the University of Michigan's School of Information, and the tapes were digitized. This freed the interviews from a deteriorating manner of storage and makes the interviews available to a wider audience—these recordings will be available and free for the public to use in the near future; they will be accessible through BPL's website and also via thumb drives that can be borrowed from the library. The Overlease interviews capture recollections of Benzie County at a time of its most rapid change, and they are a priceless source of information; one of the richest sources of the history of Benzie County. We are so fortunate that these interviews took place when they did, as most of the interviewees were near 80 and 90 years old when interviewed.

Andy Bolander is a volunteer with the Benzie Area Historical Museum. There will be a presentation on the Overlease oral histories at the Mills Community House on Thursday, June 14, at 7 p.m. Audio segments of the interviews will be played during the presentation, which will also include images and stories of the hardwood-logging era in Benzie County. This event is sponsored by the Benzie Area Historical Society, the Benzonia Public Library, and the Mills Community House.

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Rocks

Continued from page 1

in addition to managing a kitchen for seven years after that.

In the current arrangement, there are three legs to the ownership behind Rocks Landing—Jim and Mary Rogers, who own Chimney Corners Resort, which Jim (actually, he is Jim Jr.) inherited from his parents. (Of note: the restaurant’s name comes from Jim Jr.’s father, Jim Rockwell Rogers.) The Rogers family own the property, and they have invested in the brick and mortar: a new roof, a new deck, new bathrooms.

Paul Danes and Julie Tebo, Steve’s sister, are financial backers who have invested in a new bar and an awesome kitchen; they also are heavily involved, with Danes clearing plates at the opening on Tuesday, June 5. (Danes is retired from investment banking/funds management, and he lives in Benzie County full-time in the summer, while Julie Tebo is a research doctor at the Cleveland Clinic; the couple’s home is in Cleveland Heights.)

“They’re not-so-silent silent partners,” Tebo jokes.

And last but not least, Tebo and his wife, Kristin—who recently quit her travel-all-the-time corporate job and is now in Benzie County full-time—make up the third operation leg, with Steve serving as the restaurant manager.

Culinary History

While living in Chicago, the Tebos bought their first restaurant, the Coho Cafe in downtown Frankfort, in 2005.

“We were getting ready to make the move up here,” Tebo explains. “Kristin’s parents were here, and we loved the area. I had grown up in a small area in northern Wisconsin and the U.P., and I took to Chicago really well for a small-town kid—I loved the culture and the music and the restaurants, especially. But we started getting the itch to move here.”

Tebo says that he was hesitant, but that, ultimately, it was Kristin who convinced him.

“She said, ‘My job is going to allow me to travel, so do whatever you want—adopt 10 dogs, if that is going to make you happy,’” Tebo laughs. “But if I had my choice to do anything, one thing that really interested me back then was restaurants... well, I guess now, too. But before I owned one, all I saw was the magic; I had no idea of the work.”

Tebo had zero experience in a restaurant before buying the Coho. Sure, he was in culinary school at the time (notably, the oldest in his class), but the only thing he knew how to make was a reservation. And, truth be told, it was not an interest in cooking that led him to culinary school—it was a need to know all of the ins and outs.

“I could balance the books—my job in corporate America got me ready for that,” Tebo says. “But if I were to buy a restaurant, I’d be the stupidest guy in the kitchen, and that wouldn’t do. I was there to learn how a professional kitchen should work, and sure, along the way, I learned the science of cooking.”

The Tebos first moved here in January 2006 in anticipation of running the Coho, and the couple built their house on the northeast side of Crystal Lake a year later. They were the third/fourth owners of the Coho: first was Michelle Ferencick and her sister Marilyn (Ferencick) Black who started it, followed by Michelle and her husband, Craig Sharp. The Coho’s first non-familial employee was Kim (White) Hensley, who later became the second owner. The Tebos bought the Coho from her, and they owned the Coho for five years. In 2010, the Tebos sold to Becky DeVries, who has now had it for the past eight years.

“She’s had it the longest,” Tebo says. “The rest of us each owned it for only five or six years each.”

Every time that the Coho was passed down, it

was from one set of loving hands to another, which is not always true in the restaurant business. For the next year after selling to Devries, Tebo says that he wanted to be available to help through the new-owner transition. So, for the most part, he did not take up other employment, though he is too much of a do-gooder to just sit idly—he helped to open the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Honor.

Also during this time, he developed a friendship with Jim and Mary Rogers, owners of Chimney Corners Resort, who were looking for someone to take over the food service at the resort.

“I said that I would come and help for a summer, but I couldn’t commit to more than a year” Tebo says. “This is now my eighth year at Chimney Corners, technically, though this year is going to look different.”

From 2011 to 2018, Tebo ran the dining room atop the hill. (Dining at Chimney Corners was once run by Mollie Rogers, Jim Jr.’s mother.)

Good Food, Good Staff

Tebo is quick, witty, wry, and honest. But beneath that somewhat sardonic exterior, he is also patient, kind, thoughtful, and humble. These characteristics make for a good boss, and that is why so many former employees are following him on his newest venture.

The restaurant is focused on small plates, rather than tapas—it is more Spanish-influenced than Spanish-focused, Tebo explains.

“The menu at Alliance in Traverse City has influenced me greatly—pick what you want, share what you have,” Tebo says. “I brought in a chef that I think is way better than me. I wanted more capable hands, and that’s why I hired Joe [Meyers].”

Tebo says that he still thinks of himself as a restaurateur, rather than a chef, so he knew that he wanted someone else to manage the kitchen, but with his influence.

“Joe has been very receptive to my input, but he has put a lot of his own creativity into the menu,” Tebo says. “He is a hunter, a fisher, a forager, so his background is really well-rounded.”

Meyers is one of those former employees who has made his way back to working for Tebo.

“I hired him as a prep chef at Coho during my second year,” Tebo says. “By my fourth year, he was my chef. And by his fifth year, he was headed to Portland.”

Meyers came back to the area, and has been at Stormcloud Brewing Company most recently, until landing the job at Rocks. Tebo is excited about the solid core team that he has been able to recruit for both the front of the house and the back, people who know their craft in their various areas of expertise.

“Katie Dorsey is one of the lead people in the front of the house, along with Jessica Gilbert, and Lisa Confer, who came to Chimney Corners at the same time that I did—this was my manager team at Coho back in the day,” Tebo says. “I don’t know how I got so lucky, but these are people who I worked with 10 years ago at Coho. We’re all older and wiser now. The comfort of having people who I love and trust, to have them seek me out 10 years later has been humbling, to start with that core and attract other talented people.”

It probably helps that Rocks is paying top-of-the-market salaries, another indication that the staff really does come first.

“We have a really great team,” Tebo says.

Editor’s Note: Nova, the black Labrador belonging to the co-owners of this publication, first befriended Griff, one of the Tebos’ two wily Wire-haired Pointing Griffons, at a fringe dog park at the Frankfort High School track in 2009. Since that time, the bipedal contingency of the Tebo and the Parker-Bates households have become friends, and The Betsie Current co-owner Jordan Bates will be working in the Rocks Landing kitchen this summer—we just thought you should know, for full-disclosure.

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