

Community Resilience After the Megastorm

How Glen Arbor picked itself up

By Jacob Wheeler

Current Editor

Children splashing in the surf, live music crooning from the deck at Boonedocks, the “yum” of a mouth enjoying cherry pie. These are the typical sounds of high summer in Glen Arbor.

But during one extraordinary week this August, the sounds that dominated our town were the whirr of winds and the ugly crack of trees, followed by the buzz of chainsaws, the hum of generators, and the cheers and car honking as Consumers Energy trucks rolled into town like a liberating army.

The megastorm that pummeled Glen Arbor and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on August 2 severed hundreds and hundreds of old-growth trees; it made all roads to Glen Arbor impassable; it caused millions of dollars worth of damage; it brought the local tourism industry to a grinding halt for days on end. But, no one died, despite



The 100 mph wind shear over Sleeping Bear, just minutes before it pummeled Glen Arbor on Aug. 2. Photo by Paul May / Glen Arbor Artisans.

several near fatalities. And the storm of August 2015 left us with stories that we will share around campfires and kitchen tables for the rest of our days—long after the pages of this newspaper turn yellow.

The destruction in the wake of the storm also sounded a clarion call to action for Glen Arbor townspeople, business owners, visitors, and emergency personnel to step up and help one another. Within hours, the injured were safe; within days, the roads were clear and businesses were open again; within a week, Glen Arbor seemed back to normal, cruising along at its frenetic August pace before the tourism season ends abruptly after Labor Day weekend.

Once we clear the trees and the brush, repair the roofs and the cement, and replace the destroyed cars, the

Please see Megastory on page 2

Straight as the Pine, Sturdy as the Oak

Aftermath of Glen Arbor’s storm is a growing opportunity

By Paul Gerhart

Current Contributor

Where I went to high school, we had a motto: “Straight as the pine and sturdy as the oak.” On Sunday August 2, that school and much of the surrounding Glen Lake area was covered in pines and oaks and many other trees that could only be so strong and could only stand so straight for so long. The Leelanau School and Glen Arbor were hit by a severe storm, with winds of 100 miles per hour reportedly pummeling the sleepy town next to Sleeping Bear Dunes National

Lakeshore at the height of the summer tourist season.

Fortunately, after five 12-hour days spent climbing and cutting in the ground zero of this cataclysm, I can comfortably say that the people affected and those responding are still strong and can move straight forward on a path to restore our way of life—trees were lost, but there were no losses of life during this severe-weather event. With good teamwork and sound decision-making during this aftermath stage, so many people are doing valuable



Sawyers at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore work to re-open Glen Haven following the megastorm. Photo by Merrith Baughman, National Park Service.

work on the ground and in the trees.

By nature, I am a tree climber; by profession, I am a forester. From a young age, I have appreciated forests and the valuable services that trees can provide for people. Now, in my adult life, I have chosen to promote future forests, both rural and urban, which will maximize benefits to people and minimize costs.

So when this storm left a barrage of tree-related problems in its wake, I—along with so many other foresters in the five-county area—descended on the scene to help out.

Though it’s certainly important for us to

Please see Tree Murders on page 7

Men in Big Trucks

Experts arrive to save the day

By Beau Vallance

Current Contributor

They come in very big trucks, and they always save us from disaster. Over the 20 years that we have had our rudimentary summer cabin, they have been the heroes who come to the rescue in the nick of time. Their expertise varies. Their professionalism doesn’t.

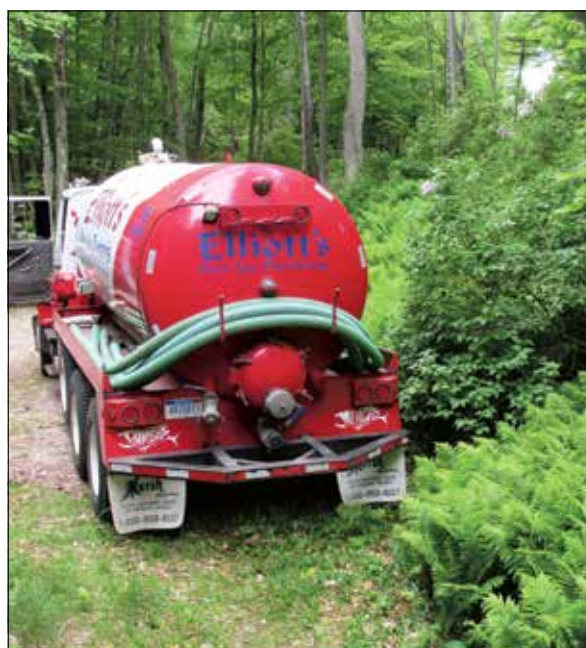
“Men in big trucks”—the phrase, the concept—comes from *Running to the Mountain*, Jon Katz’s delightful memoir about renovating an isolated cabin in Upstate New York.

Our cabin has needed many men in big trucks. Over the years, the trucks have arrived bearing the men and the logos of many local businesses, though we’ve had exceptions—one vehicle was tiny, and one job included women.

The first high-drama event with a man in a big truck involved Ron Shoebridge of

Shoebridge Well Drilling in 1995. Though plumbed, the cabin lacked a well. (Legend has it that the cabin was for the foreman of the now-dormant orchard up the hill, and the cabin had shared a well with the orchard owner’s nearby house; that arrangement had long since expired, as was evidenced by the piles of empty gallon jugs that we had found on the property when we bought it—they had most likely been used to haul water to the cabin for various purposes like cooking, cleaning, flushing.)

Ron tried several sites, even witched for them, but only found water that was too shallow for code. Nervous weeks passed, and just when we were about to give up and try to sell the dysfunctional place, he struck good water that was 320



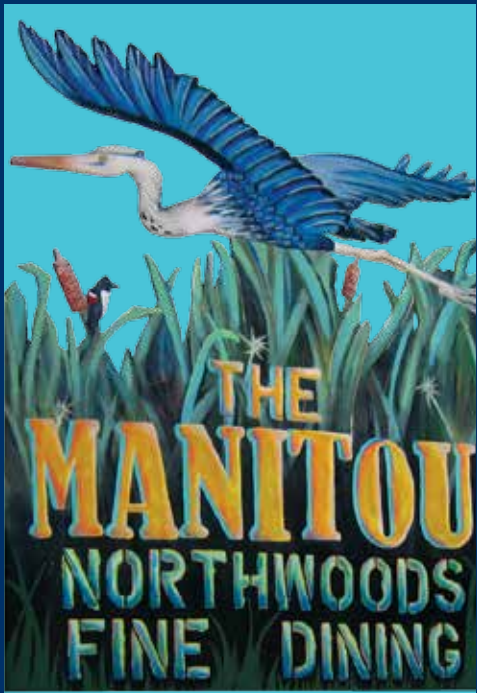
The biggest of the big trucks. Photo courtesy of Beau Vallance.

feet down—I celebrated by buying a shower curtain.

It wasn’t quite that simple, though. Trouble was that the septic system had been demolished when the shared-well arrangement expired, so Bonney Brothers arrived to dig a new septic. (Weirdly, we had opted to do this before having water installed, adding to the tension of the well-drilling adventure.) However, we needed to be sure that the septic was far enough away from the property line, so along came a surveyor (Crystal Surveying) in a somewhat smaller truck. Oh, and we needed enough power to handle all this, so Olsen Electric spent some time in our dreadful “Michigan basement” installing new circuit breakers and more power than the place had ever seen.

Eventually—with water and power now working—we needed the plumbing con-

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Megastory

Continued from page 1

casualty that remains will be the gaping hole in our forest: the canopy that once guarded Alligator Hill, but which we'll never see again. If we replant the trees, our grandchildren, or our great-grandchildren, may some day hike there, picnic there, propose marriage there.

Here's a recap of that scary, exciting, and memorable week in Glen Arbor.

August 2: Sunday Afternoon

When the straight-line wind shear hit the Lake Michigan shoreline shortly after 4 p.m. on Sunday, tourists like Kathy Ockaskis had the misfortune of being on the large dune at Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive. The torrential rain and hail and blowing sand against her bare skin "felt like a million needles." As she and 25 others climbed back toward the overlook, people around her yelled, "We're going to die!"

"It was horrifying," Ockaskis told *MLive*. "The most painful thing I've ever endured."

But Ockaskis was lucky. There were no trees around her.

In Glen Arbor, Carol Worsley was in her office above the detached garage at her Thyme Inn bed & breakfast when the air changed.

"I noticed that the wind stopped, and it got almost pitch black, so I decided to finish my paperwork in the kitchen," she told *Glen Arbor Sun* editor Mike Buhler. "[As I was gathering up my items,] I thought I heard someone yell, 'GO!' like my mother when she was mad. I dashed to the stairs, got part-way down, and then the tree crashed and the wind blew and I was thrown down the stairs."

She struck her head but did not break anything, and she got out of the garage only to see that it was cut in half by a century-old oak tree that had landed right where her desk typically sits. Battered and bruised, Worsley was grateful that she was not—what she joked—"Glen Arbor's only fatality. I feel very lucky!" Days later, Worsley still had a headache and went to Traverse City for an MRI to make sure that she had sustained no hidden damage.

A mile away, at D.H. Day Campground, a young mother was sitting in her tent, holding her baby, when the storm arrived. She suddenly realized that the tent wasn't a safe place to be. So she and the baby moved into their vehicle. Within minutes, a tree fell onto their tent. Had they still been there, it might have killed them. This story was told to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore chief interpreter Merrith Baughmann when

National Park officials evacuated, and closed, the campground.

On Dunn's Farm Road, just east of the Glen lakes, a 47-year-old Colorado man's car was hit by a tree limb as he was driving to pick up his son who had reportedly gone for a jog. The man, who was wounded, was cut out of the car by fast-thinking neighbors, transported by pontoon boat across Big Glen Lake to the Narrows Bridge, and then taken by ambulance to Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He reportedly sustained several fractured vertebrae but will recover.

The storm didn't stop Glen Arbor native Sam Duwe and his fiancé, Kate Newton, from tying the knot, which they had planned to do on this day at the Glen Lake Yacht Club. En route to the ceremony site, the bride was with her future mother- and father-in-law when the storm hit.

"The next thing, a giant limb fell and hit the top of the car, and it was only a matter of one or two minutes from that initial



The megastorm dropped hundreds of trees over M-22 and Dunn's Farm Rd, closing all access to Glen Arbor. Photo by Paul May / Glen Arbor Artisans.

limb falling that we were totally blocked in and trapped," Newton told *9&10 News*. So Newton got out and walked. When her shoes became a burden, she climbed barefoot over several downed trees, as people along the way cheered her on.

Newton's arrival at the wedding was "pretty epic" said the groom. The ceremony continued in candlelight.

But most of Northern Michigan suddenly found itself in the dark. Electricity was knocked out throughout Leelanau County and the Traverse City area. The free, outdoor movie at the last night of the Traverse City Film Festival was abruptly canceled. Trees littered the landscape.

All three roads leading to downtown Glen Arbor were blocked.

The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore shut down operations at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center in Empire, Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive off M-22, the Dune Climb, the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, Glen Haven beach, and the D.H. Day Campground.

Sunday Evening

A search and rescue team headed up Alligator Hill at 6 p.m. to find five hikers who

had gone missing. The hikers had taken cover as trees fell like matchsticks all around them, then they called 911 from their cell phones. Sheriff deputies teamed up with National Park rangers, who reportedly blew their horns and sirens, shined spotlights into the air, and fired some shots into the air, in hopes of guiding the hikers out of the labyrinth of fallen trees that the storm had created. (The hikers weren't located until 4 a.m. on Monday morning.)

Meanwhile, without electricity, restaurants in Glen Arbor closed their doors—all except Art's Tavern, which turned on its generator and continued to serve burgers and pints of beer. The Township Hall became an impromptu shelter for those who were stuck in town and couldn't get home or to their hotels. Randy Chamberlain, chef and owner of the upscale restaurant Blu, donated nearly 100 duck confit dinners to the Town Hall and served them on a folding table under a basketball hoop. Accompanying the duck was salad, risotto, spaghetti, and profiteroles. Wine was not included.

Dave Gersenson, owner of the Sylvan Inn and the Glen Arbor Lakeshore Inn as of last month, had 20 beds to fill because his Sunday evening guests weren't going to be able to reach Glen Arbor. So he walked to the Town Hall and offered those rooms to stranded people for steeply discounted rates.

As the sun set over Sleeping Bear Bay, Bloomfield Hills native Clare Lanesky happened to point her camera toward the horizon and snap a photo of unique looking clouds hovering over the water. Her photo shows the bear clouds. Or perhaps it was the sleeping bear and her cubs, watching over Leelanau in its time of need.

August 3: Monday

In the storm's wake, Glen Arbor residents immediately recognized that the destruction they had witnessed was unprecedented for our town. This was worse than the 1987 summer storm, Funistrada owner Holly Reay said.

In fact, it was far worse. The storm was more powerful and more destructive than any other Glen Arbor storm ever recorded. Soon, statistics emerged to prove it.

Jeff Lutz, meteorologist with the National Weather Service (NWS) in Gaylord, clarified that—while Sunday's storm was not a tornado—the straight-line winds which accompanied the sudden thunderstorm reached speeds of 100 miles per hour. That's strong enough to be called a tornado or a type-2 hurricane.

More significantly, the storm blew away the previous wind-velocity record for Leelanau County. According to the NWS, on September 13, 2005, a barrage of wind traveling at 63 miles per hour hit Leland and Empire. But 63 is not even close to 100. The August 2 storm was clearly the strongest to hit Leelanau County since recordkeeping began in 1950.

The message that Glen Arbor had been decimated seemed to spread faster than

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100-mile-per-hour winds. Around the nation and the world, hundreds of thousands of viewers gaped as they logged onto Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to see the imagery from the storm. "Glen Arbor" was the top trending topic on Facebook. Our friends at the *Glen Arbor Sun* attracted more than 47,000 views to their website on Sunday and 116,000 on Monday—more than 10 times their previous record.

Leelanau County officially called for a State of Emergency declaration and used a press conference in Traverse City to appeal to the state and federal governments for help recouping costs after the storm cleanup.

Meanwhile, receptionists at The Homestead had the unenviable task of calling guests and encouraging them to find other accommodations in Northern Michigan; most visitors who had already checked in then left the resort on Monday.

By mid-morning, one lane of M-109 to the west of Glen Arbor was open, but at first, sheriff's deputies would only let traffic leave town. The road was passable, wrote *Sun* contributor Sarah Bearup-Neal, but "there is amazing damage along the way. It's do-able but you need to keep your eyes peeled. The power lines all have trees hanging on them. It's not pretty."

Coming from my house near the Grand Traverse-Leelanau county line, I drove to as far as I could get on Dunn's Farm Road—the Foothills Motel and Café—and then set out by bicycle to reach Glen Arbor. But rather than pedal forward, I found myself walking 10 steps and throwing the bike over one downed tree, followed by another, followed by another, for at least half a mile. A machete, or an Abrams tank, would have been more effective than a bicycle.

In downtown Glen Arbor, itself, residents were already pulling themselves out of the morass. Web designer Molly Connolly started a Google document with up-to-date information about the unfolding situation. Anderson's Market got a generator, re-opened, and struggled to keep up with the demand for ice and water. Cherry Republic hauled out a gas grill and began cooking hot dogs for pedestrians on Lake Street. Tourists who needed to eat should have another option besides Art's, which was slammed, thought Cherry Republic vice president Jason Homa. Plus, tourists needed to see a sense of normalcy returning to Glen Arbor.

Nearby, at the Glen Lake Narrows, marina owner Carol McCahill sounded the call via social media that her staff would pick up anyone who was stuck in their lakeside homes, particularly along decimated Dunn's Farm Road. I sat outside Cherry Republic's café and enjoyed a cherry-chicken-salad sandwich and a Boomchunka cookie, like I had a thousand times before, while Cherry Republic CEO Bob Sutherland rolled down Lake Street on his tractor looking for brush to clear.

August 4: Tuesday

Tuesday brought both good and bad news. To the east of Glen Arbor, M-22 opened to traffic, which meant that people could get between town and The Homestead. Northwood's Hardware acquired a generator and opened, offering flashlights, candles, water, and generators to anyone in need. Leelanau County set up a call-in number for homeowners to report damage for future attempts to recoup costs later on.

Merrith Baughman announced that the Park would cancel this weekend's Port Oneida Fair, the popular annual celebration of pioneers and farmsteads in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District that is located several miles north of Glen Arbor. The loss of the fair felt like a blow to the stomach for some, who look forward to this event all year.

The blackout also brought strange bedfellows together: even Buckeyes and Wolverines. I met a couple from Columbus and a couple from Ann Arbor who were sharing a gas grill together near the mouth of the Crystal River.

Acknowledging that aid workers and food supplies weren't able to reach the hardest hit areas, Leelanau County Sheriff Mike Borkovich appealed to residents of Dunn's Farm Road to help each other.

"We're asking people to be neighborly, to help each other," he told the *Sun*, adding that if you have stockpiled food or water for an occasion like this, and your neighbor needs fresh water for baby formula, please offer to share it.

On Tuesday night, I found Bob and Stephanie Sutherland and their boys ducking tree limbs while walking down M-22, south of Glen Arbor, to survey the damage. I interviewed them on video (watch it on GlenArbor.com), and they spoke of Glen Arbor being the ideal place to be when a natural disaster hits, because you can count on each other. Sutherland thought aloud about starting a crowd-funding campaign to begin replanting trees on Alligator Hill, whose wanton, naked destruction appears behind him in the video.

August 5: Wednesday

Almost no one could believe it, but one lane of M-22 to the south of Glen Arbor and Dunn's Farm Road were more or less open by Wednesday. The tree cutters, sawyers, and chainsaw-wielding magicians had done a remarkable job of clearing in three days what might have taken others weeks to do.

At the makeshift shelter at the Glen Arbor Town Hall, the food was good, but no longer gourmet. Chamberlain and Blu were no longer serving duck confit; the Salvation Army was here instead.

Early in the afternoon, a sheriff's deputy announced at the Town Hall that 70 extra bucket trucks had arrived and that linesmen were using Glen Lake School as their headquarters for trying to restore power to Glen Arbor that day.

Meanwhile, Win Williams, relief director of the Southern Baptist Convention of Michigan, appeared at the Town Hall, met with Township supervisor John Soderholm, and offered to provide—at no cost—relief to private homeowners who had trees or debris in their yards, on their vehicles, or on their homes. His team of altruistic volunteers would be housed in Empire while they helped to clean up after the storm. Interested parties were encouraged to sign up at the Town Hall.

At Art's Tavern, the generator died, but somehow Tim Barr and Bonnie Nescot breathed new life into it, so Glen Arbor's most popular meeting place remained open. Power returned to The Homestead on Wednesday afternoon, and receptionists called guests and encouraged them to return or to keep their weekend plans. (By Friday, the resort would be packed again.)

But the excitement over a fast recovery was too hasty. On Wednesday afternoon, Consum-

ers Energy announced that it was re-closing M-22 south and Dunn's Farm Road, in order to re-string power lines. And its timeline for restoring electricity to Glen Arbor was pushed back to Friday afternoon. The damage was vast.

August 6: Thursday

Four days after the storm, many of Glen Arbor's shops and galleries grew restless. They opened, despite not having electricity. The message was clear: the town was open for business. Up M-22, The Leelanau School opened its gymnasium for the public to use bathrooms and showers, while The Homestead turned its previously scheduled concert on Bay Mountain into a benefit for storm victims.

When power returned to nearby Empire, the National Park visitor center re-opened and announced that Glen Haven would open on Friday. The Friends of Sleeping Bear opened sections of the Heritage Trail between Empire and Glen Haven, as well as between Glen Arbor and Port Oneida. (Trees were still being cleared on the Glen Haven-Glen Arbor stretch.)

Cherry Republic's "Orchard Report" e-newsletter revealed Bob Sutherland's "Bring back the arbor" campaign. The company said that it would match each dollar spent to replant trees on Alligator Hill. Then at the M-22 Store, Matt and Katy Wiesen decided that \$10 from each sale of a Glen Arbor Love shirt would go toward helping their employees—eight of them—to repair or replace their vehicles that had been damaged by the storm.

And humor tempered the impatience. Sarah Bearup-Neal took a photo near M-22 and Day Forest Road of a sign that read "Road Closed for Event." The event appeared to be work crews bringing back electricity to Glen Arbor after nearly a week in the dark. Quite an event, indeed! Meanwhile, Georgia Gietzen found a note on her property from neighbor Bill Peterson that read, "My tree fell on your mailbox. I will buy you a new box."

August 7: Friday


At long last, at around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, electricity returned to Glen Arbor, prompting cheers among the staff at Cherry Republic. It meant that the Dune Climb and Pierce Stocking—the crowned jewels of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore—would be able to open on Saturday.

Suddenly, Glen Arbor somehow appeared normal again.

The economic damage, we don't yet know. Losing three full days of business is "a very, very large number for us," The Homestead CEO Bob Kuras told *Crain's Detroit Business* on Friday. Moreover, Cherry Republic lost one-quarter of its typical Glen Arbor sales last week. And while Art's stayed open, it cost \$400 a day to run the generator, Tim Barr told *Crain's*.

Early in September, we'll know how many fewer visitors the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore received in August, particularly during the week following the storm. But just as the social-media machine named Sleeping Bear "the most beautiful place in America" four years ago and pronounced it drowned after the storm, the same social-media machine declared that Glen Arbor was back on its feet.

It's mid-August. Art's is packed. Hotels are full. Cash registers are humming. For Glen Arbor, the show goes on.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Mondays

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 7:45-8:45am.

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. Infants and toddlers (+ parents/caregivers) will have fun rhyming and moving with Miss Char, as well as a focus on repetition. 10-11am.

Fitness Fusion with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. 10:15-11:15am.

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

Tuesdays

Sunrise Flow Yoga with Lara at Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

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

Honor Farmers' Market in Maley Park. 9am-3pm.

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

Tangle Time: Tangling is a simple way of creating designs from repetitive patterns. It is easy to learn, portable, fun, relaxing, and can be enjoyed by all ages 12 and up. Bring your own materials—cardstock, paper, fabric, jewelry, clay, wood, rocks—or use those provided. Benzonia Public Library at 891 Michigan Avenue in Benzonia. 2:30-4:30pm.

Earth's Mightiest Heroes summer reading program. Darcy Library at 7238 Commercial Street in Beulah. 4:30-5pm.

Minecraft Club at Darcy Library. 5-7pm.

Zumba classes at The Gathering Place in Honor are open to the general public and taught by Suzanne Waring. 6-7pm.

Pick-up soccer at Memorial Park across from Shop & Save and behind Watson Benzie car

dealership in Benzonia. Open to ages 12 and up. All skill levels encouraged. 6-8pm.

Wednesdays

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

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.

Tai Chi for beginners. Space is limited, so please contact Aimé Merizon at 231-645-3711 or artis4anyone@gmail.com to register. Suggested donation is \$10 per session. Darcy Library. 11am-12pm.

Knit 2gether at Darcy Library. Crocheters also welcome. 1-3pm.

Thursdays

Fitness Fusion with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

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

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

Guided hiking tours at Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville are a great way to learn about Michigan history. The environment and the sculptures are a fun activity for adults and families. 9-10am.

Every Hero Has A Story is a national program that encourages early literacy and fosters a lifelong love of reading while having fun. Children of all ages are welcome at Story Time with Miss Charlotte at Benzie Shores District Library. 10-11am.

Computers with Carol at the Darcy Library. Ask computer-related questions. 1-5pm.

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

Writers Club for kids and teens at Darcy Library. Share what you're working on—novel, comic book, or anything else—and if you'd like, get feedback from your peers. 3-5pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center, including families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), \$60 fees cover one adult or one adult-and-child pair. It can be as fun or

focused as a student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part. 3-6pm.

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

Teen yoga and meditation with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center. 4-5pm.

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 5:30-6:30pm.

Pick-up soccer at Memorial Park across from Shop & Save and behind Watson Benzie car dealership in Benzonia. Open to ages 12 and up. All skill levels encouraged. 6-8pm.

Steven Fernand sings the best songs from the last century at the Cold Creek Inn in Beulah. No cover. 6-9pm.

Beulah Music in the Park: A different musical artist every Thursday. Free family fun. Bring a chair or blanket. Brought to you by the Crystal Lake Community Business Association, along with many gracious sponsors. 7-8pm.

Open Mic Night at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 231-352-9843. 8pm.

Fridays

Sunrise Flow Yoga with Lara at Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

Pilates sculpt with Anna at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Crystal Mountain Farmers' Market. 3-6pm.

Saturdays

Birding with Keith Wesphal: Hike the Michigan Legacy Art Park with Keith, an active birder for 48 years, to identify birds by their song. Bring your binoculars to spot birds that make the 30-acre preserve their home each spring. Meet at the Art Park trailhead. Suggested \$5 donation. 8:30-10am.

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

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

Farmers' Market and Flea Market at the Interlochen Eagles #3503 at 20724 Honor Highway/US-131, three miles west of Interlochen. Consisting of Michigan-grown fruits and veggies, flea marketers, cottage food



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September 23

Interlochen Arts Academy "Collage"
October 8 & 9

Houston Ballet II
October 12

Ana Gasteyer
October 16

Barbara Fortuna & Constantinople at Denmos Museum Center
October 28

Cirque Mechanics presents Pedal Punk
October 30

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle"
November 6 & 7

Julian Lage, Guitar
November 7

John Bruce Yeh, Clarinet Recital
November 18

"Urinetown"
November 19-20 & December 4-5

"The Nutcracker"
December 10-12

Sounds of the Season Holiday Concert
December 17

Richard Goode, Piano
February 9

WINTERLOCHEN with Mucca Pazza
February 20

Interlochen Arts Academy Winter Dance Performance
March 4 & 5

"The Eccentricities of a Nightingale"
April 15 & 16

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April 22, 23 and 29

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Lego Saturdays at Benzonia Public Library. For boys and girls ages 6 to 106. Dates will vary, so call 231-882-4111 to see if there will be Legos on Saturday!

Steven Fernand sings the best songs from the last century at the Cold Creek Inn. No cover. 6-9pm.

Sundays

Guided hiking tours at Michigan Legacy Art Park are a great way to learn about Michigan history. The environment and the sculptures are a fun for adults and families. 9-10am.

Interlochen Farmers' Market in the big parking lot behind Ric's. 9am-2pm.

Integrative Yoga 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. 10:30am-12pm.

COMING SOON

Thursday, August 13

Jimmy Olsen Trio - Jazz, Fusion, Jam, Improv Free Family Fun. Bring a chair or blanket. Downtown Beulah Park every Thursday. Brought to you by the Crystal Lake Community Business Association along with many gracious sponsors. Visit www.clcba.org for more info. 7pm.

Friday, August 14

Isaac Julian Legacy Foundation concert at St. Ambrose Cellars will be a night of very special music, as well as a silent auction, children's activities, and a gathering of those who loved Isaac. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be available, and a couple of food trucks will be around for more hearty appetites. St. Ambrose Cellars will be selling their delicious products, as well. There will be four musical acts performing that you won't want to miss, including Michigan's own Joshua Davis. The suggested donation for admission is \$20, with children under 12 getting in free. Please bring your own lawn chairs! 841 S. Pioneer Road, Beulah. 6-10pm.

Friday, August 14

The Accidentals: Back by popular demand, Traverse City singer-songwriters and multi-instrumentalists Katie Larson, Savannah Buist, and Michael Dause have created a sound all their own that is winning praise from music lovers across the country. General admission is a \$10 suggested donation. Michigan Legacy Art Park. 7 pm

Friday, August 14,

Frankfort United Methodist Church's 9th An-

nual Pulled Pork Picnic. Tickets for adults are \$10; children (under 12) are \$6; extra sandwiches are \$4 each. 537 Crystal Avenue/M-22 in Frankfort. 5-7pm.

Friday, August 14

Waters of Benzie: Upper Platte River Tour with the Benzie Conservation District. Bring your own canoe or kayak; bring your own life jacket/PFD; and dress for the weather! If you don't have access to a canoe or kayak, contact us and we'll do our best to find one for you to use. www.BenzieCD.org. 1-4pm.

Saturday, August 15

Used Book Sale by The Friends of the Benzie Shores District Library. Frankfort. 9am-4pm.

Saturday, August 15

Cherryland Vintage Postcard & Paper Fair at the Frankfort Lions Club on Main Street in Frankfort. 9am-7pm.

Saturday, August 15

Frankfort Collector Car Show & Antique & Classic Boat Show. Mineral Springs Park Frankfort. 8am-5pm.

Wednesday, August 19

Plant It Wild: Landscaping with Natives - Informal, Formal and Naturalized Settings. Have you been told that native plants look messy and aren't as pretty as plants from other countries? Not true! Brian Zimmerman, owner of Four Season Nursery, will present slides of different kinds of settings in gardens and will talk about how to incorporate native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers to give you the kind of look you like. PLANT SALE by Four Season Nursery - an amazing selection of the best native plants! Trinity Lutheran Church, Frankfort. 7pm.

Wednesday, August 19

Grand Traverse Astronomical Society: View the Sun and learn about the night sky at the Betsie Valley District Library. 11am

Friday, August 21

The Good Fight: A Story of Cancer, Love, and Triumph. Gregg Holmes (Ph. D.) and Katherine Roth (M.D.), former Beulah residents, share how they faced Holmes's diagnosis of a rare and deadly cancer with courses of traditional therapy and alternative treatments that were researched and managed by Roth. Told from alternating perspectives, this is an intensely personal memoir about the power of love and hope. Benzonia Public Library. 7pm.

Friday, August 21

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Michigan Legacy Art Park! Celebrate two decades of inspiring awareness, appreciation and passion for Michigan's history, culture and environment through the arts. Through the vision and commitment of founders, sponsors, board members and volunteers, we've laid a solid foundation for Michigan Legacy

Art Park. Let's toast to our bright future together at our 20th Anniversary Legacy Gala. This signature fundraising event for the park features fabulous silent and live auctions, a sparkling wine reception, a locally-sourced dinner and music. Crystal Mountain. \$75 per ticket. 6:30pm

Saturday, August 22

Dance of Universal Peace at Llama Meadow Eco Farm. 7:30-10pm. \$5-10 donation. 231-882-4933.

Saturday, August 29

Bayou on the Bay: Blues & Zydeco Picnic in the Park. This one-day festival celebrates the cultural connections that Louisiana and Michigan share through music, food, and community leisure. Blues & zydeco musicians from Louisiana and Michigan will play throughout the day, while local ingredients including fresh veggies and fish will be the highlight in a Louisiana-style gumbo for the masses. There will be food vendors, a beer and mead garden, cooking demonstrations, a farmers' market, and an evening teen silent disco dance party. All funds raised will benefit Grow Benzie's community center and farmstead. Open Space Park on Main Street in Frankfort. 1-11pm.

Thursday, September 3

Benzie Audubon presents Ari Cornman on Wolves. Another family-friendly program at the Tribal Outpost, this one featuring Ari Cornman, Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Honor. 7pm.

Saturday, September 5

Fall Birding at Platte Point with the Benzie Audubon. Bring your park pass and meet at the parking lot next to the rest rooms at the west end of Lake Michigan Road. Carl Freeman (352-4739) will lead us on a search for fall migrants and late summer birds. 9:30am.

Saturday, September 12

Grassland Marsh Birds & Migrants Benzie Audubon. We will meet at the Arcadia Dunes Grassland Preserve on Keillor Road, where Brian Allen (723-7956) will lead us on a search for migrating sparrows, confusing fall warblers and possible rarities. After the Grassland we will check out the Arcadia Marsh. 8am.



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Running the Platte Plains Trails

4 Mile Out-and-Back or 4.6-Mile Loop

By Nicole Bates

Current Contributor

In the last two installments of this ongoing series, we explored The Betsie Valley Trail from Elberta to the M-115 crossing near Benzonia. This time, I get to share one of my favorite places in the world: Otter Lake. If you’re starting from the Frankfort/Elberta area, there are three different routes that will get you to Trails End Road, all between 18 to 20 miles from town. Trails End Road is directly off M-22 and located about 5 miles south of Empire—the visit is well worth the drive!

With the baby in her stroller, we started at the Bass Lake Trailhead parking lot at the end of Trails End Road. We made it out and back on the Otter Creek East Loop for a total of four bumpy miles, which are by far the most rugged that we’ve attempted together. The trail starts as a narrow footpath with quite a few roots, rocks, and shallow hills. After about one-quarter mile, however, the trail widens and finally becomes a rocky but well-packed two-track all the way to Esch Road. (My daughter did manage to sleep for a little while, despite the bumps. I highly recommend an all-terrain stroller if you want to attempt one on this trail.)

There are views of Otter Lake and Otter Creek at several points along the trail. It’s a great place for my husband and son to explore nature at a more leisurely pace while I’m running. At two miles, the trail crosses a bridge



Where the grackle grass grows on a former cottage site on Otter Lake. Photo courtesy of Tom Stone.

over Otter Creek; this is a great spot to rest, take a drink, and watch the fish dart below the bridge before you turn around to head back for a total of four miles.

When I’m running by myself, I actually prefer to continue on the 2.6-mile West Loop—which is a winding foot-path through two distinctly different types of forest—for a total distance of 4.6 miles. A right turn back into the woods from the bridge, before you intersect with Esch Road, will get you back on the trail if you choose to continue the loop instead of the out-and-back run. And as far as a solo trail run goes, it’s a pretty easy course—in fact, if you’re looking for a longer run, there are several loops through the woods past Bass Lake that, all together, add up to 14.7 miles of trail. Another option might be to drop a runner off at the Bass Lake Trailhead, take the kids to the beach at the end of Esch Road, and meet up for a day of swimming and sand-castle building on the shores of Lake Michigan.

The Platte Plains Trails are a perfect place to spend the day with a picnic, canoe ride, some fishing, and some trail running or hiking. Pack up the family and give it a try!

For our family, this set of trails holds special significance because my grandparents owned a cottage on Otter Lake. I spent every summer of my childhood playing in these woods and catching bass from our old, blue rowboat. My husband and I were married on a perfect day fourteen years ago on the shore of Otter Lake. The property is now part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and I’m so thankful that I have the opportunity to come back to this place that I love and share

it with my children.

Before you get to the park, make sure you get your park pass and display it in your car window. The standard entrance fee is \$10 per vehicle or \$5 per person 16 or over who is on foot. This will buy you a 7-day permit. An annual pass costs \$20. Passes can now be purchased online through pay.gov, or head to one of the ranger stations—there’s the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center in Empire, Platte River Campground office, Pierce-Stocking Drive entrance station, the Dune Climb entrance station, or the D.H. Day Campground office.

If you see the loons on Otter Lake while you are out on the trails, say, “Hi,” and tell them Nicole sent you.

The Platte Plains Trails are located in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, very close to the Benzie-Leelanau county line. These trails are maintained by the National Park Service; their website at NPS.gov has great information on the trails, directions to each trail, trail maps, and descriptions of other activities available throughout the National Lakeshore. Another great website I found for directions, as well as information on the trails, is MichiganTrailMaps.com; you can go to the website, enter a trail, and even review it when you’re done!

Stay tuned for the next of this series, which will take you on the Arcadia Dunes Trails from St. Pierre Trailhead. Do you have a favorite Benzie County trail? Go to The Betsie Current on Facebook and share a picture of your favorite route.



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Cabin Saviors

Continued from page 1

nected, so Lane Plumbing & Heating began a long career at our house, arriving annually for one disaster or another. (We do our own “opening” and “closing,” meaning that we turn on the water and power ourselves rather than hiring someone to get our cabin ready for the summer and winter seasons, respectively, but Lane’s guys helpfully painted orange arrows in the basement indicating all the valves involved, after a mishap with a valve that had been left closed for the winter... oops.)

At least twice, the plumbing crisis has involved a new septic pump, once requiring Lane’s guys to dig—for hours—through septic muck, and in the rain, no less. Those crises have also required men in gigantic trucks and long hoses to back in and pump out the septic system (Benzie & Interlochen Pumping Service, then Elliott’s Ken-Jac Pumping Service). Sometime in this sequence, Olsen Electric returned to install power, and Gillison Excavating built a riser to make the pumping easier for all the next times.

Eighteen Novembers after Ron Shoebridge dug our very deep well, his company—now in the person of Joe Demerly—addressed the effects of time and hard water: the well had suddenly shut down. Joe removed 320 feet of greasy pipes with his bare hands, replaced the pump, installed new connectors, washed up with blue Dawn detergent, and was gone before the end of the day.

Fortunately the water at the cabin is plentiful—great pressure!—but it’s literally off the charts for hardness, and my grey hair was turning orange. We finally caved and had Pure Water Works (Traverse City) install a water softener; they come seasonally in big white vans to tweak things that we’ve never understood.

A contractor—Jim Donley of Lipp Construction—removed the sagging, mossy roof and re-oriented it, which was a long project. Many years later, Concrete Designs Inc. (Grawn) spent days removing part of the foundation and replacing it with one having “connectivity”—tilting slightly eastward, the house had apparently been supported only by friction and gravity.

Hershey Pest Control counts as a man in a big truck, despite having arrived in a tiny Ford Fiesta. With canisters and tubing, he has dealt with carpenter ants (holding a stethoscope to the wall, he said, “I hear thousands of them screaming,” after doing his deed with something sprayed in) and with red squirrels (he set traps, blocked up holes, and had interesting things to say about “roving bands of juveniles”).

Other big trucks have brought men to the rescue on a more occasional basis. ReStore comes occasionally to collect remains of more normal, gradual improvement projects, and Bill (One Man and His Truck) has hauled off large dead appliances. Various tree-trimmers (Treetop, Smitty’s) have made logs out of dead trees.

The only time that we invited big trucks for purposes other than to avert disaster was to add a screened porch. Larry Kinney was just starting his green-building business (Harmony Homes Construction). He arrived one winter in a big truck with helpers and sent photos periodically. We never saw the actual trucks or their chaos; we were able to just walk into a perfect new space the following spring.

Well, and there’s one more kind of big truck that has come to the cabin unplanned, twice: a Benzie County ambulance, filled with EMTs, has found our cabin (not easy), taken over the situation, carried off a man in distress, and saved his life. One of the times, the ambulance was accompanied by Yukons full of EMTs—Park Rangers from Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. (These big trucks are the ones that have included women.)

Our own job skills over the decades involve mostly words and paperwork, not especially helpful in cabin disasters. So needless to say that our admiration for the men, and women, who arrive in their big trucks (or other vehicles) from throughout Benzie County and beyond—promptly, reliably, and always so needed—is huge. In every case, these experts have been awesome to watch: they arrive with all the equipment and tools that they might need, they diagnose complex problems quickly, they waste no time on anything but the job, they wash up with blue Dawn detergent, and they back out down a long and twisting lane, leaving us with a cabin that is working again, at least for another season.

They’ll be back—but with luck, not the ambulances.

Tree Murders

Continued from page 1

deal with the storm damage, we also need to recognize that what we decide to do after is just as important.

For the places that were most affected by the recent storm, the first task at hand should be safety: roads must be unobstructed, hanging branches must come down, and power lines must be cleared. All of this work should be done by people who—regardless of experience level—utilize protective equipment and procedures; people who are self-aware enough to not push the envelope beyond the threshold of their resources and capabilities. But after safely cleaning up our streets and residences, how do we move straight forward toward a strong future for our forests?

To start, we can remove the timber, pulp, firewood, and other forest products that can be salvaged. However, not all debris needs to go—in areas where debris does not impede aesthetics or recreation and does not present a fire hazard, nutrients can be returned to the soil and other services can be provided by trees, post mortem, if some material is left to rot. For instance, some logs of hemlock, white pine, and other species that may not be worth removing could be left to serve a greater purpose. As they decay, these “nurse logs” retain moisture and can provide a site for seedlings of hemlock, white pine, yellow birch, red maple, oak, and others to regenerate.

In some forests, it can even be advised that large treetops be left. These natural structures can serve as a functioning labyrinth of limbs in which deer would be vulnerable to predators and thus discouraged from feeding on seedlings.

However, species that were already in danger before the storm should be removed.

In the Palmer Woods Forest Stewardship Plan that was written earlier this summer for the Leelanau Conservancy, there was mention of restoration activities which would take place following salvage harvests of ash and beech, both of which are threatened from emerald ash borers and beech bark diseases, respectively. Now with even more to salvage because of the storm, there will be more areas ready for these activities—in the large canopy gaps that were created by the storm, the plan will be to remove the ill-fated beech saplings and seedlings, which have become plentiful as they have been ignored by deer but will likely be killed later, as they mature, by beech bark disease.

By removing a large portion of the young ash and beech trees, we can encourage the growth of other species that can be expected to survive long enough to reestablish the forest. Also, with a large amount of the forest now cleared, planting seedlings and installing devices to protect against deer could be an option in order to further enhance biodiversity in our forests.

After what debris we must tackle is removed and after whatever is to be left to the forest is left to the forest, we must embrace this concept: the ball is in our court! In other words, we have the option to control what grows back.

So what species should we replant with?

Whether it’s in the middle of the woods or in our own yards, the candidate tree species should be native to North America, have a history of coexistence with the species that are currently present, and have a history of growing to reproductive maturity in our area without becoming noxious or invasive.

In species selection, favoritism should also be given toward those species which are not susceptible to any of the handful of invasive pathogens that are currently moving through North America, such as Asian longhorn beetle, oak wilt, hemlock wooly adelgid, or thousand canker’s disease, to name just a few.

Good candidates could include Tulip poplar, shagbark hickory, white oak, bur oak, sassafras, or mulberry. Some of these are available during the Benzie Conservation District seedling sale, but they can also be purchased from a number of wholesale nurseries such as Cold Stream Farm in Freesoil, Michigan.

Bare root seedlings are generally the best method for planting on a large scale. These seedlings are harvested in the early spring, while they are still dormant and can be planted with minimal stress on the tree. Also they are cheap—most trees can be purchased for close to \$1 each, and they can be planted on a large scale at about eight feet of spacing between each tree, thus ensuring some successful individuals while allowing for some mortality, as nature will surely provide.

Assisted Migration

Planting what we know will survive here but is not yet present is known as “assisted migration.” For many years ecologists have been talking about the idea of assisted migration, in order to prepare our forests for the effects of climate change, invasive insects, and other changing environmental stressors. Assisted migration has been implemented in a number of study sites but has yet to be implemented in the scale that is likely necessary to preserve our forests. Today, this idea has plenty of room to be implemented and refined as a science and an art in our own backyards.

It will be the goal of the Leelanau Conservancy to do so in the 707-acre Palmer Woods, and we encourage you to stay tuned as it progresses so that you may help us to refine the process, as well. If we all stand on the backs of the giants who came before us, so to shall the new seedlings once again stand straight and strong upon the graves of their ancestors and enhance our environment for future generations.



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