

## A Meadmaker's Journey from the Bayou to Beulah

Kirk and Sharon Jones are two busy bees

By Susan Koenig

Current Contributor

The Benzie-based, honeybee-inspired business trifecta of Sleeping Bear Farms honey, St. Ambrose Cellars meadery, and BeeDazzled soap and candle shop together compose one of the biggest honey producers in Michigan. St. Ambrose Cellars, the “gateway to the Grand Traverse Wine Trail,” is located at an historic 19th-century stagecoach stop in rural Beulah next to a big red barn on the corner of Pioneer and Homestead roads. Locally grown and locally owned, all of the processes happen here among five buildings: bee raising, pollination, fermentation, beeswax production, winemaking, and tasting of the products. There are non-alcoholic drinks offered, as well, and kids can taste root beers



Nationally famous musician Joshua Davis plays an al fresco concert in the St. Ambrose Cellars barn to a captive audience. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

and sarsaparillas on tap that are also made with local ingredients such as maple syrup.

The complex is the brainchild of Kirk and Sharon Jones. He handles the operations at St. Ambrose, while she “does her own thing” at BeeDazzled, her business at their home on River Road near Benzonia, where she raises bees, grows a garden of bee-preferred flowers (“the bees love Angelica,” observes Sharon), and sells organic bee byproducts like soaps and candles, in addition to things you have never imagined existed, like earwax candles. Sharon believes in the healing powers of these remarkable insects and advocates “apitherapy”—using bee stings to prevent and cure other ailments.

Kirk grew up in Royal Oak as the grandson of Finnish immigrants who moved to Detroit

*Please see Buzzing on page 9*

## Where Are the Workers?

Tourism economy booms, but finding help proves elusive

By Jacob Wheeler

Current Editor

The streets of downtown Frankfort are packed with tourists, beachgoers, and shoppers. The tills hum at businesses up and down Main Street as ice cream cones, t-shirts, and pints of beer fly over the counter.

But “help wanted” signs on storefronts and restaurant entrances are becoming just as ubiquitous in our tourism boomtowns up and down the Lake Michigan shoreline.

In Frankfort, Fusion needs four employees to make it through the summer season, including a busser, a dishwasher, and a host, as well as help this fall once current employees return to school. Even Crystal Mountain, the largest employer in Benzie County, still needs bartenders, housekeepers, and certified lifeguards to get through the busy summer

season. Over in Honor, the Plate River Inn has been looking for a cook for more than a year, and they have been short two servers since April. Up M-22 in nearby Glen Arbor, Anderson’s Market owner Brad Anderson was seen stocking the shelves of his up-scale grocery store last month, because he did not have young workers to do the job.

Allana Bostick, 16, got a late start on the summer job search. She has applied—to no avail—at several locations, including American Eagle Outfitters and Charlotte Russe in the Grand Traverse Mall and the Red Door Cafe in Lake Ann, which is close to where she lives.



Harbor Lights Resort uses the H2B guestworker visa program to employ Jamaican housekeepers for six months every year. Photo by Jacob Wheeler.

“I’m now widening my job search and applying at places like Crystal Mountain and Momentum [in Frankfort], because I know they’re looking for people,” says Bostick, who concedes that these jobs are a little further from home than she would like. But businesses closer to the lakeshore are hiring, so she will go where the money is.

**Housing and Worker Shortage**

The Homestead resort commanded state-wide news after it announced on June 26 that it would close its Italian-themed sports bar, Beppi’s, and its child daycare center, Camp Tamarack, after not a single applicant appeared at its job fair. The Homestead’s

*Please see Workers on page 14*

## Baby Bears at Sleeping Bear

Especially for kids at the National Park

By Linda Alice Dewey

Current Contributor

There you are, all ready to take the kids to the beach, when it begins to rain. What to do? The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore offers a variety of indoor and outdoor spots to visit on any summer day, whether or not it is a good beach day.

We will begin with **Glen Haven’s Maritime Museum** (alias the “Coast Guard station”), which is restored to resemble what it was about 100 years ago. After investigating the sailors’ quarters, go upstairs and enter a freighter’s pilothouse, complete with the huge captain’s wheel and a view out the pilothouse windows. Then go outside and witness a lifesaving demonstration called “Heroes of the Storm,” which takes place daily at 3 p.m. Lakeshore employees actually shoot a lifeline

from a cannon!

A half mile east of the Coast Guard station lies the restored village of Glen Haven, including a pictorial museum, the boat house, and a working blacksmith’s shop—all with Park volunteers, happy to tell you about the way things were and how things worked way back when. Rain or shine.

Head south on M-109 past the Dune Climb (if



What to do with the kids when you can’t hit the beach? Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has more to offer than just the Dune Climb.

you can do that without the obligatory stop) to the Village of Empire. Hang a left on M-72 and visit the National Lakeshore’s Philip A. Hart Visitor Center, open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. every summer day. Here you can obtain park passes, maps, and brochures. Inside, rangers and volunteers are available to answer your questions. Plus, see lifelike displays of natural fauna and geological forms in our area. Watch fascinating movies and videos that are sure to keep children interested, such as one about how the dunes and lakes were formed by the glaciers.

While you are at the Visitor Center, enroll your kids in the Junior Ranger Program. If they complete enough of the prescribed activities, they become junior rangers by the end of their stay and earn a badge and/or a patch. Because the National Park Service is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year

*Please see Kids on page 8*



224 St. Joseph Ave.  
Suttons Bay  
231/271-4930

332 Main Street  
Frankfort  
231/352-4489

Wayne & Sue Jameson  
Owners

Come in and See Us!

Village Sampler  
Plaza • M-22  
Glen Arbor  
231/334-3411

25th year in business!

Working with Buckets of Rain  
to build community gardens in  
Detroit



etm electric, inc

David E. Moehle  
25 years experience

(231) 218-2935  
etmelectric@gmail.com

PEARL LAKE  
WATER TOUR

JULY 9

To register, contact:  
John Ransom  
john@benziecd.org  
231.882.4391 x 13

  
www.benziecd.org

BLACK HORSE



ANTIQUES


10-5, Monday thru Saturday  
12-4 on Sundays

Three blocks North of downtown Beulah

 Find us on facebook.


Jill B. Rineer, Owner  
(231)882-0231


11 N. Benzie Blvd.  
Beulah, MI 49617




WELL-APPOINTED BEULAH HOME

Incredible up north home on 5 very private acres. Custom built 3 BR/3BA, top-of-the-line upgrades - granite, stainless, master suite, whole-house generator, etc. Finished walkout bsmt, screened back room w/ 7-person hot tub - great entertainment areas. Easy access to all area amenities. \$324,900.





View ALL the listings ALL the time:  
www.KathyNeveu.com  
(231)342-0921  
57 N. Michigan Ave. PO Box 127 Beulah, MI 49617





Fudge, Ice Cream,  
Chocolates,  
Caramel Corn  
& Brittle

231 399-0350 • 413 Main St. Frankfort



# Ethan Przekaza and Meg Doby’s Boomerang Home to Benzie

## Questions & Answers with community faces

Benzie County native Ethan Przekaza, 30, graduated from The Leelanau School in 2004. He met his wife Meg Doby, 28, at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Ethan has always been an artist, sketching from a young age, so it made sense that he studied product design. Meanwhile, Meg studied anthropology. The pair left Marquette in May 2010, staying in Benzie for a couple of weeks before traveling to Washington, D.C. They hiked a few miles on the Appalachian Trail in Virginia, then headed west along the Northern Route through Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, before ending up in Denver in late July 2010.

Earlier this year, the couple moved back from Colorado, bought a house in nearby Beulah, and landed work in March at Crystal River Outfitters in Glen Arbor. Ethan is a service supervisor at The Cyclery, and Meg manages the M22 store. They are thrilled to be back and enjoying their lives together in “one of the most beautiful places in the world.”

Continuing with our interview series on impactful Benzie County characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with the couple at their jobs in Glen Arbor.

**THE BETSIE CURRENT:** Why did you return “home” to Northern Michigan after leaving the area?

**ETHAN PRZEKAZA:** Meg and I returned to the area for numerous reasons; one of the biggest was, after living away for many years and exploring other states, we realized what a unique and special place Northern Michigan is, especially for our lifestyle. We wanted to be able to purchase a house in this area and call it home. Another big factor was that we both still have strong connections with family and close friends in the area that we wanted to be closer to. Also, for the last six years, we lived in Denver, which had no sense of community—we felt like we were just two people out of a million, which makes it hard to make connections and feel like you are more than just another face.

**MEG DOBY:** After we got married, we really wanted to buy a house. No matter how good our jobs were in Denver, we were never going to be able to afford the house that we wanted. We could afford the ugliest, crumbling house is the worst neighborhood, but it was, literally, twice as much as we paid for our home here in Benzie. We weren’t willing to put that kind of money into a house that we didn’t even like, in an area we would rather avoid. Plus, whenever we would visit Michigan, we realized that we missed it so much! Then, every time we’d get back to Denver, we would still be dreaming about the lakes. We loved the mountains, too, but it’s just not the same.

We came to realize that Northern Michigan suited our lifestyle so much more, and just because it’s where we came from, that didn’t make it any less interesting. We took it for granted, didn’t appreciate it, and decided to move home. And we haven’t looked back.

**CURRENT:** What did you miss most about this area while you were away?

**PRZEKAZA:** I think the thing we missed the most was the lifestyle that Northern Michigan offered for young people like us. We desired a better sense of community and a slightly slower pace of life than Denver could offer. Another thing we missed dearly was the abundance of water and the activities that it offers.



Meg Doby and Ethan Przekaza moved back after five years in Colorado. They now live in Beulah with 8-year-old Apollo, an American Staffordshire, and Wicket, a 7-year-old Shih tzu.

**CURRENT:** Did you have any second thoughts about returning here? What did you have to give up to move here?

**PRZEKAZA:** We did have some second thoughts, or at least strong concerns, about moving back—one of the biggest being employment. We were coming from a big city with many opportunities for employment and moving to an area with seemingly limited options. However, the skills that we [acquired] at our jobs in Denver made us confident that we would be able to do [right] for ourselves. And once we made the connection with our friend Gretchen Schuman and the company she works for [Crystal River Outfitters], we were pretty pleased.

**DOBY:** I took a significant pay cut in order to move back, but money doesn’t make memories. People do, places do. I cared more about finding a place where we could surround ourselves with peace, natural beauty, and good friends and family.

**CURRENT:** What are the biggest challenges and rewards of working and living in Benzie County and in Northern Michigan in general? What is the best or most rewarding part of your job?

**DOBY:** We thought the biggest challenge facing us would be trying to find employment, but it turns out that towns like Beulah, Glen Arbor, and Frankfort actually have trouble finding good year-round employees. There are actually more employment opportunities than you’d guess! So our biggest challenge ended up being housing. As Michigan becomes a more popular place to visit, year-round homes are being bought up by the wealthy, to use themselves or to rent out as vacation homes. This makes it harder for the local residents to find an affordable place to purchase. Working at M22 is fun and challenging; so is working at The Cyclery. M22 is rewarding, because I can see first hand how people are coming to love this area and see what a unique and beautiful place it is; we are so close to the Sleeping Bear Dunes that dune grass is regularly tracked into the store. Plus the Crystal River Outfitters Recreational District is a fun and exciting business—the owners truly love the area and just want everyone else to love it, too.

**CURRENT:** What kind of impact do you think you have been able to have, as young people, on the community?

**PRZEKAZA:** It has been a busy few months since we arrived. I hope the impact we can have in the future will be to have a fresh perspective on the area and life in general and bring that into our community.

**CURRENT:** What could Northern Michigan do to attract more talented young people back to this area?

**PRZEKAZA:** I think one thing this area could do is continue to be open minded about change and growth, which would provide more jobs for young people. Also, I think it would be beneficial to continue to develop recreational options. This would provide sources of employment and draw in young, skilled people from all over.

**CURRENT:** What are your favorite local events and activities? Any favorite dining, recreation, hiking spots?

**DOBY:** We really enjoy Stormcloud Brewery in Frankfort; they have some interesting beers, a great atmosphere, and occasionally you can catch an awesome local band, like Blake Elliott and the Robinson Affair, who we just saw last week. Also, the Arcadia Bluffs restaurant on the golf course is amazing if you need an excuse to get all dressed up. But mostly we spend our time kayaking on the Platte River or on Platte Lake, drinking Oberon on the sandy shores of Lake Michigan, or biking along M22 or through the Arcadia Dunes bike trails. I also enjoy Pete’s Woods—it’s a great hike in the spring, with wild flowers as far as the eye can see, and it’s only a mile long.

**CURRENT:** How have you seen Benzie County change since you moved away and came back? What are your hopes for the area in the future?

**DOBY:** We used to think of Benzie County as somewhat boring and lifeless. While this may still hold true on the coldest winter days, the spring, summer, and fall months are all very lively and beautiful. We see a lot more people out and about, on their bikes, hiking, swimming, shopping. It’s been great for business owners and for the National Park. I’d like to see this trend continue to increase opportunity and protect the Park financially, but I still hope to keep this area of Michigan one of the country’s best-kept secrets. I would hate to see this beautiful National Lakeshore be destroyed by people who don’t appreciate it; littering our lakeshore not only with garbage but with sky-high condos and fast-food ‘restaurants.’

**CURRENT:** What else does Northern Michigan/Benzie County need?

**PRZEKAZA:** More small-business entrepreneurs who are willing to pay decent wages. That, and Uber. Ha. But really, I think the residents should try to be more welcoming to young people and to change. It’s scary, and we don’t want it to become over-developed, but we need the younger generations to come back here in order to keep the communities alive and the businesses running.

**CURRENT:** What’s your perfect summer day look like in Benzie County? How would you spend it?

**DOBY:** It would be prefect to wake up to the birds singing outside my window—I know it sounds like Cinderella, but when you live in Benzie County, it’s the birds that wake you, not sirens, horns honking, or people yelling, like in Denver. Get my caffeine fix on the back deck, in my case Earl Grey tea, in Ethan’s case, a strong cup of local coffee. Me: maybe spend a little time working on art projects, sewing or home improvement. Ethan would tinker with his bicycles or do some woodworking. We’d grab some lunch maybe at Roadhouse or East Shore Market, then take the kayaks out for a paddle. If we’re feeling ambitious, start in Platte Lake and finish in Lake Michigan. Then, if there’s time, have a beer and swim on the beach before calling up some friends to come over and grill. Maybe local fish or venison. Play with the pups in the yard. Then head to Frankfort to catch the always-epic sunset. Hopefully, then it’s a clear enough of a night to see the Milky Way from our backyard and sip some mulled local cider. Too perfect? Never.

# Creative Placemaking in Empire

Designing towns for people, arts, and culture

By Sarah Bearup-Neal  
Current Contributor

When the conversation turns to how the arts are represented in a community, one might point to a museum within the city's limits or to a restored movie theater where art house films are screened alongside blockbusters. Those are outward, brick-and-mortar symbols of a community's cultural life. But what, then, are the less visible characteristics of a community in which the arts are an integral part?

The answer lies at the heart of creative placemaking.

"In creative placemaking, public, private, not-for-profit, and community sectors partner to strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, tribe, city, or region around arts and cultural activities," wrote Jason Schupbach of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in a 2012 NEA News interview with Ann Markusen and Anne Gadwa, authors of the NEA white paper 'Creative Placemaking.'

Placemaking is a concept that surfaced in the 1960s. At the heart of placemaking is the belief that cities should be designed for people, not just cars and shopping malls, according to the Project for Public Spaces, a New York City nonprofit. Creative placemaking further refines the idea. Creative placemaking is not so much about transplanting more artists and creative people into a community's soil. Rather, it is about how the arts, artmakers, and creative thinkers are integrated into the fiber of a community, at many different levels, and the benefits that accrue.

### EACC Helps Out

"I think that when artists get involved in the community, in different roles—and these roles may not be just about artmaking—they bring their creativity, their vision, and their ability to see from a different perspective" says Empire resident Julie Avery.

Avery moved to Empire in 2012 after retiring from a 20-year career at the Michigan State University Museum. The focus of her professional work was on rural life and culture, out of which was created the Port Oneida Fair, an annual Leelanau County event.

Bringing right-brained thinkers to left-brain-run enterprises and projects—from planning commissions to boards of directors to the local hardware store—has the capacity to take local problem solving and community building in another direction, Avery says, adding, "There is this Empire community cultural group..." Avery is referring to the Empire Area Community Center (EACC), a nonprofit whose mission is to enrich lives through "one-time events and ongoing activities."

The EACC jumped into the goodwill business in 2012, when it teamed up with

Empire musician Chris Skellenger to create a series of free monthly concerts. Skellenger approached the EACC after he had seen yet another donation jar sitting on the end of a Deering's Market checkout counter. The sign



Julie Avery is an Empire resident who helped create a feeling of "place." Photo courtesy of Gary Howe.

affixed to the jar asked for help in paying a local resident's medical bills. Skellenger thought there was a better, more dignified way to help people in his community, and he asked music to do the work.

Musicians living in the region perform at local venues—from the Empire Town Hall to the Llama Meadows Farm in Benzonia. Donations from each concert are administered by the EACC and directed to area residents who are in need. "In need [means a one-time gift to help] someone who has nowhere else to go," says EACC president Linda Payment. Fund recipients are nominated; they and their families remain anonymous.

To date, the EACC has distributed \$47,087.74 to 81 people over four years. Creative thinking and the arts made it happen.

"People will gather together to listen to music and will contribute to a cause. It becomes an event, and the power of music is at the heart of it," Payment says.

### Summer Singers

While still at MSU, Avery helped start the Rural Arts and Culture program with the Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

"We looked at communities and helped them to understand that we weren't going to give them money to bring in the Detroit

Symphony," Avery says. "We were going to give them money to look at the musicians they had in their community and bring them together to perform for their community."

This program's spirit and intent is manifested by the Summer Singers, a project of the Glen Arbor Art Association.

For the past 14 summers, the Singers have welcomed anyone, regardless of musical talent, who wants to sing in the choir. The group's repertoire is "upbeat, a mix of Americana and other things," says Summer Singer board member Cindy Graves of Glen Arbor. Weekly rehearsals are held at the Glen Lake Community Reformed Church. This summer, the Singers will perform at the Old Settlers' farewell-to-summer concert on August 16 at 7 p.m. at the church.

"Every community in the world has some sort of musical connection you can hook into, whether it's an orchestra or a band. People who love music will seek that out. It gives you a sense of community. When I moved up here, I didn't know anybody. I just came up here with my dog, and I was immediately embraced into the group," Graves says.

### Individual Artists

The arts can create a place in the community for new arrivals; but the arts also create a sense of place. Think Santa Fe and galleries—they are inseparable ideas.

"Yet, there needs to be a top-to-bottom effort, one that involves citizens at all levels of the community or region, to [cement the idea] that artists and creative [people] are good for 'our town,'" Avery wrote in a recent email. "That artists and creative [people] are good for attracting other businesses, experiences, neighboring citizens to come and shop here."

The Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce felt unequivocally that art works to drive business in the county. As a testament to that belief, the Leelanau Chamber named Suttons Bay landscape photographer Ken Scott its Outstanding Business of 2015. Since 1985, Scott has carved his own niche with indelible images of the area's notable natural landmarks, as well as off-the-beaten-path places. For more than a decade, these

Please see Place on page 8

EAST  
SHORE  
MARKET

**PIZZA  
SUBS + SALADS**

Bakery • Deli • Health Foods  
Ethnic Cooking Needs • Groceries

**BEER, WINE & LIQUOR**

Over 200 varieties Import & Domestic Wines  
Import & Specialty Beer

DOWNTOWN BEULAH (231) 882-4323

**STATE  
SAVINGS  
BANK**

11470 S. Leelanau Hwy (M-22), Empire  
703 Main Street, Frankfort  
ssbankmi.com • Member FDIC

**MIKE'S SANDBLASTING**

**SMALLER ITEMS**

**231-735-6030**

**PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE**

**\$25 MINIMUM COST**

**48th Annual  
Beulah Art Fair**

**Saturday, July 9th**  
**10am - 5pm**

Beulah Park on Beautiful Crystal Lake

**Music All Day**

**Many Artists & Craftsman**

Original paintings, jewelry,  
pottery, graphics, crafts,  
sculpture and photography.

SPONSORED BY: CRYSTAL LAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
FOR MORE INFO GO TO CLCBA.ORG OR CALL 231-383-1120

**The Betsie Current**

P.O. Box 90 • Frankfort, MI 49635  
Phone: (612) 804-5975  
editor@BetsieCurrent.com  
ads@BetsieCurrent.com

Editors: Jordan Bates, Aubrey Ann Parker,  
Jacob Wheeler  
Contributors: Sarah Bearup-Neal, Linda  
Alice Dewey, Gary Howe, Susan Koenig,  
Kelly Ottinger, Kathleen Stocking

*The Betsie Current* is a free tabloid, published 12 times this year and distributed throughout Benzie County. Advertising inquiries, comments, suggestions, critiques, articles, photos, poems, and letters are welcome. © 2016, *The Betsie Current*, all rights reserved. www.BetsieCurrent.com

**Give back to Benzie year-round!**  
**The money you give is spent locally.**  
**It's so friggin' easy to give a gift. Just click and give.**  
**No shipping, no postage.**

**HomeTownGiving.Com**

Visit [hometowngiving.com](http://hometowngiving.com) to see all the participating businesses and charities.



**Great Food with a Great View**  
Full Bar, Espresso Drinks Dine In or Carry Out  
Now Serving Dinner!  
Open Until 7am - 4pm Mon & Tuesday,  
7am - 9pm Wednesday - Saturday, 7am - 2pm Sunday  
727 Main Street, Frankfort 231-352-8050

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. DAILY SPECIALS**

AT GENO'S, OUR CUSTOMERS ARE MORE THAN JUST FRIENDS, THEY'RE FAMILY. WHETHER THE SNOW IS FLYIN' OR THE SUMMER BREEZE IS BLOWIN', STOP IN AND EXPERIENCE LOCAL FLAVOR AT IT'S BEST!

**Located in downtown historic Thompsonville**  
**14848 Thompson Ave**  
**231-378-2554 - carry out available**





Scenic Patio Over-Looking Betsie Bay  
Fine Wines, Spirits, and Michigan Drafts  
Supporting Local Farmers & Producers  
Private Parties and Catering  
Relaxing Lunches - Elegant Dinners  
Daily Happy Hour

320 Main St, Frankfort • On Betsie Bay  
(231) 352-6053  
www.CohoFrankfort.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONSTANTLY FLOWING

Mondays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 9-10am.

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. 231-525-0601. 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: join us for euchre, cribbage, and rummy, too! 12-1pm.

Zumba at The Gathering Place. Your first class is free, and then it's only \$3! All ability levels are welcome. 2:30pm.

Grow Benzie Farmers' Market at 5885 Frankfort Highway (M-115) in Benzonia. 3-7pm.

Tuesdays

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Honor Farmers' & Flea Market in Maley Park. Across from the shopping plaza and senior center with plenty of off-road parking. 9am-3pm.

Benzie Shores District Library offers technology assistance. Learn to download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines to your personal devices. 10am-12pm.

Music by the Melody Makers at The Gathering Place. 10:30am-12pm.

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.

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 6pm.

Yoga with Kari at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. Call 231-383-1883 if interested. 6-7:30pm.

Wednesdays

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 8:30am.

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

Open art 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 \$1.00 per card or bring a prize. 12:30-1:30pm.

Matter of Balance with the Benzie Council on Aging at Honor Township Hall. 1-3pm.

Local computer whiz Dustin Wolpoff will be on hand after lunch to help navigate your computer, tablet, or smartphone. He will meet with everyone individually for a 15-minute appointment, so sign up at The Gathering Place in advance. A donation of \$2 is appreciated. 1:15pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

Steven Fernand, 20th century "Ballads a la Bossa." Cold Creek Inn, Beulah, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Thursdays

Elberta Farmers' Market at the Elberta

Pavilion Park. 8am-12:30pm.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 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 Rosie, the cute little dog! 1-5pm.

Quilting at Darcy Library. 2:30-5:30pm.

Storytime for preschoolers at the Benzonia Public Library in the Children's Room. Miss Amanda will lead us through an informal time to socialize, make new friends, and hear great stories, followed by a craft or whimsical coloring sheets. 3-4pm.

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. 3-6pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Ware Farm of Bear Lake. 231-383-1883. 3-4:30pm.

Storytime with Kris at Darcy Library. 4:30pm.

Coloring & Creativity Club for Adults at Darcy Library. 5:30-7pm.

Fridays

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

Fun Fridays at Benzie Shores District Library: Kids and their parents/caregivers are invited to join us! Programs are free and targeted at preschool children, though kids of all ages are welcome. For the parents, are you tired of technology? Coloring for Grown-ups is a stress-free hour of coloring while the kids play. Everyone welcome. All materials supplied by the library. 10-11am.



**BENZIE CENTRAL  
SOCCER CAMP 2016**  
Monday, July 18 - Thursday, July 21 • 6-7:30pm

Boys & Girls • K-6 grades  
\$30 registration fee: includes your own ball and T-shirt

Pre-register online or show up to camp • 231-383-4162 • Memorial Park fields in Benzonia, behind Watson Benzie



Download  
Registration  
Form  
bit.ly/29m3mul

Fridays with Britt: Drop in for a garden tour, ask questions, and learn tips from Grow Benzie’s greenhouse manager about soil health, seed starting, and garden planning. Free, donations accepted. 10am-12pm.

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

Family Storytime: Gather ’round for stories, rhymes, and songs with Ashley at the Darcy Library. Storytime is designed for children ages 2-5, but all are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and be sure to sign up for a library card so you can borrow our books to read at home! 3-3:45pm.

Crystal Mountain Farmers’ Market in Thompsonville. 3-6pm.

Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers’ Market at Open Space Park on Main Street, between 7th and 9th streets, along the 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.

Sundays

Integrative Yoga with Jessica at the Oliver Art Center. Young or old, novice or seasoned practitioner, yoga is for everyone! Explore yoga on your own terms and discover all that it can do for you. Adult drop-in fee is \$15, student/senior drop-in fee is \$10. Call 231-620-3528 if interested. 10:30-11:30am.

ON DECK

Friday, July 8

Channing & Quinn Concert – Summer Sounds. It’s going to be a fun night for everyone with Channing & Quinn live at Michigan Legacy Art Park! This indie folk duo blend quirky with creepy, and theatrics with sincerity. In a live setting the two do the work of several musicians by (often simultaneously) playing guitar, ukulele, accordion, drums, glockenspiel, banjo, looping vocals and even tap dancing! Tickets are \$10 for adults, free for kids 12-and-under. 7 pm - 9 pm. Series Info and Tickets: [www.michlegacyartpark.org/summer-sounds/](http://www.michlegacyartpark.org/summer-sounds/)

Saturday, July 9

Guided Tour of Michigan Legacy Art Park. Take a guided hiking tour through the Art Park learning about Michigan history, the environment and sculpture as you go – a fun activity for adults and families. Riding tours are available to guests who may be unable to hike the hilly trails beyond the new accessible trail. Because seating is limited to five passengers, advanced registration is required for riding tours. Approximate length of tour: 1½ hrs. <http://www.michlegacyartpark.org/tours-workshops/hiking-tours/> 10 am - 11:45 am

Saturday July 9

Beulah Art Fair  
10 am - 5 pm

Wednesday July 13

Take a guided hiking tour through the Art Park learning about Michigan history, the environment and sculpture as you go – a fun activity for adults and families. Riding tours are available to guests who may be unable to hike the hilly trails beyond the new accessible trail. Because seating is limited to five passengers, advanced registration is required for riding tours. Approximate length of tour: 1½ hrs. <http://www.michlegacyartpark.org/tours-workshops/hiking-tours/> 10 am - 11:45 am

Wednesday July 13

Sponsored by the POMH Auxiliary, this special new event will feature a silent and live auction of beautiful new and very gently used designer purses. Delicious appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available. Reservations are limited and will be available in May. For more information call Krisitn, 231-932-8630. Proceeds go to Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital. 5:30 pm - 8 pm. Oliver Art Center, Frankfort.

Friday & Saturday, July 15 & 16

Crystal Mountain – Farm-to-Table Dining Series – July 15 – 16. Our Farm-to-Table dining series brings the fresh flavors of northern Michigan to the Thistle Pub & Grille the third weekend of each month, May through September. Our chefs work with local farms, making personal visits to many of them, to build a custom three-course menu. Our Farm-to-Table series is a clear example of Crystal Mountain’s commitment to the sustainability of the local food movement and the role that our restaurants play in it. Costs starting at \$32 per person. Thistle Pub & Grille. 5pm-close

Saturday, July 16

Morning on Crystal Lake in Beulah, Michigan | Afternoon in Frankfort, Michigan  
Come participate in the 4th Annual Premier StandUp Paddleboarding event in Michigan this summer! This event is hosted by Crystal Lake Adventure Sports and will be held on the beautiful shores of Crystal Lake and Lake

Michigan. The races include the Crystal Lake 6 mile/3 mile/1.5 mile SUP Challenge and the Lake Michigan 4.6 mile Downwind Duel. Come paddle on one of the most pristine lakes in Michigan... there is a reason it is called Crystal Lake. The days events will start with the Crystal Lake SUP Challenge which will consist of an Elite 6 mile(2 LAPS)/ 3 mile(1 LAP) recreational and Junior Rec (13-16) 3 mile (1 LAP) and a FREE kids(age 7-12, kids must register) 1.5 mile(1/2 LAP) Diamond Configuration Buoy Race. Children can do either the Junior Rec or the kids race, not both. All races are held under WPA rules and will have an Open Water Start and Finish. All Racers must have a leash on their board to participate. Then in the afternoon is the Lake Michigan 4.6 Mile Downwind Duel. Come paddle off the shores of one of the most scenic areas of Lake Michigan, voted the “Most Beautiful place in America” by Good Morning America. This afternoon Open Downwind Duel 4.6 mile paddle will start at Point Betsie Lighthouse beach and finish on the Frankfort Beach. This race will have a Beach Start and Finish. Exceptions may be made for younger racers on an individual basis. Please email race organizer for information. All Racers must have a leash and PFD on board to participate. <http://upnorthsup.com/> 8 am - 8 pm.

Saturday, July 16

Frankfort Port City Run. 5K Run and 5K Walk. <https://www.facebook.com/PortCityRun/>

Sunday July 17

Birds by Canoe and Kayak - Pearl Lake. GTRLC volunteers Bryce and Paula Dreeszen will lead the search for loons, eagles and osprey on beautiful Pearl Lake, one of the only spots in Michigan where all three nest. Bring your own canoe or kayak & be prepared to launch at the DNR boat launch. To RSVP please visit our website: [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org) or call 231-929-7911. Directions & Property Info: <http://goo.gl/OcgZn3>

Mon - Thurs, July 18 - July 21

Every summer, the varsity boys and girls soccer teams from Benzie Central High School host a youth soccer camp for more than 100 kids ages K-6 here in our community. Each kid gets a ball and a t-shirt -- plus four evenings of fun -- for a low price of only \$30: that is a great value! All of the funds go back to the varsity soccer program to help pay for things like equipment, apparel, team-bonding initiatives, halftime snacks, specialty trainers, etc. and this year, we hope to earn enough to purchase a PA system for our soccer field at the high school. The 2016 camp will be from 6-7:30pm on the evenings of Monday, July 18, through Thursday, July 21, at the Benzonia Memorial Park fields (behind Watson car dealership). Please check out the Facebook event at <http://bit.ly/28TJSJy> for more information. To register for camp, parents can fill out this form: <http://bit.ly/28UbW26> and mail it in.

LAKE ANN GROCERY

“IF WE DON’T HAVE IT,  
YOU DON’T NEED IT.”

DOWNTOWN LAKE ANN SINCE 1981

275-6479 • OPEN 7 DAYS, 6 A.M. UNTIL 10 P.M.

SCENIC  
CANOE &  
KAYAK  
TRIPS

On the Beautiful Betsie River

We have wildlife, not wild people.

U.S. 31 at the  
Betsie River Bridge  
[www.VacationTrailer.com](http://www.VacationTrailer.com)

231-882-5101

Jesus is Lord

Isaiah 55

All Rooter, Inc.

Plumbing, Sewer & Drain Cleaning  
Property Management & Maintenance  
24 Hour Service

231-632-2900

[www.allrooterinc.com](http://www.allrooterinc.com)

Locally Owned and Operated by: Jerry & Barb Klinetop

Outstanding Plants, Reasonable Prices



Annuals, Hanging Baskets,  
Planters, Perennials,  
Succulents, Fall Garden Mums,  
Poinsettias

231-882-7226

Open May 1 to December 24  
10am to 5pm

Check us out our public Facebook Page  
2034 Eden Hill Rd., Beulah, MI., 49617

GROW  
BENZIE

JULY EVENTS

7/6: Strawberries- Freeze & Jams, Preserving Series; 5pm  
7/12: Midsummer Night’s Garden Party:  
Grow Benzie’s Annual Auction Dinner Fundraiser; 7-9pm  
7/14: Cheese Making w/Sue Kurta; 6-8pm  
7/18: Whole Foods Tastings Open House; 5-7pm  
7/18: Cherries- Freeze & Pies, Preserving Series; 5pm  
7/19: Cooks & Books w/Darcy Library; 6pm  
7/27: Beekeeping 101, Farm Class Series; 9am  
7/28: Mushroom Foraging: Farm Class Series; 6pm  
Call 231-882-9510 for details or visit [GrowBenzie.org](http://GrowBenzie.org)  
Monday Farmers Market, Demos-Music-Food Truck; 3-7pm

Time to Join the ‘WE’!

Visit [GrowBenzie.org](http://GrowBenzie.org) for membership details that include tickets to our fundraisers:

July 12  
Midsummer Night’s  
Garden Party:  
Annual Auction Dinner

August 13  
Bayou on the Bay:  
Blues & Zydeco Picnic  
Frankfort Open Space Park

BEACH NUT  
SURF SHOP

Surf • Bike • Skate • Gourmet Smoothies  
Swimsuits • Wetsuits • Sandals • Watershoes  
NEW: 22 mph Electric Skateboards,  
Cricket Flour  
“Chirpie Chocolate” Smoothies  
1100 Main St, Frankfort 231-352-5249

Bagel Factory • New York Style Deli  
Full Service Bakery • Catering

L'chayim  
DELICATESSEN  
Like us on  
Facebook

We're Back!  
Smoke Free &  
Better Than Ever!

231.552.5220  
Downtown Frankfort

231.882.5221  
Downtown Beulah

STORMCLOUD  
BREWING COMPANY

Music on Tap

7/7 Abigail Stauffer

7/11 Roma Ransom

7/13 Mulebone

7/15 Hot 'n Bothered

7/18 Kasondra Rose

Every Tuesday - Jeff Bihlman

CRAFT BREWS • BRILLIANT BITES  
BELGIAN INSPIRED • MICHIGAN MADE

STORMCLOUDBREWING.COM  
303 MAIN STREET | FRANKFORT, MICH.

ST. AMBROSE CELLARS  
UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY TUESDAY - OPEN MIC 5PM to 8PM

July 8 - Blake Elliot (Live Music) 6PM

July 15 - Dede (Live Music) 5PM

July 29 - Keith Scott Blues (Live Music) 6PM

EVERY THURSDAY - THIRSTY THURSDAY - 35% OFF  
HOWLER AND GROWLER REFILLS

841 S. Pioneer - Beulah, MI  
stambrose-mead-wine.com

Luna  
Boutique

small town. Big Style.

New Location!  
273 S. Benzie Blvd.  
Downtown Beulah  
231.882.7359

# Workers

Continued from page 1

announcement sent shudders through the small-town seasonal tourism industry and punctuated a growing dilemma: while towns like Glen Arbor and Frankfort are thriving during the high summer months—thanks in large part to the Midwest-wide Pure Michigan campaign and Good Morning America recognizing Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as “the most beautiful place in America” in 2013—businesses in these towns are sometimes victims of their own success.

All of the attention on the Sleeping Bear region has helped drive up real estate values, attracting an older and well-heeled crowd to live here. It has made affordable housing for working-class families within the town limits all but impossible. Often the lone sources of employees for a six- to eight-week summertime job are local high school students or the children and grandchildren of summer residents who own a second home on Crystal Lake. And when Labor Day weekend arrives, they return to their studies, or to their primary homes downstate, leaving their employers empty handed.

A lot of discussion in the local media lately has fallen on two issues: affordable housing and livable wages.

“The big picture is that we need to figure out more workforce housing,” says Frankfort superintendent Joshua Mills, who believes that local government ought to be proactive in finding a solution.

For Crystal Mountain Resort, the problem lies with finding full-time employees, according to Amy Woodworth, director of human resources. Crystal Mountain has 520 employees on payroll during the winter ski season.

“We cannot compete with other service employers in the region—especially with retail in Traverse City,” she told the Advocates for Benzie County during a Building a Better Benzie forum on June 16. “And we have problems attracting employees because of inadequate housing and distance. We currently have some limited housing on site, but we’re not going to attract people coming in 30 miles to work for \$12 to \$13 an hour.”

Finding housing is a huge stumbling block for both professionals and lower-paid employees at Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital, which has 200 full- and part-time employees.

“To get the younger people who prefer Boulder or Burlington, we need to add more recreational opportunities,” noted Roger Perry, a Paul Oliver board member, at last month’s forum. “But skilled employees cannot find housing, and they see the existing stock in Benzie as sub-standard, middle-income housing.”

In the absence of a viable plan for workforce housing, businesses have to fight over the shrinking crop of workers. Those that are able offer higher wages to attract them; those that cannot will have to survive the summer season short-staffed or curtail their hours and services.

Ron Heffelfinger, business liaison for Michigan Works in Benzie and Manistee counties, is not joking when he says that, just three years ago, a housekeeper at a local hotel used to make between \$8.50 (Michigan’s current minimum wage) and \$9 an hour. Now they can get \$12 to \$13 an hour.

“There is upward pressure for employers to increase wages in order to get different folks,” he says. “Tourism in our area is no longer just the summer months. Fall is also a great season for hospitality employers. But they’re going to struggle, because they don’t

have enough college kids to work.”

## Help from Jamaica

Harbor Lights Resort has 80 rental units and a staff of 22 employees, mostly seasonal workers. Three summers ago, owner Steve Campbell found that his crop of seasonal employees—particularly housekeepers—was drying up.

“We had a situation where we didn’t have rooms available, because we didn’t have workers to clean them,” he remembers.

So Campbell took the innovative, but foreign, step of hiring Jamaican housekeepers last year through the federal H2B guestworker visa program. To house them, he bought a home on M-115, a mile and a half from his lakeside resort in downtown Frankfort. The employees who live in this home pay rent for six months of the year to Campbell, from May until early November, returning to the Caribbean before the snow flies.

“It’s never been a problem due to wages,” Campbell says. “We continually raise the starting wage and provide pay hikes during employment. It’s the housing issue that continues getting worse. We would love to expand on to providing year-round rentals, but we can’t do it without staff. I see an opportunity to band together with other services and pool our resources to develop a housing option.”

Eight Jamaican women first traveled here in 2015 to work as housekeepers at Harbor Lights; the experience was mutually beneficial, and all eight returned this summer. They use the Benzie Bus to commute between work and home.

“We’d prefer locals who want employment,” says Campbell, whose family has owned Harbor Lights Resort since the 1960s. “But we didn’t get the interest from locals. Many would like to spend their summers up here and work, but finding a place to live is the hardest thing. There comes a point where we need to do what it takes to continue to operate. Bringing in the Jamaicans was a necessity.”

“We are very happy with the people we’ve gotten,” Campbell adds. “The program is a lifesaver for us. They make a great sacrifice to come here for six months and display an attitude and work ethic that we hope for.”

The eight Jamaican women—most of whom come from the cities of Kingston and Montego Bay, and whose ages range from 29 to 37—joined an existing Harbor Lights staff of about 30 workers, which shrinks to 12 in the off season.

The Betsie Current recently interviewed four of the eight Jamaicans—Chrastantia Jarrett, Donneilliems Williams, Cleopatra Gayle, and Resa Allen—and they spoke glowingly of their experience in Frankfort the past two summers. Allen Googled “Harbor Lights Resort” and “Frankfort Michigan” upon learning of the work opportunity through the Jamaican government, and her search discovered a locale and job that was “family oriented, clean, and respectful.” Once she arrived, the destination did not disappoint.

“The people here are so nice!” Allen giggles. “When you walk the streets, everyone knows us already. They ask, ‘You’ve come so far. Don’t you miss your families?’”

Most of the Jamaicans are supporting children back home, whose ages range from five to 18; they hope to send the next generation to college. The workers say that wages at Harbor Lights Resort far exceed what they have made working in the hospitality industry in Jamaica. The housekeepers also speak warmly of Campbell, who offered a hug and made them feel welcome upon arrival. If given the opportunity, they hope to return again next year.

Asked what Frankfort lacks, the women joke only that “it’s cold here!” in the spring

and fall, and that they wished the local eateries such as A&W offered home delivery. But overall, they seem content with their six-month stays and grateful for the opportunity. They work 5 or 6 days each week. On their off days, the Benzie Bus allows them easy transit to visit Traverse City, where they like to shop at the mall.

“We always meet interesting people on the bus,” laughs Allen. “The drivers are cool, especially Ernie!”

Campbell hopes that other businesses will use the Benzie Bus as a creative solution to alleviate their worker shortage.

“With the advent of the bus system, we could reach out further to people who don’t live in town,” Campbell says. “It would give us the ability to recruit more college students from around the area who want to work in hospitality, hotels, and restaurants and who want to spend their summers working in Benzie or Leelanau counties.”

## Innovative Solutions Attract Employees

Other businesses that ramp up summer operations have found that innovative incentives attract employees.

In Frankfort, Stormcloud Brewing Company offers employees an extra \$50 if they refer a friend who joins the staff and lasts at 30 days “in good standing,” says co-owner Rick Schmitt.

In Glen Arbor, Cherry Republic offers to match \$1 per hour in a college savings account between May 1 and September 1 for all employees in, or planning to attend, college. The company increases the match to \$1.50 per hour during the second year of employment. Its college-match program doubled in enrollment this year. Cherry Republic also reportedly pays “higher” than the average seasonal rate of \$11 to \$13 per hour. Many employees receive a \$1 per hour pay increase when they return the following year.

Leelanau Vacation Rentals (LVR) also begins recruiting housekeepers and other staff long before peak season and begins paying employees advance salaries just to secure them. Wages have increased over last year, and the vacation rental company offers bonuses for returning staff. CEO Ranae Ihme reports that LVR is fully staffed this summer.

Like Harbor Lights Resort, The Homestead resort in Glen Arbor also imports foreign workers through the guestworker visa program, joining a list of Northern Michigan hospitality businesses that includes the Grand Traverse Resort and the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. The Homestead has contracted with foreign workers for more than two decades. Some return year after year, and their experience is reportedly a positive one. The Homestead is able to provide some on-site housing—for a bargain rate of \$220 per month, plus utilities—and they are given access to the resort’s amenities, including free golf and skiing and a 35 percent discount on salon and spa services.

The Homestead currently employs 200 full-time and part-time workers but could use 25 to 30 more. Wages start at \$8.50 to \$9 per hour for seasonally employed high school students. The resort also offers signing bonuses, retention bonuses, employee-referral bonuses, and reimbursements for employees who use the BATA bus to commute to work. One such employee commutes all the way from Cadillac.

Despite The Homestead’s attempts to incentivize working at “America’s freshwater resort,” the Italian sports bar Beppi’s remains closed until further notice. Resort management hope that affordable housing or public transit become part of a creative solution in the future to increase the crop of willing workers.

Otherwise, businesses worry, America’s “most beautiful place” threatens to become America’s most understaffed place.

# Striking Creations from an Accidental Jeweler

Lessons from Frankfort’s former mayor

By Kelly Ottinger  
Current Contributor

When asked how one builds a jewelry-making career out of a casual rock-collecting hobby, Frankfort’s former mayor, Dick Bayer, laughs and says, “Well it goes something like this: All at once you have more rocks than you know what to do with and you think, ‘I should do something with these.’ So you cut those into smaller pieces, polish some of those, and pretty soon you think, ‘I’ve got to do something with these.’ Then you make a few bracelets for your wife and daughters, and their friends start making requests. And then



Dick Bayer in his rock shop at his home. Photo by Kelly Ottinger.

the thing just takes off!”

Bayer grew up in Frankfort, and after a career of years spent in the United States Air Force (including a tour of Viet Nam), he went on to work for Michigan Bell Telephone Company, and retired from Ameritech. Shortly after, a last-minute decision found him returning to Frankfort to attend a high school reunion. There he reconnected with the former Billie Lee Gum (now Billie Lee Bayer), also originally from Frankfort but living away from the area at the time. After dating for a few years, the couple decided to marry and return to Frankfort for their retirement years, building a home and a work studio on property owned by Billie’s family.

Although Bayer knew enough about rocks to casually collect and cut his first stone while in the service, his hobby did not really take off at that point.

“I was never really a rock hound as a kid,” he says. “I didn’t start seriously collecting ’til about 15 or 16 years ago.”

At that time, he began treks along lake-

shores and visits to estate sales, eventually amassing the collection that caused him to think of taking next steps. He began cutting the rocks into smaller pieces and eventually began cutting slabs from which he could cut calibrated or free-form stones for polishing. Although Bayer makes jewelry from a variety of materials, his go-to precious metal is silver.

Making jewelry for his wife and daughters allowed Bayer to develop a signature look to his work: beautifully patterned stones—both calibrated and free-form—highly polished and set in pendants, bracelets, and rings of silver.

Bayer’s artistry runs the gamut from those signature pieces to wrap bracelets, earrings, and strings of freshwater pearls and other gems. His studio is located on his private property, and although it does not keep regular retail hours, it is “open any time I’m home; just give me a call!”

Behind the curtain of his retail display is his lapidary workspace, with dozens of buckets of rocks that have been cut for the varying stages of jewelry making. There also, one finds a wealth (literally) of the machinery needed for the task at hand—everything from the diamond saw that cuts rocks into slabs to the diamond-grinding wheel, sandpaper flex wheel, and buffing wheel. The silversmith table houses the tiny torch that is used to soften and bend the precious metals, as well as several polished setting-ready stones.

Bayer says a common misconception of highly polished stones is that they are covered in a lacquer.

“Nope, that shine comes strictly from the buffing process,” he says. He uses a product called Zam for the final buffing, to obtain just the right amount of glassy sheen.

Some of the stones that are prominent in Bayer’s work include Petoskey, turquoise, Lake Superior agate, Leland Blue, Frankfort Green, Lapis Lazuli, Fordite, jelly opal, freshwater cultured pearls, tiger’s eye, labradorite, rhodocrosite, and obsidian. Bayer says his favorite stone to work with is turquoise, because

it comes in such variation and cuts easily.

Speaking about the recent craze for Leland Blue and Frankfort Green, he says, “These stones are actually glass slag resulting from the iron ore smelting process. Most smelters shut down in the late 1800s, so any of these ‘stones’ found today are well over 100 years old, which helps to explain their retail value.”

Through the years, Bayer has accumulated some interesting pieces that, for one reason or another, stay in his shop in their original, uncut form.

“Some, you just look at and know you would never cut that,” he says of his larger, perfectly formed rocks and a few eclectic items, such as a meteorite and petrified dinosaur poop. “I’ve had elementary school classes visit the shop, and let me tell you, you hear some fun things about that dinosaur poop. Kids always try to smell it!”

Currently, Bayer’s favorite vehicle for sales is private home parties. The parties allow him to spend quality time with his customers, explaining each piece and how to care for it. In addition to his studio shop and private home parties, Bayer makes the art fair circuit each summer, often earning awards for his work. Most recently, he won second place at the Cadillac Art Fair, and the People’s Choice Award at the Brighton Art Fair.

*To stop in and see Bayer’s shop or to arrange a home party, call his home phone at 231-352-5566. The studio/shop is located at 637 Corning Avenue, Frankfort. Or find Bayer at an art fair or festival this summer: July 9, Beulah Art Fair; July 15-16, Cadillac Art Fair; July 20, Glen Lake Women’s Club 40th Annual Art Fair at the Glen Arbor Town Hall; July 27, Congregational Summer Assembly; July 30, Crooked Tree Outdoor Art Fair at Northwestern Michigan College; August 6-7, Portside Art Fair in East Jordan; August 13, Les Cheneaux Island Antique Wooden Boat Show in the Upper Peninsula town of Hessel; and August 19-20 at the Frankfort Art Fair.*



THE GARDEN THEATER  
EST. 1923

HISTORIC THEATER  
FIRST RUN, INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS  
OPEN YEAR 'ROUND  
AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

HOME OF THE FRANKFORT FILM FESTIVAL  
OCTOBER 20 - 23 2016

301 MAIN STREET • FRANKFORT, MICHIGAN 49635  
FRANKFORTGARDENTHEATER.COM

LOCAL FISH  
AND  
FOLKLORE

Authentically Art's  
Since 1934.



ART'S  
TAVERN  
GLEN ARBOR

OPEN DAILY  
FROM 7 AM to LATE.

BURGERS . LOCAL WHITEFISH . GOBS OF CHARACTER  
artsglenarbor.com 231.334.3754

Put this Award-Winning Team to work for you!



**Burt & Julie**  
231-651-0684 • 231-871-0067  
Burt-Julie-SellRealEstateUpNorth.com  
408 Main St, Frankfort

Real Time ATM · Real Time Home Banking

**NOW LIVE** We've Got Money to Lend!

**Frankfort**  
Community Federal Credit Union

231.352.9392 · frankfortcu.org · 921 Forest Ave



Abramson  
FAMILY DENTISTRY  
“We Make Great Smiles”



Come Visit Our Friendly Staff

We offer most dental services right in our office, including:

- Dental cleanings
- Gum treatments
- Tooth sealants
- Preventive fillings
- Tooth-colored, mercury-free fillings
- Dental crowns/bridges
- Partials and dentures
- Root canals
- Implants
- Veneers/lumineers
- Cosmetic dental makeovers
- TMJ/Headache treatment
- Oral health counseling
- Tooth whitening

(231) 882-4424  
589 Beulah Highway  
Beulah, MI 49617  
www.abramsondds.com





Love the land. Pass it on.

Protecting Significant Natural, Scenic and Farm Lands and Advancing Stewardship, Now and For All Future Generations.

GTRLC.ORG





**MACDONALD  
MARINE**

**231.352.7970**





**NEW BOATS**


**RENTALS**

**PRE OWNED**




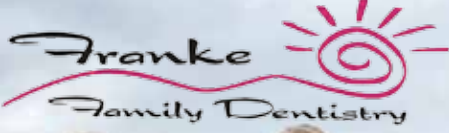
**2461 FRANKFORT HIGHWAY FRANKFORT, MI 49635**  
**MACDONALDMARINEINC.COM**

# Scarbrough Family Eyecare



## Where Your Eyes Have It All

Dennis Pace, OD • 1144 Beulah Hwy., Beulah, MI 49617 • Phone: 882-5542



There are a million reasons to smile. Let us be one of them.  
**231-352-9221**

# Boat Rental

- Ski Boats
- Deck Boats
- Pontoon Boats
- Jet Skis
- Tubes
- Wakeboards
- Trampolines
- Skis

**FREE Delivery to Select Lakes!**

## SUNSET WATERSPORTS

(231) 932-1800



## Kids

Continued from page 1

kids can also get a Centennial Junior Ranger book through a special program in which they earn a sticker and mail it in for a special centennial badge, according to Lisa Griebel, interpretation and education lead. Kids can choose activities in natural history or cultural history. Or how about a scavenger hunt that takes them from the Visitor’s Center to the Glen Haven cannery, the blacksmith shop, and the maritime museum? For the more artistic ranger, try journaling, drawing, and crossword puzzle activities.

Kids are always welcome on any **ranger-guided kayak trips, bike rides, and hikes**. Reservations are needed only for kayak and bike trips (call for reservations). The schedule is posted on the website and at the Visitor Center. Choose from multiple events on any given day.

Evening programs occur every night at 8 p.m. at the **Platte and D. H. Day campgrounds** or, in the case of rain, at the **D. H. Day log cabin**. The 45-minute presentations are provided by rangers who speak on a variety of topics, from lighthouses and maritime history to cultural history and natural history. A schedule of program topics is posted at the campgrounds.

There are also **evening hikes at the different trail heads**, as well as various other outings. A monthly **solar viewing** occurs from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by “**star parties**” from 9 to 11 p.m. for those who can stay up late. Check the Visitor Center for a schedule of the week’s activities.

Here are two special dates to keep in mind:

- On July 23, the National Park will hold the first ever **Astronomy Festival**, with activities all day long that cover astronomy for kids and adults, including talks, solar viewing, and a star party.
- Bring the kids to the **Port Oneida Fair** on August 12 and 13, where the farming community showcases more than 100 demonstrations that show what life was like on the farm 100 years ago. There will be blacksmithing, rope making, peg making, timber framing, live animals, soap making, and harvesting in the fields.

Get on out there and enjoy our natural areas at the National Lakeshore. There is lots to do away from the beach.

Visit [NPS.gov/slbe/Learn/KidsYouth/index.htm](http://NPS.gov/slbe/Learn/KidsYouth/index.htm) for more information and a schedule of events. Or call the Visitor Center at 231-326-4700.

## Place

Continued from page 3

photographs have anchored the back page of *The Leelanau Enterprise’s* first section and have been the images around which four books have been built. According to the Chamber, Scott’s pictures bring people to the peninsula, and business follows—which brings us back to Empire and onto asparagus.

### Ode to Asparagus

Other festivals celebrating agricultural harvests have nothing on the Empire Asparagus Festival, a true and compatible marriage of art and business. Having just completed its 13th year, the Empire festival takes place at the height of the asparagus harvest in late May. The fete was conceived as a Chamber of Commerce event to bring visitors to the village during a slower (tourist) time of year. This revenue-producing project began, however, with a budget of about zero dollars, “so whatever we did had to be self-funding or not cost anything to put on,” says Paul Skinner, chairperson of the Empire Chamber. Creative thinking on this problem yielded solutions that have become the festival’s signature events—the annual Asparagus Parade and the poetry contest.

The parade cost nothing to put on, or to participate in, Skinner says. Word went out, and people showed up with their asparagus-themed bicycles, floats, and cars. Year after year, it became an exercise in street theater, full of walking and skateboarding asparagus and other costumed tributes to the perennial vegetable. Also this year, 14 people wrote odes to the mighty spear, and 50 people attended the annual reading of those odes at the Glen Lake Community Library, according to David Diller, head librarian.

The Asparagus Festival is a bona fide hit, by all measures, Skinner says. Although it was spawned by a business need, the festival’s creative aspects never felt like a fundraising Trojan horse. In this case, the Empire Chamber thought creatively about how to celebrate a quirky, local food and found that “the art component enriched the actual festival experience—vs. having a festival full of cotton candy and Ferris wheels,” Skinner says. “I’ve had vendors call and say, ‘I can bring you 50 feet of sunglasses.’ But we weren’t about just having vendors selling sunglasses; we wanted the festival to be a celebration of asparagus, grown and created locally. Fifty feet of sunglasses just didn’t go at all.”

There are many ways to create a place. One approach, in the spirit of “50 feet of sunglasses,” is the big-box store. In December, a 9,100-square-foot dollar store was proposed to the Empire Village Planning Commission, which unanimously said “No thanks” to the idea by denying a request to rezone a residential parcel that was being eyed for the business. Commissioners and community residents said a big-box store was not the right fit for the community.

Another way to create a place identity is through creativity, locally based and sourced. According to the Project for Public Spaces, “Since creativity fuels place value, the benefits of using arts and culture to tap into a place’s unique character extend well beyond the art world”—sometimes to the main streets leading into the Village of Empire, where 18,000 daffodil bulbs bloom each spring and asparagus spears walk by.

# Buzzing

Continued from page 1

from the Upper Peninsula when the mines there closed. His father was an engineer for Chrysler, so the family traveled often, including a move to Europe for a while and later to New Orleans where, as a teenager, Kirk had his first taste of Cajun music and where he first encountered honeybees.

“While living in Louisiana, I spent a lot of time exploring in the woods and crawfishing in the bayou,” Kirk says. “That’s when I first saw honeybees, swarming in ‘wild bee trees,’ as the locals called them.”

Kirk fell in love with the bees, a love that evolved into a vocation/ lifestyle shared, with his soul mate, Sharon, who reveres bees as he does. While still a high school senior in Louisiana, he told his classmates that one day he would move to Northern Michigan, and they all laughed at him. But after graduation, he followed through on that promise and returned to his “always in your blood” home state. He attended college for a while, although that was not enough for him.

“I needed something more to do,” says Kirk, who has been called (affectionately) a ‘plate spinner,’ that is, someone who has many projects, or plates, spinning simultaneously—many ‘irons in the fire.’

In the late 1970s, Kirk became part of the “back to the land” movement, popular at that time. He started out on Covey Road in Honor. His future wife had been living on Spider Lake, and—shortly after the fellow bee-worshippers met—they joined life forces, acquired two hives and some farm animals, planted a huge organic garden, and started a family. Jones sold his first honey crop to Oryana Cooperative in Traverse City.

“I’m still with them,” he comments. “We both grew up together.”

After 10 years, the Joneses had outgrown Covey Road, relocated the business to the Honey House next to the present winery, bought an 1898 home on River Road, and eventually created BeeDazzled next door. In 1984, the couple refurbished the old barn on Pioneer Road and built the new facility. Today, six additions later, St. Ambrose Cellars will soon be home to a micro-brewery, in addition to the winery/meadery. All of the equipment is in place, paperwork completed, and the projected opening is for early fall.

“Everything begins and ends with the bees,” remarks Sharon. “Everything bees make, we use.”

Early in their bee production, Kirk experi-

mented with mead, an alcoholic beverage that dates to ancient times and is found all over the world, from northern Scandinavia to southern Africa. The word is derived from almost every conceivable language root, so popular was the drink. The percentage of alcohol might range between 6.5 and 20 percent or more, and the beverage is created by fermenting honey with water, sometimes with various fruits, spices, grains, or hops. It may be carbonated, still, sparkling, dry, sweet, or semi-sweet, but its fermentable sugar comes from honey and, as we all know, honey comes from bees.

A St. Ambrose special concoction, the “Black Madonna,” taking its name from a mythical Lithuanian tale, is a citrusy mead that is fermented with blackberries and probiotic bacteria. *The Betsie Current’s* taster—more of



Get your buzz on with a flight of mead. Photo by Jordan Bates.

a wine appreciator than an avid mead-head—found it to be delicious, but it does not replace the excellent St. Ambrose wines, all made from Michigan grapes. Ambrosia, fragrant and pleasing to the palate, was called the “food of the gods” in classical mythology, and one can see why, here at St. Ambrose Cellars. This wine is fantastic.

The Joneses researched extensively to name the facility. They were looking for an identity. The logo for St. Ambrose Cellars

was based on two icons: St. Ambrose himself, the Mila- nese patron saint of beekeepers and candlemakers, and Melissa, meaning “bee,” herself an ancient goddess whose image Sha- ron found in the British Museum in London. The result is a perfect mesh of male and female, which is the image that adorns the as- semblage of build- ings at the Cellars, beneficently wel-

coming you, the browser and the taster.

Tasting and talking, storytelling and con- viviality, meeting new people, eating and drink- ing—all of this was in the tradition of the mead

hall (think King Arthur) in the Old World. An all-purpose large building, a single room, a fes- tive gathering around a long and tall wooden table begets the scene set 1,000 years ago.

“Mead implies the gift of poetry and sweet- ness of conversation,” reflects Sharon. Meeting new people in one friendly space—the hall, or, in this case, the tasting room—results in the cheerful ambiance that brings visitors to St. Ambrose. The gathering table comes from wood that was found in the swampy waters off Apalachicola in Florida and rescued by a friend, taken to a mill, and rebuilt.

If Sharon thinks the business all comes down to the bees, Kirk would add that it is part of community—kinship and fellowship, identity and local involvement.

“We had to do all this ourselves,” Kirk says of the business. “There were no deep pockets, no outside corporate investors, but we had com- munity input and output, enthusiasm, physical help, financial and aesthetic advice. We’re here for everyone, and a lot of our business comes from word of mouth. It took a leap of faith to build in such a rural part of the county, but people like coming out here. They make the connection between the farm and where and how the products are made. Everything here is made by us.”

St. Ambrose Cellars hosts meetings, wed- dings, special events, “Sip ‘n Dab” (tasting and painting), and is open seven days a week all year long. There are 40 employees, and turnover is low. There are beekeepers, honey harvesters and packers, administrative, personnel, sales, shipping, accounting, tasting room and kitchen staff, maintenance, grounds and inventory personnel. The Joneses’ daughter, Winona, is the coordinator for weddings and other events, and the business has hired a winemaker, Matt Frolo, who has been trained by three different winemakers. There are two tasting-room man- agers and a culinary degree holder handling the paninis and other tasty food offerings. Alfredo Improvisational Quartet is the house band, and there is usually live music on weekends.

“People here have an opportunity to express themselves. [The employees] took ownership, and I took a backseat,” Kirk says modestly. “They do their job. I can leave and know that everything will be done [safely, correctly, and creatively.]”

According to Corky Norman, the most recent hire, “Kirk Jones is the best boss I’ve ever had.”

This is such an entertaining and enjoyable place to visit, where everyone is either tasting and socializing or bustling about with Jones- like energy and enthusiasm—as busy as... well... bees.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 10—“The Crush,” an annual celebration of Benzie County, hosted by St. Ambrose Cellars. Visit them online at [StAmbroseCellars.com](http://StAmbroseCellars.com), in person at 841 Pioneer Road, Beulah, or call 231-882-4262.

**2015 ArtPrize Grand Prize Winners**  
Steve & Ann Loveless'  
Newest PhotoFiber™ Creation  
and other new works are available at

**STATE OF THE ART**  
FRAMING & GALLERY  
EXPERT FULL SERVICE CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING

**"Autumn White Birch Forest"**  
Photography and Textile 120" x 40"  
261 S. Benzie Blvd Beulah MI 49617  
231-882-0200  
[www.StateOfTheArt.Gallery](http://www.StateOfTheArt.Gallery)  
[www.SteveLovelessPhotography.com](http://www.SteveLovelessPhotography.com)  
[www.QuiltsByAnn.com](http://www.QuiltsByAnn.com)

**can't LIVE without BOOKS**

**Downtown Frankfort 352-9720**

**BENZIE-CALENDAR.COM**  
**BENZIE-CALENDAR.COM**

**KIDDER PAINTING SERVICES**  
• Interior/Exterior Painting • Powerwashing  
• Deck Sealing/Staining  
**SERVING NW MICHIGAN • FULLY INSURED**  
**231.651.0302**

**2016 ARTS FESTIVAL**  
INTERLOCHEN Presents

**JULY PERFORMANCES**

July 1 & 2  
*Romeo & Juliet*  
Interlochen Shakespeare Festival

Sunday, July 3  
World Youth Symphony Orchestra  
with JoAnn Falletta

Monday, July 4  
The Glenn Miller Orchestra

Tuesday, July 5  
The Capitol Steps

July 5, 6 & 7  
*Circle Mirror Transformation*  
Interlochen Shakespeare Festival

Friday, July 8  
Kyle Abraham/Abraham.  
in.Motion

July 8 & 9  
*Romeo & Juliet*  
Interlochen Shakespeare Festival

Saturday, July 9  
An Evening with Sarah Jarosz

Sunday, July 10  
World Youth Symphony Orchestra  
with JoAnn Falletta

Monday, July 11  
The King's Singers

Thursday, July 14  
Béla Fleck and Chris Thile

Friday, July 15  
Brandi Carlile and Old Crow  
Medicine Show

Sunday, July 17  
World Youth Symphony Orchestra  
with Christopher Rountree

The Dan Zanes Song Gusto Hour

Monday, July 18  
Gregg Allman and Peter Frampton

Tuesday, July 19  
An Evening with HUEY LEWIS AND  
THE NEWS

Sybarite5 "Look Back, Move  
Forward"

Saturday, July 23  
Interlochen "Collage"

Sunday, July 24  
World Youth Symphony Orchestra  
with Joshua Weilerstein and  
Zuill Bailey

Monday, July 25  
Kris Bowers

Tuesday, July 26  
An Evening with Lyle Lovett  
and his Large Band

Wednesday, July 27  
Rick Springfield, "Stripped Down"

Friday, July 29  
Jay Leno

Saturday, July 30  
Lindsey Stirling

Sunday, July 31  
World Youth Symphony Orchestra  
with Carlos Kalmar and Conrad Tao

**AUGUST PERFORMANCES**

Tuesday, Aug. 2  
Jake Shimabukuro

Aug. 4, 5, 6 & 7  
*Catch Me if You Can*  
High School Musical Theatre Co.

Sunday, Aug. 7  
World Youth Symphony Orchestra  
and Les Préludes with Jung-Ho Pak

Tuesday, Aug. 9  
Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo and Melissa  
Etheridge

Friday, Aug. 12  
Martina McBride Live in Concert

Aug. 15, 17 & 20  
Ensō String Quartet

Sunday, Aug. 28  
BUDDY GUY AND JONNY LANG  
IN CONCERT

[tickets.interlochen.org](http://tickets.interlochen.org)  
800.681.5920

SURF SHOP & APPAREL / RENTALS / LESSONS

LIVE THE FRESHWATER LIFE



231.326.9283 (WAVE)  
sbsurfandkayak.com  
Empire, Michigan



Elberta's TAQUERIA  
A Northern Delight  
231.383.5156  
OPEN DAILY 9:30AM  
M-22  
ELBERTA, MICHIGAN



City of Frankfort  
Municipal Marina  
Fuel • Ice • Pumpouts  
Transients & Seasonal Slips  
Marina Manager: Jeff Mallory  
(231) 651-0603 • 606 Main Street

Orchard House  
Assisted Living Apartments



Beautiful place.  
Beautiful people.  
651-0473  
www.ColbysOrchardHouse.com

# Northern Michigan Authors Remember Jim Harrison

## Views on legendary Jim Harrison

By Jacob Wheeler  
Current Editor

Jim Harrison lived for 35 years near Lake Leelanau before he moved to Livingston, Montana, and wintered in Arizona. Known for books like *Legends of the Fall* and *Revenge*, Harrison’s best-selling novellas, novels and poetry about the wilds and wild characters of Northern Michigan represented our region to worldwide audiences. He was big in France. His words also spoke to Americans who had never set foot in the forests and trout streams of the mitten state. (My friend Tim, an Italian-American kid from Brooklyn, already had a perception of this region before he visited for the first time to attend my wedding in 2008. The Northern Michigan he knew was shaped by Harrison’s novels, which sit on his bookshelf in Chicago alongside those of New York Jewish writers Chaim Potok and Philip Roth.)

Because this setting appears prominently in his work, Harrison was often falsely compared to Ernest Hemingway. In fact, as writers and writing teachers know, Hemingway’s hallmark was writing short, simple sentences. (“The old man cursed the fish.”) Whereas Harrison’s prose and imagery were a tour down a winding dirt road—by the end of the journey, the reader coughed from the dust and wept at the loneliness that Harrison had evoked.

Jim Harrison passed away on March 26, 2016, at the age of 78. Two days after his passing, our sister publication, the *Glen Arbor Sun*, reached out to the following local writers who had known the famed author. We asked how Harrison had affected them personally, as well as how he affected Northern Michigan writing, in general.

Michael Delp, writer, poet, former creative writing teacher at Interlochen Arts Academy, Boardman River bard



Jim was a force unto himself, deeply cosmic and just as deeply earthly. He could stand with one foot in the river and the other on another planet and be perfectly comfortable navigating the distances between, then weave those various locations and celestial associations into virtually any form of the three genres he inhabited so elegantly. He was beyond a lion, and, in fact, was an entirely different species, though he would surely say in no uncertain terms that he preferred the bird’s life to anything else. I came by his work in the late ’60s, picked it up, thought he was speaking directly to me, and I never stopped treating his writing as sacred text. I used it, and still do, almost as a daily devotional of a sort. Every day, I remind myself that “we are more than dying flies in a shit house, though we are that, too.” I taught his work for 40 years in all kinds of classrooms, and my students held him to their wild hearts, using his words as soul food to fuel their own hormonal flights into what they were told was enemy territory. Jim taught them the exact opposite. I suspect that more than one writer is working through the humus of how they relate to Jim’s work,



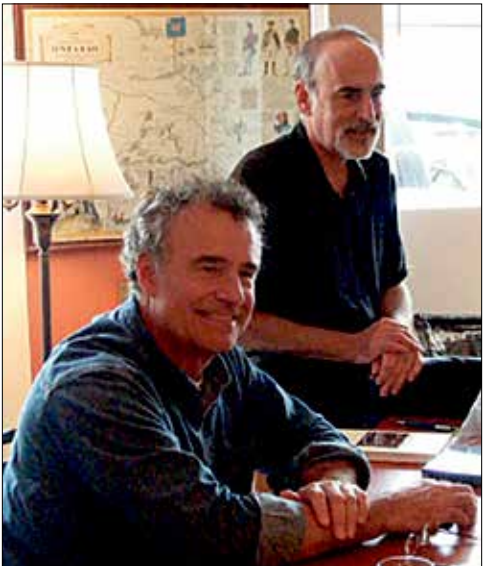
Jim Harrison, the late writer, captured our wilds and wild characters for a worldwide audience.

and what it means to them now that he has left for the stars. As for me, I know he is mixed up in my DNA: he worked on me at a biological, molecular, even an atomic level. It would be necessary to send more than blood samples to some exotic underground lab for me to find out, knowing full well that there is literally some brain tissue where he set up camp and never left. If writers have a sense of audience—beyond their loved ones and their progeny—Jim was mine. I often thought of him while I worked, and he surely has had a marked effect on who and what I am as a writer. That is not to say I wanted to emulate him, for no one can do that with any writer. But, I praise his ability to see so clearly, so honestly, and so consistently.

This winter, I engaged in a full-out writing assault on Facebook, offering up what I call “deck sentences” (a reason for the names escapes me now), and Jim was certainly the target of them, as well as a select few people I long for in my heart. This one is for Jim:

*Early morning deck sentence: For Jim*  
Either everything counts or nothing does, no middle ground these days, yet I navigate the dark, tangled river between these two countries, never knowing which side to set up camp, build a fire, and find enough words in the coals to continue on... tonight, a clear, dark sky, the entire constellation of Sagittarius flared and then disappeared, vanished, and I thought I heard the giant hooves of God’s horse either approaching or riding away, wondered what the difference was between them, wanting more than ever for it to be on His way toward me, readying myself prepared to be scooped up and carried in those warm saddlebags, Jim’s voice steadying the ride.

Jerry Dennis, author



Jim and I were acquaintances. We chatted when we ran into each other, but our only lengthy conversation was two hours over the

phone for an interview we did for *Traverse Magazine* in 2014. We never fished or hunted or drank together. But that didn’t matter to me. What I had was his work. Off and on for 35 years, he has been my favorite author. “Off and on” because periodically I grew disenchanted. With the teenaged butts, for instance. With the thousand-dollar lunches. Ten years ago, my buddy Dan Donarski and I were drinking Budweiser around a campfire and worked ourselves into a froth over the food porn. It was a betrayal to people like us, who could never afford a sliver of truffle, let alone a hunk the size of an apple. We swore we were done with him. Then a week later, I read *The Summer He Didn’t Die*, and, oh shit, the guy’s a genius. And I started devouring every word again.

What I return to over and over is the poetry. Every time a new collection appeared, I read it straight through two or three times, then kept diving in, again and again. One winter, I read all the poems in sequence, from the first collection to the latest. It was an amazing experience. I recommend it. From youth to old age, the honesty is there, as are the rawness, the artlessness, the absolute assurance, the voice stripped of affectation. You won’t find any tricks, no showing off, no efforts to impress or be coy, clever, or “literary.” The poems are nothing but pure soul, I think.

And, yes, thoughts of death seemed never far from his mind. Keep it in our own minds, he said, and we’ll remember to pay attention, to live big, to embrace the world and one another, to not waste ourselves on trifles. That might be his greatest gift to us.

P.J. Grath, bookseller at Dog Ears Books in Northport



I didn’t know Jim Harrison in Hollywood meetings or Paris lunches of many hours and many courses. I knew Jim and Linda at home,

in their old farmhouse down the road from Lake Leelanau, with their daughters and their friends, their dogs and cats and gardens, and, long ago, Linda’s horse, later, her pet rescued crow. Also, memorably, at the Bluebird in Leland.

When we first met, the Harrisons were driving a car missing one of the back windows, the glass replaced by cardboard held in with duct tape, a car that exemplified the phrase “winter beater,” though they drove it in all seasons. This was before Hollywood money allowed the remodeling of the old house. Even then, Jim told me proudly that he always kept plenty of good food in the refrigerator and pantry. He might skimp on other things but never on food. Years later, when a number of friends were assembled in the house for a dinner party during sweetcorn season, Jim gave the signal to a handful of us to run out and pick the corn only when the water in the pot had reached a full, rolling boil.

Was that the same year that younger daughter Anna was feeling somewhat under the weather and requested duck broth? Linda observed with a wry smile that the family food obsessions had “created a monster.” (Not so. Like her mother, choosing a lightly traveled road, Anna married a poet.) And was that also the same time—somehow they blend together in memory, mental snapshots from different years and seasons all jumbled—that I hauled my Correcting Selectric III from Kalamazoo to Lake Leelanau to type a sheaf of new poems for a book Jim was putting together?

It’s true that Jim Harrison lived a big life. What is missing in all of the public obituaries, though, for me—and I realize the public at large might not care so much—are the workman, the husband, and the father. I remember older daughter Jamie’s high school graduation party, with tables set out all over the front yard at the farmhouse. (Jamie also became a writer.) And I can see Jim, standing at the kitchen counter in the morning, barefoot, wearing shorts and a loose, untied bathrobe. There is a cat stalking the counter, and Jim is having his first cup of coffee and cigarette of the day while discussing the cat and the day’s menu for lunch with Linda. Soon he will get dressed and go out to the granary, his office, to spend hours at work, undisturbed.

The year I took the typewriter to his house to type the poems, we walked out to the granary together. It felt strange, accompanying the poet to his usually solitary hermitage. Besides, there were the poems.

“I feel as if I’ve been reading your diary,” I told him.

“You have been,” he said.

And then we worked. No goofing around. When Jim worked, he worked. Two new books out just this year, *Dead Man’s Float* (poems) and *The Ancient Minstrel* (novellas).

We heard on *NPR* that Harrison told an interviewer once he was sick of irony in modern literature and that he would rather take the risk of being thought “corny” for exploring the full range of human sentiment than “dying a smartass.” He could be a smartass at times, in social situations, but his writing came always from the heart, undisguised. And he got his work done.

Bless you, Jimmy! Our world was larger because you were in it and is smaller now without you and Linda.

**Kurt Luedtke, Academy Award winner for *Out of Africa* screenplay; former *Detroit Free Press* editor**



I don’t think I knew Jim well. I was coming into the movie business at about the time he was leaving it, so we crossed paths and knew some of the same people. My memory is that he was often kind to me, including me in things. Giving me credit for knowing things I didn’t know.

I read almost all Jim’s stuff and thought his prose was better than his screenplays and his poetry remarkable. Jim and Hollywood were a fair fight; who won I suppose depends on how you think about these things.

An unusual number of the people who reviewed his novels seemed to think that men who wrote and walked in the woods must be critically located somewhere in a Hemingway genre, which I thought was not very careful thinking. I thought Jim’s sensibilities were delicate, often feminine. Whatever that means.

Jim and I and some other people were in the bar in the Townsend Hotel, down the street from our house in Birmingham. Jim was on a book tour, which he hated, and the rest of us were there to put him to bed. There was a woman, quiet, not with us, and her husband, overstuffed and ignorant. At some point, the woman slipped away, perhaps to the ladies room—but she didn’t return. I hardly noticed. Much later, Jim told me that it was her disappearance which gave rise to his *Dalva*, which some think his best novel.

Back in the day, some writers incorporated themselves so they could fund their own self-directed, tax-deferred pension plans. I did. Jim did. I put my pension money in bonds. Jim bought the quite large, quite expensive wine cellar of a Lansing-area dentist which might have appreciated some more if it had aged a while longer. In later years, Jim would say he was still working because he’d consumed his pension.

Jim must’ve had lots of stories but he didn’t tell them around me, maybe not anybody. I thought, ‘Maybe he’d rather write them than tell them.’ Around me, he was more a commentator than a storyteller, full of aperçus, some cryptic, some elaborate. He had an enormous working vocabulary and a huge store of adjectives and adverbs. At one time, the word of choice was “swinish.” It was interesting to see how a mind like that can so effortlessly use “swinish” in ordinary conversation.

It’s said that Jim was at his desk, working out a poem, when he died. I hope that’s true.

**Ray Nargis, longtime Michigan writer, Beach Bard, currently lives in Calistoga, California**  
Like many, I first heard of Jim Harrison



long before I read anything by him. In the fall of 1973, I interviewed Allen Ginsberg and his longtime lover, Peter Orlovsky, for the student newspaper *CM Life* at Central Michigan University. Ginsberg was there for a reading, and we spent a rainy afternoon at the home of my fine poetry teacher, Eric Torgersen, smoking weed and chatting.

I wanted to know about Kerouac, Snyder, and the rest of The Beats, but Ginsberg started talking about some new Michigan writers he’d heard about or met. One was Tom McGuane and the other some bricklayer/poet named Harrison. McGuane, I’d heard, had written some stoner *Opus Magnus* about Key West called *Ninety-Two In The Shade* and was moving to Montana. Harrison was from Reed City and had produced three collections of poetry, most famously *Letters To Yesenin* that had just come out and was, according to

Ginsberg, “brilliant.”

By the summer of 1975, I’d moved to the hippy section (Vine Street) in Kalamazoo and was buying cocaine from a guy on Portage Lake whose sobriquet was “Fox” and turned out to be Tim Allen. I was also starting to write poetry and hanging out with local musicians: Terry Thorne, Stu Mitchell, and Penny Williams. We all loved “The Writer’s Series” in the library at Kalamazoo College, which John Woods and Conrad Hilberry had helped start, and that fall, I got to hear McGuane read from his screenplay, *Rancho Deluxe*.

He also waxed ecstatic about his buddy: of Jim Harrison’s forthcoming novel, called *Farmer*, McGuane said, “It would eclipse anything any Michigan writer had ever produced.”

Flash forward to the fall of ’75, and I’m on a walkabout in Suttons Bay, sitting in Boone’s Prime Time Pub, considering moving north. By then, I’d seen a picture of Jim Harrison in some newspaper article, read some of his work, and knew he lived in the area.

And in he walked. Rubber boots, bird hunting Carhartt jacket, massive head and torso winnowing down to almost dainty legs. He stank of wet dog, gun bluing, and cigarettes; swept the room with a wild-eyed reptilian gaze (I didn’t know he was blind in one eye); and, like a raptor, satisfied that his territory held no usurpers, ordered two fingers of Seagram’s VO. I expected a deeply resonant, basso profundo explosion of a voice, but what came out was a highly pitched, mountain-lion-baby scream from just below his Fu Manchu mustache. As if Truman Capote had gargled with barbed wire. He looked like a Mexican bandito that someone had recently fished out of a murky lake. ‘This,’ I remember thinking, ‘should be interesting.’

**Anne-Marie Oomen, author, poet, former chair of Interlochen Arts Academy’s creative writing department**

In the early ’80s, he sat across the bar at



Boone’s in Suttons Bay and occasionally made lewd remarks to the waitress, and when I asked who he was, my shock could not have been greater—that’s Jim Harrison? I promptly began eavesdropping. He fascinated me with conversation just loud enough that I knew for sure he wasn’t a reckless drunk—though he did drink. And it would be easy to call him the proverbial bad boy, but he was more than that—you could tell by the vocabulary and the clarity. After that first encounter, I went home and read *Farmer*, the quietest and, in some ways, truest of his novels.

After that, we ran into each other in the way of Leelanau County folk, at bars (particularly Dick’s Pour House and the Bluebird) and literary events. We met each other formally at the Hemingway conference, where one evening he spoke on the Milliken stage with John Voelker, who published under the name Robert Traver (*Anatomy of a Murder*). His sloppy apparel contrasted with Traver’s dapper dress, but it was one of the

Please see Jim on page 12

CRESCENT  
BAKERY

Life is Fun. Eat it Up.

Online Ordering Now Available!

For your Breakfast and Lunch  
Coffee Subscriptions & More!

Visit us at  
www.CrescentBakery.com

STOP IN FOR

Donuts, Fresh Baked Pastries,  
Pies and Cheesecakes,  
Artisan Breads, Cakes and Cupcakes,  
Soft Buttery Pretzels and Bagels,  
Breakfast, Lunch and House-Made Soups  
A Full Espresso Bar,  
And an Amazing Dessert Selection!

Visit Often, Free WIFI  
Extraordinary Year’Round Service

404 Main St • Downtown Frankfort  
231-352-4611

On the Betsie Valley Trail  
in the Village of Elberta  
5 Hours of Fun!! \$30  
Any Combination of 5 Hours  
of Bike and Kayak Rental  
Good for 7 Days After Purchase

Conundrum Cafe  
Elberta, Michigan

Bike & Lunch Special  
\$50  
4 Hours Biking,  
2 Sandwiches,  
Chips and Beverage

(231) 352-8150  
www.conundrumcafe.com

US 31 in Benzonia • 231-882-9631

The  
ROADHOUSE  
Mexican Bar & Grill  
Go Mexican, Go Roadhouse!™

Open Daily at 4pm  
Happy Hour  
Monday – Friday, 4 – 6pm  
RoadhouseSalsa.com

ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS AT OUR HONOR LOCATION

HONOR  
ONEKAMA  
BUILDING SUPPLY, INC.

50 Years

www.honorbldgsupply.com

231-325-4551  
10635 Main Street in Honor

GREAT FOOD,  
FREE SMILES.  
OPEN DAILY 11 AM - 8 PM

THE CHERRY HUT

A Northern Michigan Tradition  
Since 1922

211 N. Michigan Ave. (US 31) Beulah, MI 49617 231-882-4431 CHERRYHUT.COM



*The Hotel Frankfort*

**Lodging, Dining, Bar and Events**



**231 Main Street, Frankfort**  
**231-352-8090**  
**www.thehotelfrankfort.com**

**“Come as a Guest, Leave as a Friend”**

Serving Dinner from 4 pm and  
Sunday Brunch from 10 am  
Reservations Recommended

Restaurant open May-November



**Crystal Lake Community Business Association**  
PO Box 704 Beulah, MI 49617  
www.clcba.org

**June 30th – August 18th (every Thursday)**

**Music in the Park**

**Downtown Beulah at Beulah Village Park on beautiful  
Crystal Lake – 7 PM**

**Visit clcba.org for more events!**

**PAUL GERHART**



**TREE SERVICE**  
**989-600-7452**



**INTRODUCING**

**3RD**

**THURSDAY**

*Benefit Nights*

**2016**

**FILM ★ ART ★ FOOD ★ DRINKS ★ MUSIC**

*Please Join Us*

**THURSDAY ★ JULY 21**

**5:30 TO 8:00 P.M.**

**BENEFITING BACN** BENZIE AREA CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

**ART** BY PEGGY HAWLEY &  
SUNBEAMS OF PROMISE PETOSKEY STONE JEWELRY

**MUSIC** BY OH BROTHER, BIG SISTER

**FOOD** BY SUZ McLAUGHLIN

**DRINK** BY STORMCLOUD BREWING CO.

**HOSTED BY**

**BETSIIE BAY FURNITURE**

231.352.4202 ★ 311 MAIN ST. ★ FRANKFORT, MI 49635

**EXPLOREBETSIIEBAY.COM**

Jim

Continued from page 10

smartest on-stage conversations I have been present to, ever, though he repeatedly grabbed his left shirt pocket for cigarettes that were no longer welcome on stage.

Though I remained ambivalent about his novels, I discovered his poetry. I knew this poet had a stunning sense of idea and rich understanding of the internal landscape as a wild reflection of the natural world.

In the '90s, my husband and I purchased, with several friends, a plot of land on Peanut Lake in the Upper Peninsula, and on weekends we hung out at the Dunes Saloon, where he came in on Sunday nights to use the pay phone and sit at table. He made a place for David and me at that table. There, after the long walks with his dogs in the woods, he held court—no other way to say it. At first, I had hoped to have a conversation with Jim; I didn't understand that one had a listen with Jim and counted it excellent, and I learned to feel grateful for it. Though he welcomed us and was kind and generous, he was clearly the one leading the talk—no matter who else was at the table, and there were some names there. I realized I could not have kept up with that amazing mind anyway, that I had little to offer to the breadth of that intellect, and that I should shut up, sip my wine, and take in whatever I could. I did.

He taught me there are some people who are bigger than this world, who make their way anyway. My place was to read his poetry and to think about poems, and that is what I have attempted. Poorly perhaps, but consistently. I could never match his poet's bigness, but I am grateful for his iconic presence, his literary shadow that brushed over us. I bow to it in this time of his going, which it is said he did while writing a poem.

Doug Stanton, best-selling author, founder of National Writers Series

Since I was 14 years old, I had been aware



of his writing, his presence. I hadn't spoken to him in a while. Today, I've had a number of moments where I've taken a walk and remembered the funny and entertaining things we did with Jim when I started my career as a writer. Driving his Land Rover from Lake Leelanau to Patagonia, when he knew I was broke and employed me as his driver. He had just completed the screenplay Wolf. It had been approved; we went to dinner, and he was really thrilled.

My reaction to his passing is that, for a lot of people, he provided a unifying theory which is to be authentic and true to one's self. And to be creative. It's why he was so charismatic. People sensed that about him. I remember going at 4:15 one day to Dick's Pour House with Nick Reens and Jim. I kind of realized in retrospect that it was another forum of tutelage... This guy was so smart and fascinating. I realized, 'I'm going to learn how to be in the world by being in a world

alongside him, even if it just means having a beer alongside the shuffleboard table at Dick's.' Conversations with him were symphonic. We'd be talking about a South American bird, a Russian poet, and the Batman movie starring his friend Jack Nicholson. It was thrilling to try to keep up! I didn't often succeed.

Jim was this almost contradictory person in that he was very public but also very private. I remember we were together at [Paris Review founding editor] George Plimpton's apartment in New York. There was the sunken office, famous for a Truman Capote scene. I had gotten a job at Esquire, because Jim had come to my and Anne's wedding in Northport and given me the name of an editor there. I went to New York and got hired, and then traveled around the world. I ended up in some real interesting places.

He was always helping people in one way or another. He had a great deal of empathy for people from all walks of life. He was able to talk with almost everyone. He was the first writer I ever met. He and my father went to grade school together in Reed City... To meet Jim was a powerful experience. Traverse City was not the place then that it is today. I would see him at Horizon Books. They would front him free books when he couldn't foot the bill. When he left, there was an energy that left the room.

The National Writers Series was created to continue to have really fascinating experiences with writers. But also to do for others what he did for me when I started out. That's why we bring these visiting writers into local classrooms. ... His spirit and generosity truly inspired what I've tried to do on a volunteer basis with writers and writing. Still, I'm feeling confused. I'm very sad at his passing.

For a long time—aside from a few people at Interlochen, Kathleen Stockin,g and the Beach Bards network—Jim was the only member of the writers club up here. He had a style that you could fool yourself into thinking you could imitate. But it would never really work. Because Jim wrote so naturally that it seemed effortless. In some ways it was. I went to the cabin in the U.P. to visit and interview him. He'd write in longhand on a legal tablet, and he made it seem to be an enjoyable activity. At the end of which you'd get to treat yourself by going to the Dune Saloon [in Grand Marais] and having a drink. He wrote all the time.

He became a high-water mark in our area for dedication to one's craft and also to a certain kind of range.

He was almost philosophical and sensitive. The French really liked him because he was like a philosopher and man of action. He also had a great B.S. monitor. I'm thinking of his memoir called Off to the Side. He was that third pronoun, keeping others honest. And when it came to political debate, he was never afraid to speak his mind. I've never met someone who was so sarcastic but at the same time had such a big smile on his face.

Kathleen Stocking, author

The thing that people love about writers



is not them—since all of them are flawed and some of them are ridiculous—it's their ability to see into the mystery of existence. Writers are the shamans of our time.

That's what I loved about Jim Harrison. His poetry, his willingness to be eaten by a bear or drown in a river while fishing, to risk

everything to get at the essence of what it felt like to be out in the woods, to be human—that’s what made him and his writing unlike anyone else’s. Yes, Thoreau and Whitman wrote about nature, but they were city boys compared to Jim. He was all backwoods. His sense of the earth’s joy and sorrow are unexcelled. Only Harrison could have written:

*Amid pale green milkweed, wild clover,  
a rotted deer,  
curled shaglike,  
after a winter so cold  
the trees split open.  
I think she couldn’t keep up with  
the others (they had no place  
to go) and her food,  
frozen grass and twigs,  
wouldn’t carry her weight.  
Now, from bony sockets,  
she stares out on this  
cruel luxuriance.*

Back in the 1960s, my mother had Jim Harrison and Gary Snyder come speak to her students. She was the diva of the English Department at the Traverse City High School. I asked her, “What was Jim Harrison like?” She answered, “Trying very hard to be normal.” Jim was not normal. He was a wilderness savant. Snyder, for all his having grown up in a lumber camp on the West Coast, was more civilized.

My first venture into journalism was an interview with Jim Harrison. When I told him that I had never interviewed anyone before, he observed dryly, “So I’m your guinea pig.” He was poor then, fending off bill collectors on the phone as we talked. He could have been a university professor and a writer, but he had too much integrity and so was starving and contemplating suicide instead. Luckily, he had just won a Guggenheim. His tiny daughter Anna breezed past, ignoring her father, insouciant in the way only children can be. He loved that. He imitated her little brush-off wave of her little hand.

He was funny. He showed me a poster of Chief Joseph on the wall of his back shed. He showed me a dead wasp he had taped there and said, “To give it hidden meaning.” He was serious, too. He explained, by quoting James Joyce, how he was able to write. Joyce, who had a schizophrenic daughter, had said, “She falls. I dive.” Harrison was a diver and he dove deeper than anyone around. He also showed me the bare buttocks of a calendar girl and shared that he fantasized doing her from behind. Of course he loved his wife; saying loutish things was his way of keeping women at a distance. It worked.

I didn’t see Harrison again until my family moved to Lake Leelanau, and he would sometimes come by to visit my husband. I was fat and dumpy by this time, living in squalor. One day he came, unannounced, the living room filled with boxes I’d set up for my rambunctious three-year-old to crawl through while I worked a pint of ice cream, busily knitting my own enormous flesh burka around my too-small bones. We lived in the same community, but—other than those few visits he made to talk to my husband—I never saw him.

By this time Harrison was famous and rich, having written several successful novels and screenplays. He was one of the few writers out there who had the courage to work the seams of America’s creepy history of extermination of the Indians, destruction of the land. His way of seeing—with himself and people small in the context of something much larger and more unknowable—was powerful.

“What if I own more paperclips than I’ll ever use in this lifetime,” he writes in Letters to Yesenin. “My other possessions are shabby: the house half painted, the car without a muffler, one dog with bad eyes and the other a horny moron. Even the baby has a rash on her neck, but then we don’t own humans.”

Out in the community, people would drop his name, especially the wealthy tourists, the

ones who called him “Jimmy” and imagined that they hung out with him at the Bluebird, the ones you knew had probably never read his books or spoken to him, since no one called him Jimmy. A lot of people wanted to say they knew him. It seemed fatuous to me, but then I realized it was their way of paying tribute.

Harrison was the real thing, the genuine article, a writer, the living link to the terrifying places no one wants to see, and people wanted to claim proximity. Of course, he misfired sometimes. That’s the nature of the work. But that he could do it at all and, in his case, do it well, was sufficient proof of his incredible gifts. He will be missed.

**Norm Wheeler, runs the Beach Bards bonfire in Glen Arbor, co-editor of the Glen Arbor Sun, recently retired English teacher at The Leelanau School.**

Anna Harrison graduated from Leelanau



School in 1989 after two years with us, and Jim Harrison delivered the graduation speech one sunny Memorial weekend. It was the first time I saw him in a suit. He said, “Your school motto says ‘Straight as the Pine, Sturdy as the Oak’. That kinda limits your mobility, doesn’t it?”

Jim always had the right words. I got to know him during those two years, because he’d visit my class to read some new poems or I’d see his car down at Art’s Tavern in Glen Arbor and stop to get a beer and eat popcorn, slathered in hot sauce, with Jim and Nick Reens. We also went to Grand Marais those summers, and he’d come into the Dune Saloon for a nightcap. He’d walk back into the kitchen, then come out and smack two balls of raw hamburger meat on the bar for his dogs waiting out in the Range Rover, sit next to me, and order up a VO. And talk. It was the most interesting talk I ever heard, full of philosophical meanderings, stories from the West Michigan childhood we shared (he was from Reed City, I was from Shelby), brilliant improvisations on the writers he loved (Lorca, Matthiessen, Yesenin, Machado), delicious and salacious bad-boy wisecracks about T & A, and tales of monumental meals.

Jim’s talk wandered through all of the profound themes and perfect quips that his writing does. His voice and cadence were as unique and unforgettable as the words that came out of his mouth. Forever after, whenever I am reading Jim’s poems, fiction, memoirs or essays, I hear his voice like he’s talking to me, the same reedy lilt, the same laughter and lingering over his favorite words: “banaaal”, for example, or “schooshers” (for ski enthusiasts). He talked about a lot of the things that ended up in his books later:

the time he met Orson Wells for dinner in New York and, after several courses and several bottles of prime wine, had to head for the men’s room to put his finger down his throat so that he could continue; the way Matthiessen returned from his The Snow Leopard trek in Tibet still walking on air when Jim met him in New York; or careening at top speed through the Everglades, armed and loaded with Jimmy Buffet. So when I read Jim I swear I hear his voice, because it’s like he told me this before, like he was saying it out loud before he wrote it down.

My wife, Mimi, and I had a couple of unforgettable meals with Linda and Jim at their place near Lake Leelanau. Linda was the sweetest, kindest person ever. I joined Doug and Anne Stanton at Anna’s wedding in Livingston, officiated by Zen priest Peter Matthiessen, and I also met Peter Fonda, Tom McGuane, Tim Cahill, and Doug Peacock. I couldn’t believe I was partying at the Murray Hotel surrounded by these guys! And the last time I saw Linda and Jim, we visited their place in Patagonia with Suzanne Wilson. He was always fun, brilliant, irreverent, off the wall, and all heart. He was generous. When Mimi was in Denmark for a few months around the time of her mother’s death, Jim was the only friend who offered to help us financially if we needed it. We didn’t, but I will never forget his care and concern.

Jim was never fooled by the fame that came with Legends of the Fall and his success with some of the screen plays. He said that, when he was broke and went out partying around Leland, he was labeled an alcoholic. But after he hit it big in Hollywood, people just called him “a problem drinker.” And then he’d crack out that knowing Jim snicker and squint at you, the one good eye twinkling. You never forget the times you spend with a certified genius. I got to hang with Jim Harrison.

*Read the Glen Arbor Sun’s August 1997 interview with Jim Harrison: <http://glenarborsun.com/qa-interview-with-jim-harrison-august-15-1997/>*

LAKE ANN BREWING Co.

JULY 7TH: THERRON KOKALES

JULY 9: BLIND DOG HANK

JULY 12: NEW THIRD COAST

JULY 13: COUSIN CURTISS

JULY 14: J. WINKLER & ASSOCIATES

JULY 19: NEW THIRD COAST

JULY 20: MITCH MCKOLEY

LIVE MUSIC ON THE DECK TUES, WED, THURS, 6:30-9:30

HOURS TUES-SAT, 11:30-10 P.M.

(231) 640-2327 • LAKEANNBREWING.COM

6535 FIRST STREET, LAKE ANN

MICHIGAN LEGACY ART PARK

SUMMER SOUNDS

SUMMER SOUNDS IS UNDERWRITTEN IN PART BY

Jim and Maree Mulvoy · Maurice and Linda White · Tom and Julie Dawson  
Diane Wilbur and Jim Szalay · Steve and Deona Paine

EXCEPTIONAL COFFEE FROM A WORLD OF GOOD FRIENDS.

HIGHER GROUNDS COFFEE

VISIT OUR COFFEE BAR AND ROASTERY

in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons  
806 Red Drive, Traverse City  
[highergroundstrading.com](http://highergroundstrading.com)

**Benzonia Public Library celebrates summer reading!**

Join us at BPL as we build up S.T.E.A.M.  
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics)

Register now! Weekly activities, Thursdays, 3:00pm  
Puppet shows, activities and PRIZES!!  
Register, read, attend and WIN!!  
[www.benzonialibrary.org](http://www.benzonialibrary.org)

JOHN MARSHALL

INSURANCE AGENCY

P.O. Box 199 • 209 S. Benzie Blvd.  
Benzie, Michigan 49617  
[mike-mullen@att.net](mailto:mike-mullen@att.net)

Tel: 231-882-5591  
Fax: 231-882-9349  
Toll Free: 800-607-3384

Auto-Home-Commercial-Life-Health-Disability-Investments

Try our new gyros and salads!

Main Street, Frankfort  
Right next door to the Petoskey Stone store.

FULL MENU • GREAT LAKES PERCH

Open Mic Thursdays at 9 / Karaoke Fridays at 9

CORNER OF 669 AND US-31 • 231-325-2480

**THE CRANE WIVES**  
Friday, July 1

**CHANNING & QUINN**  
Friday, July 8

**RACHAEL & DOMINIC DAVIS**  
Friday, July 15

**THE GO ROUNDS**  
Friday, July 22

**DREW HALE**  
Friday, July 29

**JOSHUA DAVIS**  
Friday, August 5

**TERRY BARBER**  
Saturday, August 13

Michigan Legacy Art Park

TICKETS & INFO

[MICHLEGACYARTPARK.ORG/EVENTS](http://MICHLEGACYARTPARK.ORG/EVENTS)  
OR CALL (231) 378-4963.

APPAREL | FOOTWEAR | GEAR | FULL SERVICE BIKE SHOP

Celebrating Over 20 Years

LARGEST INDEPENDENT STAND UP PADDLEBOARD  
{SUP} DEALER IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

CRYSTAL LAKE  
ADVENTURE SPORTS

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

SUP/BIKE/KAYAK  
Rentals  
HOURLY, DAILY & WEEKLY

DOWNTOWN BEULAH 231.882.2527

DOWNTOWN FRANKFORT RENTAL KIOSK ONE BLOCK FROM LAKE MICHIGAN

CRYSTALLAKEADVENTURESports.com

Come see what's new

SLEEPING BEAR GALLERY

10085 WEST FRONT ST. EMPIRE  
231-326-2278  
WWW.SLEEPINGBEARGALLERY.COM  
Home of the 3D color wheel book

THE SLEEPING BEAR DUNES ARE STILL HERE.

AND SO ARE WE.

408 Main Street, Frankfort  
(231) 352-7123  
www.C21SleepingBearRealty.com

Suzy Voltz  
suzy@sleepingbearrealty.com  
231 651-9711

BAYSHORE TIRE & AUTO

• NEW TIRES • USED TIRES •  
• BRAKES •  
• ALL AUTO REPAIRS •

STEVE HUBBARD

620 Frankfort Ave.  
Elberta, MI 49628

(231) 352-4262  
Fax (231) 352-7209

www.BayshoreTireAndAuto.com

BayShoreTireAndAuto@gmail.com

# African-American Pioneers in Benzie County

Their imprint on our collective history

By Kathleen Stocking  
Current Contributor

This year, the National Park Service is celebrating its centennial. Parks around the nation have launched a social media-driven #FindYourPark campaign to excite millennials and young Americans about their natural and public treasures. The strategy appears to be working. Here in Northern Michigan, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore posted record visitation numbers last year in the run up to the 100th birthday of the NPS. [NOTE: Sleeping Bear itself was born in the 1970s.]

One element of the campaign is to connect youth—urban youth in particular—with their National Parks. Another is to recognize the under-acknowledged role that Africans Americans played in places and events now preserved by our parks. An episode last month of the NPR show “Here & Now” featured the group Outdoor Afro, which attempts to build a stronger interest by African Americans in outdoor activities such as hiking, camping and watersports, particularly in National Parks. In May, the Bright Star Touring Theatre traveled to Northern Michigan and performed “Lift Every Voice: The Black Experience in the Heartland” at Traverse City’s State Theatre and Benzonia’s Mills Community House.

For years, the instigator pushing Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to recognize the role of African-American settlers in Benzie and Leelanau counties in the late 1800s has been author, advocate, and Park namesake Kathleen Stocking. Her father, Pierce Stocking, once owned much of the land that is now our National Lakeshore, including Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive. Kathleen Stocking, who was called a rural “seer” by The New York Times in 1991 for her first book, Letters from the Leelanau, just published her latest book, The Long Arc of the Universe—Travels Beyond the Pale, about her global travels over the last 20 years. Stocking will speak, and sign copies of The Long Arc of the Universe, at the Benzie Shores District Library in Frankfort at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 22, and at The Bookstore in Frankfort at noon on Saturday, July 24.

Stocking submitted the following story to The Betsie Current about Benzie County’s African-American pioneers.

On a morning in early June, the air smells sweet, like honey or elderberry jam, down at the beach at Otter Creek in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, just south of the Benzie-Leelanau county line, at the end of Esch Road off M-22. It is the smell of the dangling cones of blossoms from the black locust trees above, mixed with the odor of the fragrant yellow flowers of the hoary puccoon. Hoary is an antiquated word for hairy and refers to the fuzzy leaves of this beautiful flower, which stands about 18 inches high, is a member of the borage family, and grows profusely up and down the beach.

Otter Creek itself tumbles brightly down out of the northeastern hills and wetlands and into Lake Michigan. The sound is faintly musical, especially when combined with the soft counterpoint, the heartbeat-like rhythmic sound of the

Photos from top to bottom: Aral School; the Batey Family; the Davis family.

lapping of the lake on the shore. Soon the tourists will arrive from all over the United States, and even other parts of the world, but right now the beach is deserted.

Otter Creek was once populated year-round, when it was the site of the lumber boomtown, Aral, a place where there was a little one-room school. A state photo shows black and white children in pioneer garb. Their teacher, barely more than a teenager, is in a wasp-waisted gingham dress.

The students would have been the children of the men who worked at the mill.

Later, the mill would be taken over by the House of David, a religious group from Benton Harbor that made money in farming, lumber, and, when baseball became all the rage, touring the country and playing for money. According to Wikipedia, the House of David played several games in Kansas City against the Negro League, made famous by Satchel Paige.

If you visit Otter Creek and the former site of Aral on a balmy spring day, before the tourists arrive, you will see nothing but a soft sand beach, the color of the inside of a white Raritan Rose peach. The inviting-looking, beautiful,

clear blue-green and dark-blue waters of Lake Michigan stretch west toward the Wisconsin shore, a shore that you know is there but cannot see with the naked eye. It is in the mind, as real as if you could see it.

We know there were African-American children in the one-room school here, because we have the photo. Like the Wisconsin shore, these children exist in our minds. We wonder about their lives. We wonder about the frontier history of this part of America.

Early Settlers, In General  
African-American homesteaders, like other immigrants, began to come into Michigan during the 1860s. Census figures compiled by Katheryn Carrier, reference librarian at the Traverse City Area District Library (TADL), reveal that some black Benzie County pioneers were farmers, like the Davis, White, Hays, Ward, and Richardson families. Some, like the Dorey and Batey families, were coopers and musicians, respectively. There were several families of black pioneers in Leelanau County, too, including the Johnsons, the Smiths, the Halls, the Skinners, and the Bostons.

Some African-American pioneers here—like the Hall and Skinner families, based on State of Michigan archival photos of students at one-room schools at Aral, Honor, Platte River, Empire, and Glen Lake—may have moved back and forth between Benzie County and Leelanau County, living and working in the various lumber camps and sending their children to whichever one-room school was in closest proximity. Michigan, an anti-slavery state, had integrated schools from the beginning. And at the time, Michigan had one of the best-funded education systems in the country, so the state was able to afford, among other things, a photographer who went around from school to school to photograph the students. (Quite a feat, considering that, by the early 1900s, there were 7,200 one-room schools in Michigan, the idea being that ever child should live within a three-mile walk of a school.)

The lumber camps in those days provided housing, hastily constructed of logs or unfinished lumber but still serviceable. Houses were heated with scrap wood from the mill. Most families had a vegetable garden and could hunt and fish. Wages were generally \$30 a month, or a dollar a day, for a laborer.

“African-American pioneers on the West Michigan logging-lumber frontier participated in, and became able contributors to, the economic and civic life of that frontier,” according to the Historical Society of Michigan.

But lumbering was hard, dangerous work. Log rolling or “rafting” was the most dangerous and difficult of all. A large lumber company might need to employ 300 hundred men in the wilderness. The men needed to be handy with an ax and good with a crosscut saw, have great stamina, and be able to withstand weather extremes—this is known. But what is known about their families?

A Well-Documented Family History  
The William Davis family homesteaded—and has the certificate to prove it—in Joyfield Township in Benzonia beginning in 1862. They were a family of loggers and farmers.

Born near the Pennsylvania-Virginia border in the decades before the Civil War, William Davis was the son of a Scot-Irish planter and his black mistress, according to Betty DeRamus in her book,

Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad. Once grown, William Davis married Mildred Brand in Philadelphia. After a time living in Ohio, the couple came north with their family, including grown son, Joseph. William Davis homesteaded 160 acres in Joyfield, and Joseph homesteaded an adjacent 160 acres.

There were no roads for the earliest pioneers. Even if a person could find a place to buy provisions, it was hard to get food stores, tools, and livestock through the wilderness and into the homesteads. One could never be assured of having a steady source of food from hunting and fishing. Usually, until homesteaders cleared enough land to grow their own food, it would have been a precarious existence. Staying warm, dry, and clean in a lean-to during a Michigan winter was a challenge for anyone, much less for small children, infants, and women who might give birth. The intrepid Davis family, however, stayed year-round from the start, unlike many of their white counterparts, who sent only the men of the family for the summer months. From May to October, white male settlers like the Shaugers of Empire would cut trees, put up a lean-to, and stake their claim, returning to their families in Ohio or Wisconsin for the winter. But not the Davis family, which arrived in 1862—they continued to grow and thrive here.

William and Mildred (Brand) Davis, who already had six children by the time that they arrived in Northern Michigan, would have three more after arriving here. This couple would take in as many as 16 children: black, white, and Native American. One, Rose, found in a gunny sack at the side of the road, would later become their son Joseph’s third wife after his first two wives died.

The Davises were pillars of the community, respected for their hard work and willingness to help neighbors. The family donated land for the Joyfield Township Cemetery and for a nearby church. When I spoke with a Davis descendant, Shelley Murphy, by phone in 2013, she said the respect of the surrounding community was a constant throughout the generations, going all the way back to 1862.

Several male offspring in the Davis family served in the U.S. military. Calvin Clark Davis passed for white in 1941 and joined the 5th U.S. Army Air Force, 90th Bombardment Group, 400th Squadron, according to author DeRamus. In 2011, the Traverse City Record-Eagle did a profile of another Davis descendant, Viet Nam veteran Calvin Murphy, who now lives in Bear Lake in nearby Manistee County.

Verna (Worden) Murphy, Calvin and Shelley’s mother, a Davis descendant, attended high school in Honor. Later, living in Virginia, Murphy described her childhood as pleasant, helped by the fact that her family was well to do.

“We were the taxi. If someone needed to go to the doctor, we could take them,” says Verna, who explains that she did not look black, though people knew her origins. “I never experienced any prejudice; maybe a little jealousy because we had a little more than some of our neighbors.”

Documenting History  
Shelley Murphy, Verna’s daughter, returns as often as she can to the Benzie Area Historical Society (BAHS) to update her family’s pioneer history. An ardent genealogist whose emails always end with the signature, “Know your roots, they

are long and strong,” she has worked to document family lore in order to make sure that descendants know their history.

Dr. Lewis Yock, previous director and archivist at the BAHS, has been an excellent source of carefully collected and preserved photos of early African-American pioneers in Frankfort, Elberta, Honor, Beulah, and Benzonia.

A photo in the BAHS archives shows one family, unidentified, all dressed up, looking as if they are on a holiday, waiting for a train at one of the many now-vanished railroad sidings.

The BAHS photo of the Batey family, also looking elegant, included several musicians, one of whom allegedly performed for Abraham Lincoln in the White House.

The dignified looking Richardson family, from the 1915 plat book, had their photo taken in Elberta. [Elberta is misspelled ‘Alberta’ in the photo caption.] The photo shows a broad-shouldered, reserved-looking patriarch surrounded by three members of his family.

A photo of one of the Skinner men sitting atop of a pile of logs shows him looking confident, even jaunty. He is wearing a large fur coat with an incongruous white ermine fur collar.

What were their lives like? How did they arrive on this frozen shore? We do not know. We can guess, we can surmise, we can extrapolate based on what we know of other black families, such as the Davis family, where there are written records and living members of the family.

But ultimately for most black pioneers, only their photos and a few census records even prove that they were here.



### Windermere Inn Bed & Breakfast

Open all year.

3 rooms all with private baths.

Breakfast in the morning.

Native fruits, granola,  
baked goods, yogurt.

231-882-9000  
windermereinn@gmail.com  
windermereinnbedandbreakfast.com

BENZIE-CALENDAR.COM  
BENZIE-CALENDAR.COM

## LAKESIDE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

PRESENTS THE 2016 SEASON



### THE WINTER'S TALE

by William Shakespeare  
July 28th, 30th and August 2nd & 4th | Preview July 26th



### THE RIVALS

by Richard Brinsley Sheridan  
July 29th, 31st and August 3rd and 5th | Preview July 27th

ALL PERFORMANCES BEGIN AT 7:00 PM, RAIN OR SHINE  
AT TANK HILL 188 PARK AVE, FRANKFORT MI 49635

TO SIGN UP FOR FREE EDUCATION WORKSHOPS VISIT  
[WWW.LAKESIDESHAKESPEARE.ORG](http://WWW.LAKESIDESHAKESPEARE.ORG)

\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION

The 2016 season is made possible by your contributions and the generous support of  
The Robert & Patricia Colby Foundation and The Seabury Foundation

# Glen Craft

## MARINA

On Beautiful Glen Lake  
Phone: 231.334.4556  
[www.glencraftmarina.com](http://www.glencraftmarina.com)  
Cobalt • Bennington



Boat Rentals, Sales,  
Service, Storage,  
Lodging, Pro Shop  
Your one-stop  
marina shop since 1946



## CLASSIC

INTERIORS & DESIGN

Dennis • Marianne • Denise • Koreen • Jarred  
[www.classicinteriorsmi.com](http://www.classicinteriorsmi.com)

7313 Crystal Avenue  
Beulah, MI 49617  
[ncjcorp@yahoo.com](mailto:ncjcorp@yahoo.com)

231.882.5881  
Fax 231.882.2310  
1.800.230.5300

## 2016 Kids Mini Camps at OAC

Imaginative Drawing - July 6 and 7

Experimental Painting & Color Theory - July 13 and 14

Exploring Sculpture - July 20 and 21

Clay Creature Habitats - July 27 and 28

Felting Fun! - August 3 and 4

Ages 6 - 9 and 10+

\$35 (\$30 Members)

\$25 Scholarships Available

OLIVER  
ART  
CENTER

132 Coast Guard Road | PO Box 1513  
Frankfort, Michigan 49635  
(231) 352-4151  
[Oliverartfrankfort.org](http://Oliverartfrankfort.org)  
[info@oliverart.org](mailto:info@oliverart.org)



# FREE SHUTTLES TO Beach Bums BASEBALL GAMES ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS



**TUESDAYS**  
2-for-1 Game Tickets  
7/19 • 7/26  
8/9 • 8/16 • 8/30

**FRIDAY**  
Fireworks \$5 Tickets  
(Benzie Bus Riders exclusive)  
7/8 • 7/15  
8/5 • 8/26

## PICK-UP RIDES AT

Family Fare	5:30 p.m.
Shop-n-Save	5:45 p.m.
Honor Bus Station	6:05 p.m.



## RESERVE YOUR RIDES TODAY!

[dispatch@benziebus.com](mailto:dispatch@benziebus.com) | 231.325.3000

**BENZIE BUS**



## BENZIE'S

# Magical History Tour

Departing Beulah Trailhead 8x/day  
& Frankfort City Hall 4x/day  
every Monday

## JUST \$5 FOR THE MAGIC

Call 325-3000 to book your place  
in history (or just show up)!



**BENZIE BUS**