

The Betsie Current

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Somewhere in the middle of August

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A Lapidary's Monarchy

A rock-cutter's work space adds a butterfly haven

By Kelly Ottinger

Current Contributors

The small building is unremarkable, and sits barely off US-31, just north of Honor. Decades ago, it could have been a private residence. The front yard has a semi-circle dirt drive, and row upon row of tables are set up to the side of the building. On the tables sit rocks of all shapes and sizes, many being picked up and scrutinized by folks who are wandering amongst the rows. Upon entering the building, customers find assorted display cases—some open and some enclosed in glass. A cash register sits in the middle of the glass cases, and behind that area is a closed door to the backroom.

Behind the door, machinery steadily

drones, as it cuts and polishes rocks. This process is being overseen by Dean Gilbert, who today is just as busy monitoring caterpillars as they munch on the milkweed plants that press up against the shop's back window.

Welcome to C&M Rock Shop—long known as a must-stop venue for affordably priced Petoskeys and other stones, custom-cut and drilled stones for jewelry-making, and unique items, such as amethyst cathedrals. However, for the past nine years, the Rock



Dean Gilbert checks in on a monarch's chrysalis on a screen. For almost a decade, Gilbert has been assisting hundreds of monarchs in their lifecycle. Photo by Kelly Ottinger.

Shop has doubled as a safe haven for monarch butterflies, the milkweed out back providing all that is needed for the complete life cycle.

When Gilbert began working at the Rock Shop 19 years ago, he thought that he was just there to cut and polish rocks for custom orders. Little did he know that the view from his backroom work space—a field of milkweed—would lead him on the personal journey of helping thousands of monarch butterflies in their migration to Mexico.

"I began noticing all the caterpillars on the milkweed plants and found myself wanting to learn more about them" says Gilbert, a nature enthusiast who grew up in Elberta and fondly remembers Benzie County as a "large playground." What he learned was

Please see Reign on page 10

Insect vs. Loosestrife

How one tiny beetle is fighting for native plants

By Emily Cook

Current Contributor

In the summer months, driving along US-31 into the Village of Honor from the south offers views of striking purple flowers along either side of the road. At first glance, these blooms seem to be a welcome addition to the other wetland plant species that only offer a green, sometimes yellow-white landscape.

However, upon closer inspection, one notices that the purple color is perhaps too dominant and is beginning to overtake the native vegetation. This is because the bright flower belongs to purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a species that is invasive to Michigan wetlands.

Fortunately, something can—and is—being done to combat purple loosestrife in our neck of the woods.

How It Got Here

Originally from Asia and Eastern Europe, purple loosestrife is thought to have been intentionally introduced to North America along the Atlantic Coast for gardens, though some seeds may have also spread unintentionally via discarded soil that was housed in the ballast of ships.

First being established in the early 19th century, purple loosestrife has now spread well beyond the East Coast of the United States and Canada and



Originally from Asia and Eastern Europe, purple loosestrife is thought to have been intentionally introduced to North America along the Atlantic Coast. First established in the early 19th century, the invasive plant has now spread well beyond the East Coast, invading here in Michigan, too. Photo by Emily Cook.

into the Midwest. In fact, it has become such a nuisance that the state of Michigan has declared it a "restricted species" in an attempt to help prevent further spread.

Like many invasive species, purple loosestrife forms very dense stands which take up space and nutrients that would otherwise be used by native plants that are preferred by important pollinators. (Many pollinators have evolved to visit native species and are less likely to be found on an invasive plant.)

A vast and intertwined root system allows purple loosestrife to spread in place. Additionally, each individual plant has the potential to grow 30 flowering stems that can produce up to 2.7 million seeds in a single season—those tiny seeds then spread easily via water, where it prefers to grow. They can

Please see British Invasion on page 11

A Public Right or Trespassing?

Explaining riparian rights on Lake Michigan beach and inland lakes

By Linda Alice Dewey

Current Contributor

Here in Northern Michigan, the key to her beauty is her water. Just in Benzie County alone, there are 60 miles of shoreline, 25 of which are along Lake Michigan, along with 50 inland lakes and more than 200 miles of rivers. Those lucky enough to be called "riparians" live on the water; the rest love to relax by it, swim in it, fish in it, and boat on it.

One such Maple City family set out on a Big Glen Lake boating excursion this past June, when things took a turn.

"We decided to anchor for a few minutes, so our toddler grandsons could take a quick dip in the water," says Linda Engelhard, explaining that they stopped in front of a home

and dropped anchor a ways out in the lake. After about five minutes, the nearby landowner marched down her lawn to the shore. "She shouted that, unless we were friends of hers, we couldn't swim where we were anchored."

Meanwhile, from the perspective of some lake-side homeowners, Chip and Shirley Hoagland say that they frequently see pontoon boats anchored in front of their place on Big Glen Lake. Although most boaters are courteous, there



These young people are walking on the public beach at Point Betsie Lighthouse. If they were walking along privately owned Lake Michigan shoreline, their feet would have to be in the water, or they would be considered trespassing. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

have been incidents—boaters occasionally use the Hoaglands' raft, for instance, although it is clearly marked "private;" recently, a couple came in close to the Hoaglands' land to wash their boat; a few weekends ago, two men parked off their shore and were wading back and forth with metal detectors. (Their haul? A pair of pliers, an anchor chain link, and four bottle caps.)

Some of the Hoagland's neighbors have had problems, as well—boaters plopping beach chairs in a foot of water, or even coming on land to use a picnic table; kayakers have stopped for lunch at a neighbor's dock, though "no trespassing" signs are posted.

Here is the thing: technically, only the users of the raft, the picnic table, and the dock

Please see Rights on page 2



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Rights

Continued from page 1

were trespassing. The rest—boat-washers, treasure-hunters, and beach-chair-sitters—were within their rights.

OK, so that is an inland lake; we will come back to this, but shifting gears to the Great Lakes for a minute—it is common knowledge that the public likes to walk along the Lake Michigan shoreline. When it comes to public property, you can walk the end of public roads or within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

The question is: how far from the water's edge can a person legally walk along private property of the Great Lakes? This is an important issue, since about 70 percent of Michigan's "third coast" is privately owned.

The answer is unclear, because neither courts in Michigan nor in other Great Lakes states have offered a clear and consistent answer.

"The public has always had the right to walk along the Great Lakes shoreline," says Robyn Wright of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). "As long as they were walking with their feet in the water."

Your right to walk in the water of the Great Lakes comes from something called the Public Trust Doctrine, which originated in Roman law. It states: "Now the things which are, by natural law, common to all are these: the air, running water, the sea, and therefore the seashores." That later carried over to English common law, which was paraphrased in a 2005 Michigan Supreme Court decision: "The sovereign [in this case, the state] must preserve and protect navigable waters for its people." It goes on to explain that "the state serves, in effect, as the trustee of public rights in the Great Lakes for fishing, hunting, and boating for commerce or pleasure."

What about walking? That would be "navigation," the court decided.

Going back to the inland lake issues, Lieutenant Tom Wanless, boating law administrator for the DNR's Law Enforcement Division, understands the basic problem: "People are trying to find a place—sand bars and beaches—where they can anchor, beach, hang out in somewhat shallow water, and recreate, whatever that may be. The thing is, the surface of a body of water is publicly owned."

Wanless is, like Wright, referring to the Public Trust Doctrine that certain things—like water and air—belong to everyone.

"Everybody has a right to it," he says. "You've got other folks that see that as a nuisance, where it's in front of their house—I pay taxes; I live here; it's too loud. You can understand both sides of it—I'm a riparian owner; I want peace of mind, tranquility."

But others might say: "I'm a boat owner; I just want to have fun, relax, and enjoy the water." So where to draw the line? Stay tuned, because, in many cases, the court is still out—literally.

Walking Lake Michigan

So, when it comes to walking the Lake Michigan shoreline, the 2005 court agreed that it should be allowed, because it was "navigation." But things become complex if the water is too cold or rough to walk in, and you need to walk on dry land. When water levels are high, this muddies the case even further—where can a person walk without trespassing? That question has been tossed around and re-interpreted by Michigan courts for nearly 100 years.

In Ohio, you definitely have to keep your feet in the water. That is not the case anymore in Michigan, however.

In 1955, the Michigan legislature passed the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act (GLSLA)

"That GLSLA was really the key," says attorney Dave Powers with Save Our Shoreline (SOS), an organization that represents the interests of Great Lakes riparians (beach landowners). "Because what it did was to give the state—the Department of Conservation—the power to regulate land that was in the public trust. Up to that point, it was always clear that the beach was owned by the riparian landowner to the water's edge and that, therefore, the beach was not in the public trust."

Others may take a different point of view

on this.

At any rate, the GLSLA created a fixed "Ordinary High-Water Mark" (OHWM) point at 580.5 feet in elevation. From that point to the water, the land was deemed in the public trust. What was not clear was where people could walk. Did the public have to stay in the water?

Then, in 1998, a lawsuit was filed by Joan Glass, who owned property behind a couple on Lake Huron by the name of Goeckel. Glass alleged that the Goeckels harassed her when she walked in front of their home on the beach, something she had been doing for decades. When it came to decisions, there was no consensus on this one between the courts—the lower court found in Glass's favor; the Court of Appeals overturned that decision in favor of the Goeckels; and finally, in 2005, the Michigan Supreme Court found in Glass's favor. But once again, the judges disagreed over the ruling.

Glass v Goeckel (G v G) was a game-changer, setting a precedent for the public's right to walk the shoreline. At the same time, the court acknowledged the private rights of property owners to the water's edge, but held that those private rights overlapped with the Public Trust and could not interfere with the public's right to walk Great Lakes beaches. It defined a "natural ordinary high-water mark" (NOHWM), which is different from the OHWM that had been defined in the 1955 act.

"The natural ordinary high-water mark is not the same as the jurisdictional ordinary high-water mark elevation [of 580.5 feet]," says the DEQ's Wright. "[This NOHWM would ideally be] the point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other easily recognized characteristic."

The *G v G* decision has since faced severe criticism.

"I think the *Glass v Goeckel* decision is the most poorly written decision I have read in my 28 years as an attorney," says Powers, of Save our Shoreline. "It basically ignores the *Peterman* decision from 1994. It largely ignores the holding of *Hilt v Weber*. It ignores several decisions of the Michigan Supreme Court after *Hilt v Weber*. There is a decision in Ohio that was basically the same kind of case, and that case has made it to the Ohio Supreme Court, and they held in favor of the beach owners in a class-action lawsuit. That trial judge, Judge Lucci, said that the *Glass v Goeckel* decision was poorly [reasoned]."

In addition, *G v G* was confined to the issue of walking the beach.

"I am not aware of any subsequent court cases that have expanded or clarified the rights described under the Supreme Court decision to include any other activities than walking," Wright says. It does not say whether the public can ride off-road vehicles or pitch a tent or an umbrella, or even stop to rest in front of private land.

In its decision, the court stated: "the private title of littoral landowners remains subject to the public trust beneath the ordinary high-water mark."

So what about landowners' rights for their strip of public trust land along the shoreline?

"All riparian owners have and enjoy the riparian right to their property," says attorney Jim Olson, president of For Love Of Water (FLOW), a Traverse City-based water non-profit. "That is, the public trust is paramount, but they [public vs. private rights] are not mutually exclusive. They sit side by side. Riparians have access to the water's edge to enjoy their docks or riparian uses. Their use is broader and different than the public use of walking."

So, the public gets to walk up to the ordinary high-water mark.

But now there is a new wrinkle, with the invasive grasses that have taken root practically down to the water's edge and with the rising lake levels.

"The question for beach walkers is, where is it?" Olson asks.

The court, in its 2005 decision, anticipated this problem but only in part, when it stated: "And where the bank or shore at any particular place is of such a character that is impossible or difficult to ascertain where the point of ordinary high-water mark is, recourse may be had to other places on the bank or shore of the same stream or lake to determine whether a given stage of water is above or below ordinary high-water mark."

But what happens when the whole beach is difficult to ascertain?

“Mother Nature, in her swings of climate change and water levels,” Olson says. “At times, erases the obvious markers under *G v G* case, making it difficult for riparian landowners to determine where that line is.”

The public has trouble knowing where it is, as well.

“The natural high-water line is the more permanent physical evidence over a period of time, not the daily high-water mark,” Olson continues. “You look for evidence on the beach of where the longtime dunes or lines are. But when the water comes way up, there’s a question mark that the court didn’t resolve. If you take out photos and look where the water was in the ‘60s and the ‘80s and try to figure out where was the natural high mark, it is not observable. You have to reconstruct.”

The *Glass* decision is the law. Are we done now? Maybe not, says Powers.

“What I say is that *Glass v Goeckel* is going to stand until it comes across as bad fact,” he explains. “At some point in time, there will be a case between a riparian owner and the public, and it’s going to come out on facts that favor the owner. It could be a riparian owner getting bitten by a dog, I don’t know. But it doesn’t make sense for the public to be walking on private land.—I have no problem with the public walking in front of my place, but I should be able to pick and choose, if there’s going to be a problem.”

Such a case could open a whole new can of worms. Moreover, all of this could have serious ramifications for the proposed Bay to Bay Trail in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which has stalled for the past few years, due to intense push-back from shoreline landowners.

So what if you simply want to take a nice walk on the Lake Michigan beach this summer?

“Play it safe,” Olson advises. “Be respectful, and play it safe.”

“If your feet are wet,” says Leelanau County Drain Commissioner Steve Christensen, “the question of ‘Where is the natural ordinary high-water mark?’ is not a discussion.”

Inland Lakes

Now, back to where this all began—how does this all apply to inland lakes?

For most riparians, such incidents—as were described at the beginning of this article in which boaters are taking some liberties—occur only occasionally. But for those living near public or popular navigation areas, the problem becomes a frequent summer occurrence. Landowners can choose to let it go, which they often do, or to confront the situation.

“Sometimes when [we land] owners approach such offenders, an argument begins with them asserting that they have a right to be there, even after riparian rights law has been explained,” Shirley Hoagland says.

And, depending on the circumstance, the boaters may be right.

But Michigan does not clearly state the law and how it impacts inland-lake boaters and riparians. Even law enforcement officers coming to the aid of the riparians sometimes misunderstand some riparian laws.

According to Michigan’s law (each state is different), the public does have the right to travel and fish on the entire surface of “navigable” waters, “including lakes, rivers, and streams.” But here is where it becomes confusing: while the bottom of the Great Lakes is owned by the public, the “bottomlands” of inland public lakes are owned by riparian landowners. In other words, you are not allowed to walk the beach of an inland lake across private property in the same way that you are allowed to walk the Lake Michigan beach.

Yet, the public is legally allowed to anchor “temporarily” for “navigation” purposes—the question is in the interpretation. The law is unclear, but several court decisions have led to accepted legal interpretations: recreational boating is allowed in riparian areas.

Not everyone understands this. Even Leelanau County Sheriff Mike Borkovich believes that the public can anchor temporarily only on the Great Lakes.

“You’re not allowed to set anchor on the bottomlands of another [riparian] without their consent,” he says. When asked a second time, he continues: “Temporary mooring is Great Lakes; inland lakes, the landowner

retains the bottomland rights.”

In fact, the general legal consensus is arguably that the public probably cannot anchor overnight, but temporary anchoring is allowed on inland lakes and on riparian bottomlands. The specifics still have to be tested in the courts, however.

Determining property boundaries on inland water bottomlands can be difficult, spawning trespassing issues. Those who live on a river own the bottom, straight out to the center “thread,” if you will. For inland lakes, if you have a “perfectly symmetrical circular inland lake, like a pie, everybody owns from their borders to the center point,” says the DNR’s Wanless. “But what if it’s an odd-shaped lake?”

Coves and irregular shorelines pose boundary difficulties that only riparian surveyors can figure out.

On a positive note, the bottomlands in front of public areas—public beaches, accesses, boat liveries, and public-owned land—also extend to that lake’s midpoint or river’s thread. The public has every right to be there, as long as those individuals are obeying local ordinances and are not interfering with other boaters and swimmers.

The tenor of the boating population appears to have shifted over the years, says Dave Miller, president of Glen Lake’s Tamarack Cove Association. His family has been on Big Glen Lake since 1936. Miller notices an attitude shift in the past decade that seems to correlate with the shift in boats from speed boats to slow pontoon/pleasure boats, coupled with fast jet skis.

“There’s been an increase in numbers of those who don’t know how to behave,” he says. “Loud music—most of these new boats all have radios, CD players, speakers—partiers. Philosophies have changed over the years.”

When an incident begins to grow, many riparians will approach the boaters.

“If anything blatant is going on by way of either drinking or noise, yelling, as well as loud music, then we go have a talk,” Miller says. “That’s only happened a couple of times this season.”

“I’ve seen how this can go awry, especially in popular resting areas, if you will,” says Leelanau County drain commissioner Steve Christensen, who is also a boat owner and who, at one time, owned land on West Grand Traverse Bay. “There’s a raft of boats, and suddenly, there’s a party going on. It’s difficult. I’ve seen landowners come unglued when a boat’s anchored in front of their beach, and it’s not a pretty sight. The issue really is that the riparian owner pays taxes. It’s typically a pretty pricey thing to be there. Maybe they don’t have much time themselves, and they’ve [carved] out an afternoon. They’re on their beach, and there’s a boat a few feet into the water, anchored there. They were thinking of the sunset, and all of a sudden, they’ve got a boat right in front of them. It can be hard to deal with, and I understand entirely. Sometimes people with a boat anchor without thinking, ‘We ought to be down the beach a little this way or that way.’ If everybody were considerate of their neighbors, it probably wouldn’t be much of an issue.”

Jeremy Tobin, 40, of Greilickville, has fished Leelanau County’s lakes and streams for as long as he can remember.

“I think that what it comes down to for people is respect,” Tobin says. “If someone is allowed to have a dock, you should give them a little space from it. Or if there are people swimming, don’t go over there and fish.”

The law uses the word “reasonable,” when it comes to exercising the public trust.

“I guess it comes down to manners,” Chip Hoagland says. “Middle ground is common sense.”

For the most part, consideration does seem to be the rule.

Everyone interviewed for this article stressed that these incidents do not happen all the time and that most people are courteous, when/if confronted.

“Problems are what people make of them,” says Dawn Laracy, who lives on Lake Leelanau. “For the most part, I think everybody just wants to enjoy the beauty around them, and people are happy with it.”

This article is a merging of two that were originally published in the Glen Arbor Sun, a semi-sister publication to The Betsie Current.

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Heros of the Storm: a ranger-led shipwreck rescue re-enactment program every day, all summer long, at the Maritime Museum in Glen Haven. 3-3:30pm. Lyle Gun Firing from 3:30-4pm.

Ranger-led twilight talks every day, all summer long. Topics may vary. Meet at the DH Day Campground amphitheater and Platte River Campground amphitheater. 8-9pm.

Mondays

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

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center in downtown Frankfort. annamallien@gmail.com 10-11am.

Free yoga class for seniors with Michelle Leines at The Gathering Place Senior Center. 10579 Main Street in the Honor Plaza. 231-525-0600. 10-11am.

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

MIFiberShed at Grow Benzie is a place for fabric, fiber craft, and clothing to be recycled, remade, or exchanged. Clear out your closet or sewing/craft room and get inspired to make new stuff. We give fiber nine lives before the landfill. Come use a sewing machine, help to sort donations, and acquire clothing for \$1 per pound! Donations give you fibercredit to use in the shop. Workshops on the 2nd Monday of the month. MIFiberShed is open every Monday 12-7pm. Call/text Emily Votruba at 231-399-0098 or email emilyvotruba@yahoo.com to join the email list.

Zumba with Suzanne at The Gathering Place. All welcome. \$3 per class. 2:30pm.

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

Tuesdays

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

Gentle yoga for women in the barn at the First Congregational Church of Benzonia. All levels welcome. 10am.

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

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

Zumba for \$3 at The Gathering Place. 5:15pm.

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

Yard Yoga with Jenn Ryan. \$10 per class, with some mats available, if you do not have one. 841 S Pioneer Road just outside Beulah/Honor. Text 231-218-0655 to register. 6-8pm.

Wednesdays

Zumba for \$3 at The Gathering Place. All welcome.

\$3 per class. 8:30m.

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

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

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

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

Storm Riders Cycling Club: join the rides every Wednesday, or just those that you can make! Explore rotating sections around Frankfort and Elberta. Rides will begin and end at Stormcloud Brewing Company, and riders get a discount on their first beer after the ride. No registration; just show up! 6:30pm.

Chairlift Rides: Enjoy panoramic views of three counties and top-of-the-mountain attractions, such as live music and a cash bar. \$7 per person, but ages 8 and younger ride free with a paying adult; all house guests ride free. Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville. 7pm.

Thursdays

Arcadia Brach Library hosts sewing school basics at the Pleasant Valley Community Center. 231-889-4230.

Ranger-led beach walks in the Sleeping Bear Park at the Maritime Museum beach; help collect data for research on this 1-mile hike. 11-12pm.

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

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 computer-related questions. Read to Denny, the cute little dog! 12-5pm.

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

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

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

Bike with a Sleeping Bear park ranger: leave from the Dune Climb parking lot/Sleeping Bear Heritage Trailhead. 4:30-6:30pm.

Knitting for NICUs: Ashley Taillard leads a knitting guild, which is fulfilling the clothing needs of the neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) of Northern Michigan hospitals. Children's activities are available during this time, so that parents do not need to find childcare. Bring your own knitting supplies or purchase a starter kit on site. Free lessons will be offered for those who do not know how to knit. The guild meets at the Crystal Cafe at 1681 Benzie Highway/US-31, in the Shop'n'Save plaza. 5:30pm.

Guided mountain bike rides, hosted by Crystal Mountain Recreation, on mountain bike trails, the Betsie River Pathway, surrounding two-tracks, and season roads. Riders must be at least 16 years old with some mountain bike experience, but this is open to all skill levels. Helmets required. Drop-in rides are free; rental bike with helmet is \$19 per ride; helmet rental is \$10 per ride. All rides leave the Mountain Adventure Zone and end at the Beach House. 6-7:30pm.

Jake Frysinger performs harmonious cover songs and originals on acoustic guitar at The Roadhouse Mexican Bar & Grill in Benzonia. 6-9pm.

Doc Probes performs at Cold Creek Inn in Beulah. Doc spans a wide range of musical genres, including folk, traditional, gospel, old-time, Irish and Celtic, blues, mellow rock, easy listening, jazz standards, country, and latin music. 6-9pm.

Open Mic Night at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

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

Fridays

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

Walk in the shoes of early homesteaders. Meet at Port Oneida Farms Heritage Center. 11am-12pm.

Ranger-led "Dune Discovery" program: how were the dunes formed? Meet at the Dune Climb Pavilion. 1-1:30pm.

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

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

Magical History Tour: A collaboration between the Benzie Area Historical Society and Benzie Bus, the Betsie Bay Tour departs from the Benzie Area Historical Museum in Benzonia at 2pm. \$15. Call 231-882-5539 to reserve your spot in history!

Saturdays

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

MIFiberShed at Grow Benzie is open 9am-4pm.

Ranger-led walk to learn what life was like along the Manitou Passage. Meet at Sleeping Bear Point Trail to hike one mile. 11am-12pm.

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.

Ranger Rendezvous at DH Day Log Cabin in the DH Day Campground to learn what is going on at Sleeping Bear Dunes. 1-1:45pm.

Tours of Stormcloud's production brewery and tasting room, complete with an overview of the brewing process and guided tastings. All participants will take home a Stormcloud logo tasting glass or sticker. \$10 per adult or teen (ages 12-20), children under age 12 are free. Reservations required: stormcloudbrewing.com/brewery-tours/ Tours are each about 45 minutes long, and tours begin at 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm.

Chairlift rides at Crystal Mountain. 7pm.

Sundays

Ranger-led four-mile paddle of the Platte River. Bring your own kayak or rent one. Reservations required. Meet at the Platte River Picnic Area in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. 10am-12:30pm.

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

ON DECK

Thursday, August 16

National Rum Day celebration at Iron Fish Distillery, located at 14234 Dzuibanek Road, just outside of Thompsonville. Clear Heels will perform fun music. 12-10pm.

Thursday, August 16

Dessert cooking class, fit for all ages. Have you ever wanted to learn how to bake like a gourmet dessert chef? This class will focus on cakes: chocolate (flourless), carrot, and vanilla. Classes take place at Benzonia Public Library. Free. 231-882-4111. 5:25-6:30pm.

Thursday, August 16

Cousin Curtus performs high-energy rootstomp/bluegrass, without the twang. It's like John Butler meets John Popper meets Keller Williams. Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Thursday, August 16

Robin Lee Berry and The Good Souls perform at Beulah's Music in the Park series at the pavillion. 7-8pm.

Thursday, August 16

Remembering the Civil War through Artifacts and Music: Join us for this engaging program, featuring John W. Milks, a Civil War re-enactor and combat veteran who will share stories and perform music. Betsie Valley District Library. 7-9pm.

Thursday, August 16

"The King Reins" third annual party: we're remembering the life and music of Elvis Presley. Break out your blue suede shoes for our Elvis Costume Contest, with stormy prizes for participants. We'll keep the pub all shook up with Sing-Like-The-King Karaoke on the patio and the King's fav food served up hot and ready. Get \$1 off for impersonations, dressing up, stepping up, or singing along. Stormcloud Brewing Company. 7-10pm.

Friday, August 17

Pulled Pork Picnic at the Frankfort United Methodist Church. \$10 adults; \$6 for kids under 12. Take-out also available, if you are in a rush. 5-7pm.

Friday, August 17

Immigration 101 Dinner & Discussion, featuring guest speaker Sara Yore-Van Oosterhout, an immigration attorney who runs Lighthouse Immigration Advocates, a non-profit practice in Holland, Michigan. Come to eat and get more informed on the immigration crisis in the United States. St. Philips Episcopal Church of Beulah. 6-8:30pm.

Friday, August 17

The Legacy Gala is the signature fundraiser for the Michigan Legacy Art Park. Enjoy a fabulous evening at Crystal Mountain with a silent auction, sparkling wine reception, locally sourced dinner, live music, and presentation of the 2018 Legacy Award, which will be given to Marsha Smith for her work as a community builder and visionary for the Northwest Michigan region. The Legacy Award honors those who make a significant positive impact on Michigan's arts, history, culture, or environment. 6-9pm.

Friday, August 17

Frankfort's Concert in the Park series features Gus Christian, a one-man steel band. Mineral Springs Park. 7-8pm.

Friday, August 17

The North Carolines perform dynamic acoustic Americana music. Carline Barlow on vocals/guitar and Kurt Westie on vocals/guitar/mandolin. Lake Ann Brewing Company. 7-10pm.

Friday, August 17

Originally from Northern Michigan, Melissa Lee, now of Nashville, is an up-and-coming country artist to watch. Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Friday-Saturday, August 17-18

42nd annual Frankfort Art Fair in Market Square Park will feature more than 170 artists. Friday runs from 4-8pm; Saturday from 10am-4pm.

Saturday, August 18

Breakfast at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Frankfort: pancakes, french toast, egg omelette, sausages, coffee, apple juice, and real maple syrup, all served on real plates, cups, and silverware. 7:30-11am.

Saturday, August 18

Collector car show with more than 100 cars on display. Free. Mineral Springs Park in Frankfort. 8am-3pm.

Saturday, August 18

7th annual Dune Dash 4-mile run/walk: this race course showcases the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, located within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Starting and finishing at the base of the

Dune Climb, runners follow the paved trail past rolling dunes and beautiful forests to the turn-around point at historic Glen Haven. 9am.

Saturday, August 18

Bass Lake Paddle & Paint: Everyone will be provided with painting materials. We will explore Bass Lake, observe the surroundings, and find inspiration to paint landscape scenes, nature close-ups, or anything we choose! We will paint on land, and snacks will be provided. Special guest artist and naturist Emily Cook. Bring your kayak/canoe, paddle, life-jacket, water bottle, park pass, and \$10 fee. Meet at Trails End Road, Honor. Pre-register with the Benzie Conservation District. 231-882-4391. 9am-12pm.

Saturday, August 18

Monthly meeting of the Benzie County Democrats: John Freeman, former Democratic state representative and gubernatorial candidate, is our guest speaker. He's a really good guy who knows a lot about healthcare, which is #1 on most folks' minds. Getting up to speed on what's happening will really help as we hit the streets of Benzie this fall looking for votes. Coffee, treats, and conversation at 9:30am. Community announcements at 10am, with our guest speaker following. Benzie Dems Headquarters, next to the Cherry Bowl Drive-In in Honor.

Saturday, August 18

Drew Kostic Memorial 5k: this event is for everyone, whether you are looking to run, walk, or crawl, every pace is welcome. Run as an individual or as a team of four. This is an obstacle course, and the purpose is to raise awareness of veteran suicide. \$45 per individual; \$175 per team fo four. Twisted Trails Offroad Park of Copemish. Check-in is from 8-9:45am. The opening ceremony begins at 10am. The race start is 10:30am.

Saturday, August 18

Honoring Our Heroes of Benzie: Law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders. Free lunch, kids carnival games, pie-eating contest, dunk tank, disc golf, three-legged race, and more. Presented by Sonlife Wesleyan Church and Cornerstone Association of God. Benzoniam Memorial Township Park. 11am-2pm.

Saturday, August 18

Wings of Wonder Fundraiser: 50% of sales will be donated to this Empire-based raptor rehabilitation, education, and research sanctuary that presents more than 150 educational programs to 10,000+ people in Michigan every year. Rebecca Lessard, the organization's founder and director, will be on the lawn with a couple of raptors. Stormcloud Brewing Company. 4-6pm.

Saturday, August 18

Ken & Jes perform at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Saturday, August 18

Country sensation (from NBC's "The Voice") Scotty McCreery performs at Little River Casino in Manistee. 8-11pm.

Saturday, August 18

Hot'n'Bothered combines bluegrass and folk tunes, along with a handful of their own originals. Their approach is influenced by the Americana genre. Lake Ann Brewing Company. 7-10pm.

Tuesday, August 21

Dessert cooking class, focusing on pies: apple, pumpkin, and blueberry crumble (gluten-free). Benzoniam Public Library. 5:25-6:30pm.

**Grammatically, it should be "Every Day". However, the editor thinks it is funny to misspell it so that it "matches" the other "days." (e.g. Everyday, Monday, Tuesday...)* The design editor wanted to fix it. Clearly, you can see who won that argument.

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Editor's Note: For some of us, the most boring subject in high school was history. However, we at *The Betsie Current* have found that our articles which explore the history of Benzie County's peoples and places have been among those most treasured by our readers—there is something to be said for learning about the past in the place that we call home, for being able to spot a building or a landmark and to know the story behind it, to be able to share that story with others.

Whether speeding along M-22 to your job as a dishwasher or singing along to the radio, squashed in the backseat between your best friend and your fully inflated tube, on your way to float the Lower Platte—it is our hope that, as you go about your days, you savor these last drops of summer and sunshine and

all that is truly wonderful about our beautiful corner of the world. And after reading a bit of local history in our pages, perhaps you will take a moment to slow down from the busy hum of life to notice a building or a landmark and to explore in your mind the history of what came before you; perhaps you will, for that moment, truly appreciate what other people had to do for you to be here, in this place, with us.

That is our ultimate goal here at *The Betsie Current*: to connect our readers—residents, non-residents, lakies, townies, first-time visitors, young, old, and in-between—to each other and to this place.

What follows is the history of three related communities that sprang up along the shore of Crystal Lake in the early 20th century,

communities that continue today: the Congregational Summer Assembly (CSA), Glen Eyrie, and Crystal Highlands.

History represents something a little different for each of us: scholars could prefer Ancient Greece; young people, who have not lived through much of their own history yet, might define the past by musical genres or from their first date; for others, it begins only at the point at which they can trace their ancestors. There can be "real" history, "fake" history, or simply "rumored" history, not to mention family lore. For the purposes of these three articles, we will go with the last 100 years or so—in all respects, "modern history," long after Native Americans settled in this area—both documented and word of mouth.

Hamlet of Hundreds

The Congregational Summer Assembly

By Nancy Morrison

Current Contributor

For more than 100 years, the Congregational Summer Assembly (CSA) has been a small hamlet of cottages, cabins, and community spaces, clustered along the western shore of Crystal Lake, just north of Frankfort. Founded by Congregational ministers in the early 20th century, the CSA has since provided religious, musical, athletic, and other activities to promote the welfare of its constituents. Today, a staff of 28 people oversee the daily schedule—comprised mostly of about three months of the year (June, July, and August)—with an elected Board of Trustees and Officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) who tend to the annual responsibilities. The 15 Trustees are elected on a revolving three-year term basis, with five incoming and five outgoing each year. Various ad hoc committees are peopled by volunteers from interested members and friends.

The CSA summer population has served to "grow Benzie County" and has furnished an uptick in tourism for the summer season for more than 100 years. Local merchants and artisans have all benefited from the life-long friendships with the "lakies."

The CSA is situated on a strip of land that is approximately 200 acres—bordered on the west by Lake Michigan; on the north by M-22, running westerly through Pilgrim up to Crystalia along Crystal Lake; on the east by Lot #23 of the CSA plat, up to Gray Logs; and on the south by Thomas Road, off South Shore Drive. In all, there are 140 cottages contained within the CSA, with membership numbering around 1,400 annually, between cottage-owners, families, renters, and guests.

Before Benzie

Prior to permanent settlement by European descendants/non-Native peoples, Benzie County was a prime location for the lumbermen, with virgin timber to be clear-cut, sawn into building materials, and then transported to waiting clients. Between the 1890s and the 1920s, lumber camps sprang up, with their sawmills and dependency on the rivers for transport. At first, the lumber was piled and lugged on carts or wagons, pulled by oxen or horses.

One of the railroads—the Ann Arbor Railroad—capitalized on the opportunity to extend its siding tracks and accommodate the lumbering. The AARR recognized an advantage of having ferry service to transport the lumber from a Lake Michigan port to cities in Northern Michigan and Wisconsin. The AA No.1 and AA No.2 were wooden ferries that were constructed to carry heavy-laden freight cars to these new destinations. The first port, and natural harbor on the western shore of Lake Michigan, was Frankfort.

The AARR owned a line between Toledo, Ohio, and Frankfort. At the end of the 19th century, the AARR owners added a few passenger cars onto the rear of the freight trains that ran this route, which would bode well for future travelers. One route was from Toledo to Thompsonville. (Author's Note: My Uncle Jim called it "The Milkshake Special," because it was terribly bumpy!)

Meanwhile, in 1900, the Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology was turning out

newly minted Congregational ministers whose pastorates were spread over several states. These clergymen proposed a "summer Bible college," a gathering where they would convene with other, more senior pastors for a week or so during their summer leaves. They preferred this idea over their return to colleges/coursework that would be a strain on their budgets and time. Their proposal, initiated by Reverend Henry S. Wannamaker of Elyria, was presented to the Cleveland Conference of the Congregational Churches of Ohio. (Later, Wannamaker would be among the first lot-owners to build a cottage on the CSA grounds in Pilgrim.)

Families were also encouraged to attend, with assorted age-related activities available to youngsters; participation in the large adult and equally large children's choirs was expected. Other activities were organized, with participation determined by individual preference. Women did the cooking and the musical direction. Seminars were attended by everyone.

In 1901, the Conference met again and ap-

degree recipient from Oberlin (1957) and Civil War expert.

One leading promoter in moving the Conference to the Frankfort locale was Reverend John H. Hull, an Oberlin graduate, who had accepted a pastorate at the then-40-year-old Frankfort Congregational Church; he was also Frankfort's mayor at this time. A year-round resident, he was intimately aware of the natural beauty of the Michigan location, so he encouraged his confreres to consider Frankfort as a permanent locale for the Congregational Summer Assembly.

The AARR provided a tour for some others on the organizing committee, and soon the deal was clinched.

The first summer in Frankfort was 1904. The new Royal Frontenac Hotel, constructed by the AARR, was available for lodging and meals. Local residents rented out rooms to visitors. The Frankfort Opera House was opened to lectures, and, for a nominal fee, Frankforters could join the CSA's sessions.

Further enticements by the AARR served to draw the CSA summer visitors; the sweetest "deal" was the AARR's offer of a land grant of 175 acres, just two miles north of Frankfort, north of the Larson dairy farm and west of the road leading to Crystal Lake (now M-22). This grant included the restrictions that the CSA would construct \$10,000 worth of buildings within the next five years and would attract 200 or more attendees each year. The CSA then took a mortgage to purchase several additional acres from the Crane Lumber Co., to include the 500 feet of shoreline to the east of M-22, along South Shore Drive.

Not long after that, the CSA acquired property in Crystalia, annexing Marquette Court and Lover's Lane. In 1905, the CSA recorded its plat with the Benzie County Recorder of Deeds. Reverend Hull, the CSA's second managing director (after Wannamaker, the first), deeded his two lots—north of what is now Mayflower Field, where the Assembly Hall/Community Building is now located. Included in this 1906 property was the hill behind (north of) the Assembly Hall, to the overlook of Crystal Lake, above the sharp west curve of what is now M-22. (The Sue Frost Memorial setting is now used for Sunday Evening Vesper services.)

In the late 1950s, the CSA purchased the property that had housed the Olsen Standard Oil gas station/marina and the Polka Dot outdoor restaurant, located on the corner where South Shore Drive meets M-22. The Olsen dock enabled boaters to "gas up," and swimmers cautiously ventured into the oil slicks that provided refractory glints on the surface of the lake. After a few years, the station and the Polka Dot were razed, and now the Crystal View cafe offers light refreshments to patrons. (It is open to the public, not just to CSA members.)

Individual lots were sold, and tents were available for rent, with a large tent being used for the big gatherings and meetings. Wannamaker bought the first cottage on the CSA grounds; it was built by a woodcutter. As the years passed, more members began to build summer cottages on their lots, to replace the tent accommodations. (Originally, these cottages did not enjoy running water, plumbing, or winterizations. Recently, however, most of the older dwellings have been modernized; newer construction includes winterization for members who wish to live "Up North" year-round.)

Robert J. Bennett, a wealthy wholesale produce



Check out those super rockin' bathing suits. Photo courtesy of the Congregational Summer Assembly.

proved the plan for a "summer assembly" of Congregationalists. The ministers and their families found meeting grounds at the Methodists' campgrounds at Lakeside, Ohio, which were complete with a hotel and dining facilities, in addition to tents.

When the rental fee for this facility was raised the next year, Warren offered the use of his undeveloped 700-acre holding at Pottawattomie Point, near New Buffalo, Michigan. Accommodations in the rugged, primitive dunes were tents. Assembly participants endured epic storms that year, with gale-force winds that blew away their tents. Most impressive were the swarms of mosquitoes that successfully sought out the ready flesh-and-blood of the attendees. (One pastor from Kansas returned home before the week-long session was concluded!)

This Conference was part of a growing national trend during the 1890s and early 1900s toward evangelism and a "social Gospel" sprouted several camp-like retreats elsewhere that renewed the religious zeal among all denominations—such as Chautauqua, New York; Epworth in Manistee, Michigan; and Lakeside, Ohio. These retreats employed similar formats: lectures/discussions, structured physical exercise, and music, along with renewed/continued friendships.

Getting to Benzie

Even before the Conference landed in Benzie County, this area was home to Benzonina Academy, (now Mills Community House) founded by Reverend George R. Catton (1855-1919), a Congregationalist whose political beliefs included the abolition of slavery. The Academy maintained high academic standards for its students, including Catton's famous son, Bruce Catton, honorary

On the Shore of Crystal Lake

Glen Eyrie, and Crystal Highlands

merchant from Chicago, contributed heavily toward the construction of the wood-frame Lodge, which had 50 rentable rooms that were sparsely furnished—back then, the partitions that divided rooms on the lower floor did not extend all the way to the ceiling, and knotholes on the walls were stuffed with tissue to prevent neighbors' peeping eyes from looking in! The chef had a large kitchen and ice house in which to create meals that were served in the Lodge's dining room. The fireplace in the central lounge was the only source of heat.

Five years later, the AARR recognized that the conditions for the land-grant had been met, and the acreage was deeded over to the CSA.

Expansion and Longevity

The Oberlin founders of the CSA insisted on nurturing not only the spiritual/religious aspects of their weeks of retreat, they also maintained high standards in structured physical activities and musical offerings. A large tent was put up in front of the Lodge for meetings. Physical activities then included horseshoes, shuffleboard, tennis (on two clay courts in front of the Lodge), swimming, horseback riding, hiking, and bird-watching. One favorite, which has stood the test of time, was to search for Petoskey stones on the Lake Michigan beach.

Weekly church services were a major event for early Assembly-goers; even today, the Sunday services are attended by good crowds. At first, the sermons were delivered by the attending Congregationalist pastors and teachers; lately, there has been a trend toward welcoming pastors of other denominations. The musical offerings set the standard for the ages, with adult choirs numbering in the 80s and children's choirs at 50 or more.

The next two buildings that sprang up on the CSA grounds were the Dining Hall (with its attached kitchen and seating for 80) and the auditorium that seated 400. Substantial funding from Bennett, the Chicago produce merchant who had also contributed to the first Lodge, enabled this expansion, so the "Bennett Auditorium" was named in his honor. The Dining Hall replaced the one in the Lodge; it also housed the Post Office (later) and the CSA Office. Smaller meetings were held in the Community Room, now known as "The Assembly Hall."

The Auditorium was unique, in that it had no supporting posts inside it. The design had been utilized in Illinois, where Bennett's son had successfully built a similar structure. During the winter, cedar posts were installed to support

the roof. For many decades, the dirt floor, the glass-less shuttered windows, the resident bats, and the creaky stage served as home to the Sunday services, musical events, pageants, "Stunt Nights," and other meetings. Everyone in the community was welcome to attend these events. Eventually, the dirt floor was covered with a cement slab, and the piano was replaced several times.

In 1959, a hard winter that brought several feet of snow led to the collapse of the original Auditorium. In the summer of 1960, services and activities were held on the cement slab in the open air, and the weather cooperated. Plans for the replacement went full-speed ahead, and a successful fundraising campaign ended with the construction of the new Meeting House in 1961. Another bad winter struck that year, and in a repeat of the earlier debacle, the new building also collapsed—it was found that the welding in the steel girders used in the construction were faulty, so the Wisconsin manufacturer replaced the building, in time for the 1962 season.

The new Meeting House, in the spot where the original Bennet Auditorium had stood since 1909,

was the central gathering place and thus needed to

have a bell to announce services and to alarm cottage owners in the event of emergency. So James L.

Taylor, from suburban Chicago and Crystalia, arranged with the Illinois Central Railroad for them to donate a bell from a retired locomotive. (Though the ILCR did not want the CSA to tell anyone, for fear that too many others would ask.) John A. Hawley then drove to Chicago to pick up the bell, and it was loaded into the trunk of his 1956 Buick Special—with such weight in the trunk, the car's headlights were aimed at treetops on his seven-hour journey to Crystal Lake.

Present and Future

The CSA founding fathers had established by-laws at incorporation on August 20, 1904; the tradition has been both Congregationalist and democratic in nature. The original property deeds included a stipulation that no alcohol would be served in the cottages or on the grounds. Note that these documents were created during the Prohibition Era, with the advent of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). Though, the deeds still stipulate the "no-alcohol" clause, these rules have been relaxed to the point where responsible alcohol consumption is tolerated but not encouraged; "drinking parties" on the Lake Michi-

Ann Arbor Railroad and the Lowering of Crystal Lake

Earlier this summer, Andy Bolander, a volunteer at the Benzie Area Historical Society, penned three pieces for *The Betsie Current* that all explored how the Ann Arbor Railroad was instrumental in the development of Benzie County. (Check out the first, second, and third issues of the 2018 season for these articles in their entirety.)

"The railroad's impact on our county was significant, and many aspects of Benzie County that we enjoy today—more than 100 years later—are the results of the Ann Arbor Railroad," Bolander writes. "For instance, the railroad advertised our area as a vacation hotspot; built the 250-room Royal Frontenac Hotel, which was located right on the beach in Frankfort; facilitated the growth of local agriculture and the fruit-processing industry; and connected Benzie County to the outside world. Moreover, the villages of Thompsonville and Beulah were created by the railroads. Furthermore, tourism is arguably the most important industry in Benzie County today, with hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, according to the Benzie County Visitor's Bureau, and tourism started here because of the railroad."

Getting to the heart of Benzie County prior to the 1870s was difficult, but the lowering of Crystal Lake in 1873 helped in unintended ways—the original idea was to create a canal between the Betsie River and Crystal Lake, so that the boats could reach inland to Benzonia from the Frankfort port on Lake Michigan. However, due to a miscalculation by Archibald Jones and the Benzie County River Improvement Co. (read more of this history in a 2014 article on *The Betsie Current's* website at bit.ly/archiejones), the level of Crystal Lake was dropped by about 20 feet, though the drop between the lake and river was originally calculated only to be 4.5 feet.

Not only was Crystal Lake's sandy beach good for building homes and resorts, it was also as hard as a plank road, which provided a level surface for the Frankfort & South Eastern Railroad to be built around 1890. The arrival of the Ann Arbor Railroad in 1892 was a major event, not only because of the new jobs created along the rails and on the car ferries, but it also made Benzie County much more accessible to visitors from population centers to the south. The Ann Arbor Railroad promoted tourism to Benzie County in the interest of improving passenger traffic on the railroad.

Old Neighborhood on the North Shore

Glen Eyrie going strong for a century and more

By Beau Vallance

Current Contributor

"I love how this road works!" said a friend visiting the north shore of Crystal Lake. He was observing the quarter-mile stretch along the common beach of Glen Eyrie, a community that is a century—and many generations—old. Neighbors were strolling the road, visiting at cottages.

In the panoramic group photo of the 2004 centennial celebration picnic, one man appears on both edges of the crowd, having moved between camera shots. Many people visible between his two locations have since passed away, but the event's commemorative banner, "Glen Eyrie - 100 years in 2004," still hangs on a weathered boathouse across the road. Glen Eyrie is now 114.

The Beginnings

The story is told in a record created by Jean Nichols Hillman, whose family came to Glen Eyrie in 1919 from the Chicago area. *The Glen Eyrie Story*, first printed in 1984, has been updated twice, now 128 pages and modernized as a digitized PDF document. It covers geology—ice from the last Ice Age filled a bay of primeval Lake Algonquin/Michigan, walling off Crystal Lake with a loop of moraines—the plat's legal chronology, and the stories of the families.

The property started its legal life just after the Civil War, as a land grant that had been

assigned by President Andrew Johnson to four people named Carpenter. It changed hands several times, before Sydney Strong—a minister from Oak Park, Illinois, who had been attending meetings with the Congregational Summer Assembly (CSA) since the 1890s, even before the CSA's permanent home on Crystal Lake began in 1904—rowed around the lake, seeking a place

to build a cottage. (In those days, any interaction between groups on the lake could only take place with boat shuttles, as the road around Crystal Lake had not yet been built. For instance, open-deck shuttle boats traveled from the CSA to Beulah and back for \$0.25.)

In 1904, Strong bought 29 acres with 1,700 feet of shoreline for \$350. Someone later named it Glen Eyrie, for the eagle's nest there, confirmed in an old photo. (During a recent outdoor annual meeting, two eagles flew over; the event was noted in the minutes.)

Strong registered the plat in 1910, specifying a "lakeway dedicated to the common use of all property owners." He brought friends and colleagues north from Illinois, and the early cottages were built by these people—Congregational ministers, a settlement house worker, a missionary, a church organist, a Chicago Board of Trade member, a doctor, a dentist. But early settlers also included a jelly-maker from New York state; an Ohio druggist;

someone from Omaha, appearing briefly in early records; and, by 1941, my grandfather, an Ohio college professor who was undaunted by his inexperience in construction.

The early cottages were homemade "vernacular architecture," with daylight visible through walls and additions, as needed. One

people did grocery shopping by boat or horse and buggy. Decades passed, the road was paved, and the community is now 17 homes across the road from the beach, only four inhabited year-round. Some are extremely basic: one has wallpaper made of birchbark and a bed hanging by chains on the screened porch; in another, one corner was supported by a log and tree stumps, long since rotted; all have water and electricity.

Over time, the cottages acquired telephones, washing machines, internet access, and structural improvements, such as an actual foundation replacing the rotted logs of the cottage mentioned above. Many added bathrooms, but one added a bathroom that is accessed through an outside door next to the kitchen door; another has new kitchen cabinets from Ikea. At least two older cottages have one insulated/heated room, allowing stays past summer. And with added generations, as many as 10 families now share cottage space among the summer weeks—schedules can be elaborate, accommodating several families' claims on specific weeks or weekends of the high season.

Originally settled by Chicago Congregationalists, Glen Eyrie now brings summer people from Illinois and Michigan, as well as Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. The population is increasingly diverse




Actually, as of 2018, it has now been 114 years of Glen Eyrie. Photo by Beau Vallance.


was reportedly a Sears & Roebuck kit house and has weathered a century of regular use.

Progress

Beulah existed by 1904, thanks to the accidental lowering of the lake three decades before, but Crystal Drive was a dirt road then. Summer



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with respect to religious affiliations, including "none." Lifelong friendships, even marriages, have been formed among the cottagers, and the beach has hosted marshmallow fires, stargazing, proposals, weddings, and ashes-scatterings. Life happens there.

That shared beach on Crystal Lake—an open, sandy space, dotted only by beach sheds for more than a century—has, by tradition, been maintained and used in sections, corresponding to the cottages facing them. But use is shared: neighbors walk the length, a large floating fun island (now defunct) was a community resource, as is a picnic table now, and the community meeting and picnic are scheduled around the availability of one cottage's rustic old boathouse.

Challenges and Survival

The common beach has been challenged twice. In the early 1970s, neighbors in Crystal Highlands, another Crystal Lake community

located just above Glen Eyrie, were prevented from converting one recently purchased cottage in Glen Eyrie into a clubhouse with beach access for all Highlands owners. Few still living remember the details, but that plan was defeated; the Highlanders sold that cottage and have been excellent neighbors for decades since.

Then, almost 10 years ago, people from half of the cottages tried to legally block construction of a new "boathouse" on the beach (plumbed, with kitchenette and other advanced amenities, and no lakeside boat door), and took the battle to the Michigan Supreme Court. They lost, but the challenge—citing also an earlier covenant, attempting to protect the beach—made public their commitment to keeping the lakeway free of cottages.

The current elders who fought the "boathouse" were once children making sand castles. They are now well into retirement in their 70s and 80s, more than half the age of Glen Eyrie itself. They, their extended families, old neigh-

bors, and new owners keep Glen Eyrie strong. More year-rounders—an added resource—watch over cottages that are closed for the winter, and the new "Mayor," Mary Kinzie, is an enthusiastic newcomer.

Voluntary dues cover small expenses, like the Glen Eyrie road signs. And that well-attended yearly picnic—missing some people from the centennial photo but replenished regularly—follows the meeting, recently blessed by eagles.

Sydney Strong might be astonished that Glen Eyrie has lasted into the digital age. But, having dedicated that strip of land as a lakeway to be shared for generations, he would be pleased. And he might agree that the road works well.

Beau Vallance has been a member of the Glen Eyrie community since she nearly died of whooping cough at the family cottage when she was one year old, in 1947. She has served as Mayor and is currently Town Crier.

One Degree of Separation

Crystal Highlands

By Susan Koenig

Current Contributor

High on the bluff above the Glen Eyrie community, on the North Shore of Crystal Lake, sets a 500-acre development that stretches north to Long Lake and east to Rogers Road. Crystal Highlands—formerly known as Crystal Highlands Orchards, Inc., and prior to that as the Kimball-Willard Corporation, or "K&W"—is linked with Glen Eyrie not only geographically, being adjacent to one another, but also historically. Both communities were developed by ardent Congregationalists from Oak Park, Illinois, who first came to Benzie County to live as summer residents among kindred souls.

What began as a couple of families' hobby-farming project has since become a hillside development consisting of 64 families owning 72 lots, of which 36 have houses and 24 are occupied full-time year-round. The Crystal Highlands Owners Association (CHOA) maintains recreation facilities that include three beaches, boating facilities, a tennis court, picnic and playground area, and a network of walking trails for the enjoyment of its members. In addition, CHOA encourages a sense of community thorough social activities and civic endeavors—neighbors enjoy meeting on the trails and serendipitous gatherings at the beach, as well as planned picnics and other events.

Early Times

In 1904, Sydney Strong—a minister from Oak Park, Illinois, who had been attending meetings with the Congregational Summer Assembly (CSA) since the 1890s, even before the CSA made its permanent home on Crystal Lake—bought 29 acres with 1,700 feet of shoreline for \$350, and this became Glen Eyrie. Meanwhile, both Dr. William G. Willard and Frank Kimball, fellow Congregationalists and Oak Park residents, purchased property in Glen Eyrie in the early 1900s and built cottages for summer living.*

**Interestingly, the Kimball Cottage was designed by John Shellette Van Bergen (1885-1969), also an Oak Park resident and architect of note, who worked in Frank Lloyd Wright's studio in 1909. Van Bergen's style, like that of Wright's, was to blend homes with the environment surrounding the structures. The lumber for the house in question, and the huge stones for the massive fireplace, were brought to the site by barge across Crystal Lake, since there was no paved road to the area at that time. (This is the same "cottage" referred to in Beau Vallance's article as the "clubhouse" in the Glen Eyrie lawsuit from the 1970s.) This year is the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Kimball Cottage.*

By 1918, the two had decided to buy the acreage on the hills above Glen Eyrie, as well, forming the Kimball-Willard Corporation (K&W). They cleared about 150 acres of the land and planted apple and cherry trees, using the cut lumber to build a farmhouse and large traditional-style barn, whose cupola had a view of six lakes: Crystal, Upper Platte,

the hill above Crystal Lake and Glen Eyrie. Besides farming, Dayton had manifold endeavors, such as raising turkeys (most became victims of foxes); making jams, jellies and juices; and later cultivating dahlias (some readers may remember "Dayton's Dazzling Dahlias").

From his mother Anna [Marchant] Kim-



A barn and open field overlook Lake Michigan in the background. These are the last vestiges of rural farm life in the Crystal Highlands development. Photo by Susan Koenig.

Lower Platte, Loon, Long, and Lake Michigan.

Since farming was more of a hobby for the highly educated doctor and the prominent Chicago Board of Trade member, the two hired local residents to run the farm and harvest the crops.

Frank Kimball's granddaughter, Elizabeth Warner, recalls what her grandmother, Anna, quipped about her husband's pastime: "The only good thing that came out of the orchard was the meeting between [their daughter, my mother] Lois and her future husband [my father]," referring to Harold Jacox, who had come to the farm with a group of YMCA friends from Flint to pick fruit during the summer. Warner adds that there were "a lot of girls" summering in Glen Eyrie, and dances were held at the K&W farm on Saturday nights for locals and summer folks to get together.

When Kimball died in 1922, Dr. Willard bought the Kimball family's share of the business, and his one son, (William) Dayton Willard (1901-1984), who loved growing fruit, acquired the property when he graduated in 1925 from Michigan State University.

The Kimball-Willard 500 acres became Crystal View Orchards, and Dayton married Leora Keatts (1902-1991) in 1933, when the couple moved permanently to their home on

ball's 1948 obituary: "The Kimball family's interest in Benzie County began in 1908, when they joined the Glen Eyrie group of early summer cottages on the north shore of Crystal Lake. The Crystal Lake Orchards and the Kimball-Willard Orchards were an outgrowth of a development idea, established by six friends of the [Glen Eyrie] Colony, including the Kimballs. These were among the first of the large-scale fruit growing ventures in the region and are now combined in the one large fruit farm, Crystal View Orchards, operated by Dayton Willard."

Other Families

According to a 1986 article by Tom Northway in the *Benzie County Record Patriot*, "other entire families of local townspeople and folks from as far as Mesick and Copemish worked the orchards in the 1920s. Some camped, others commuted, and some resided in the farmhouse."

In the 1930s, a wave of Southern white and black migrant laborers followed harvests to Michigan, followed by Mexican and Jamaican labor in the '40s. In his article, Northway describes locals such as Bob Martin, Bill Boal, Bert Rayle, and Joe Stormer, who provide anecdotes and observations from their days as employees who lived and worked on the

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Willard farm—apparently, Dayton was a taskmaster, to say the least, and did not tolerate shenanigans. (To learn more about the farm's later history, read Northway's article, now housed in the archives of the Benzie Shores District Library in downtown Frankfort.)

Dayton and Leora, despite their city backgrounds (she was a college graduate with a music major), managed to raise their daughter and enjoy a life of relative isolation on the farm. None of their immediate neighbors were winter residents, but Dayton's nephew (Harold Case) and various relatives lived in Beulah; the Willards and Cases all attended the same church, and Leora gave piano lessons, in addition to making her jams and jellies. Their house still stands, on a promontory off Highland Drive, overlooking Crystal Lake.

Although the couple lived in their house on the hill until they died, after 45 years of farming, in 1969, Dayton sold the property and farm equipment to summer neighbors Jack and Marj French and Jim and Eileen Kelly, who retained the "Crystal Highlands" part of the name, but later dropped the "Orchards, Inc." when their focus for the property became real estate development. The sale included the beach at the bottom of the two-track (now Highland Drive), and subsequently the Frenches and Kellys bought additional beach frontage at the bottom of another trail, now Spring Valley Road, from Chet Cutler, a local car dealer, and his wife, Gertie Bell. (The Frenches and Kellys later donated the beach to the Crystal Highlands Owners Association.)

At that juncture, the Highlands "neighborhood" wasn't really a 'hood, until the second residents moved in to the original farmhouse on the hill. Yours truly and my husband, Roland, arrived as newlyweds from New Jersey—bag and baggage and dogs—in between blizzards in February of 1971.

Roland was hired to manage the property under the tutelage of Dayton Willard, and so a continuation of the "pioneer days" ensued: the only road was a two-track and wildlife was abundant, but—apart from the Willards, whose only previous employee had recently run amok with the tractor and absconded to town, never to be heard from again—there were no other (human) inhabitants. (I am not counting the deer, racoons, porcupines, and wild turkeys, who were smarter than Dayton's domestic ones, thus able to out-fox the foxes.)

Undaunted, we proceeded to raise chickens, pigs, goats, and a horse named Ginger, housing them in the classic old barn. That summer, we hired a large and amiable Mexican family to pick fruit, and they lived in a trailer near the quonset, where the heavy equipment was stored. Roland learned about fruit farming under Dayton's tutelage and through the help of various agencies and farmers in the county, and I learned about everything that isolated country living has to offer!

Divvying It Up

By 1973, the Kellys and Frenches had built 2.5 miles of roads throughout the property, including Highalnd Drive, Spring Valley Road, and White Birch Trail. They originally platted 61 lots and built a water system to service the eastern portion of the community. Later, they added Orchard Lane and platted 11 lots on Summit Place and Sleeping Bear View—the 72 lots of Crystal Highlands were then finished.

The last fruit harvest was in 1975, and now residents have to content themselves with harvesting the small, bruised fruit that continues to grow on the few existing apple trees. The once-abundant wild berries have, for the most part, yielded to development, but leeks and morel mushrooms continue to be found in varying quantities.

The current Highlands residents do not necessarily interact a great deal with Glen Eyrie below, but relations are cordial. Relics of the "olden days" are few and far between, except for one original outbuilding at the farm location and some remains of a barn

on the east side of the development, including two "picker houses," later renovated to a level that is unrecognizable from their former incarnations.

With the formation of the Crystal Highlands Owners Association on July 15, 1975, and the donation of the Crystal Lake beach frontage to the association, Crystal Highlands was complete, for the time being, though the Kellys and the Frenches continued to make changes and improvements. (For instance, they sold 27 acres in the area of Long Lake to a group of developers who created Long Lake Heights plat of 17 lots.**) The Association's mission was to oversee the property interests, but also to promote social and recreational activities that would enhance the welfare of the group.

In 1986, CHOA leased 150 acres of the land that was eventually donated in 1993 for recreational use, subject to a conservation easement. This land included the recreation area on Highland Drive, where the tennis court is located, and the 300 feet of beach on Long Lake, accessed from the turn-around on Orchard Lane. Not long afterward, CHOA deeded a conservation easement to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, for a portion of that acreage, including what is known as "the bowl," for creating a "natural state in perpetuity." This parcel is located below the lots on the ridge of Sleeping Bear View and cannot be developed.

Additionally, in 2002, the CHOA voted to purchase a 35-acre parcel, which is situated northeast of Highland Drive, across from the Recreation Area, from Jim Kelly. The land, know as the "meadow," is to be used as a permanent Natural Preserve and Conservancy, with a network of walking trails throughout.

After Jack French died n 2004 and the property was divided between the two families, the Kellys began a new farming venture, with the construction of a beautiful barn and the installation therein of the popular Belted Galloway cows, often referred to as "Oreo Cookie Cows," because of their distinctive markings. The farm became a popular tourist stop, as people came to admire the herd. Al Cline, then property manager, has retired to write poetry and novels, and the cows retired, as well—at present, the land is home to the ubiquitous deer (no hunting allowed!) and transient Sand Hill cranes. (As of the writing of this article, the future of the farm is unknown, but rests in the capable hands of the Kelly family.)

In The Present

The first annual meeting on July 31, 1976, of the Crystal Highlands Owners Association was held at my home (the original farmhouse) with 16 people present. By the last meeting, held at Grow Benzie this past July, our number had grown to 52 attendees.

The CHOA community, still growing, remains dedicated to neighborliness, maintaining the beauty of the surroundings and enhancing the well-being of all residents. The original motto—"a home where you know your neighbors, but you can't see them"—has not been adhered to as much as we might wish, but it is a lovely, peaceful, and congenial place to live, as is Glen Eyrie below.

The Willards and the Kimballs are, we hope, proud of what our two neighborhoods represent.


Susan Koenig has lived in Crystal Highlands since 1971.

***In 1998, Eileen Kelly purchased 40 acres on the south side of Highland Drive, near the recreation area, and platted 21 lots. Crystal View Commons and Jack's Way are the access roads/paths to this development. This area is known as "The Preserve" and, like the Long Lake Heights development, is not part of the Crystal Highlands Association area, but homeowners in these areas can join as associate members, in order to access the recreation area and trails and to participate in CHOA activities.*

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Reign

Continued from page 1

that monarchs are an important link in our delicate ecological balance, and they can use all the help they can get.

In Big Trouble

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is a milkweed butterfly, with other common names, depending on region, including: "milkweed," "common tiger," "wanderer," and "black-veined brown" butterfly. Considered an iconic pollinator species, its wings feature an easily recognizable stained-glass-window-like pattern of orange background color with black edging and veining, as well as delicate white dots all along the black edge.

Monarch butterflies ingest nectar from a variety of flowers, but when it is time to lay eggs, they only do so on the undersides of milkweed leaves. Their caterpillars are known for dining exclusively on milkweed, although studies are now being done (with limited success) offering pumpkins.

During the fall migration, monarchs cover thousands of miles, with a corresponding multi-generational return north in the spring—the eastern North American monarch population heads south in late summer/early autumn from the northern and central portions of the United States and southern Canada to Florida and even Mexico; the western population on the other side of the Rocky Mountains often migrates to southern California and a bit of northern Mexico.

But monarchs have experienced a dramatic decline over the past several years, a decline that is being linked to genetically engineered crops in the Midwest, according to *Yale Environment 360*. It has gotten so bad, in fact, that they are being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act (the listing decision is due in June 2019).

Man-made challenges are not the only ones affecting the loss—Gilbert adds that we lost an estimated 150 million just last year due to a huge storm at the beginning of the migration season.

Not only do monarchs pollinate several flower species, they also are a food source for birds. Their migration cycle—described as the most spectacular of the insect world by Smithsonian.com—is being supported by conservation efforts in their known natural habitats: Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

To The Rescue

Realizing what a front-row seat he had to nature from his backroom workshop, Gilbert began his own research on the butterfly that many regard as America's favorite. (Of note: monarchs are the "state insect" of Alabama, Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, and West Virginia!) Before long, he had discovered the work of Mr. Rich Lund, a science teacher in St. John, Michigan, who has created a popular Youtube video series on the stages of the monarch butterfly: egg, larvae (caterpillar), pupa

(chrysalis), and butterfly. Lund manages the Monarch Butterfly Project, which—through a website, Facebook page, and the Youtube videos—helps people to learn about the monarch's plight and how to help, through planting milkweed seeds and raising the butterflies.

Because the monarchs have so many predators, Gilbert has also witnessed some of nature's cruel moments.

"Spiders are probably the largest threat to the monarchs," he says. "But I've also seen a wasp tear right into one."

In addition to spiders and wasps, other natural predators include yellow jackets and praying mantises.

Once the pupa (chrysalis) stage is reached, Gilbert collects them and places them in butterfly houses—small, open-aided, screened boxes. There they remain for the nine or so days that it takes for them to mature and emerge. After letting their wings dry for an hour or so, the butterfly is ready to take flight.

"It's really an amazing thing to see once they emerge," Gilbert says. "At first, their wings are relatively tiny, until their body fluid reaches the tips and they can fully extend. They grow before your very eyes."

When his butterflies are ready to leave their houses, Gilbert tries to time their release into the wild to coincide with proper weather conditions and a good tail wind.

"If I know there is to be rain or a storm in their path, I'll delay releasing them for a day or so," he says.

A Long Way To Go

The migration itself seems to defy the laws of nature, because they go so far. Since Monarchs are not able to survive in cold climates, they travel to warmer areas for winter months,

before returning in spring to lay their eggs. Butterflies from this area will generally travel all the way to Mexico, and they will cover as many as 300 miles in a single day. How do they do this? They climb to an altitude that makes for easier flight, and glider pilots have reported seeing them flying at 10,000 feet.

Gilbert began tracking his own monarch project in 2009. So far, the record year has been

What Is a Monarch's Lifespan?

It depends on the generation. Each season, four (and sometimes as many as five) generations of monarch butterflies go through the life cycle (egg, caterpillar, pupa, and butterfly) as they return from warmer climates. The first generation matures as early as March. For early generations, the life cycle of a monarch is relatively short—only two to six weeks. The last generation—those butterflies maturing in late fall, live long enough for the migration and to begin the cycle again in the spring. These last—fourth or fifth generation—monarchs can live as long as nine months.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia commons.bit.ly/2vNlyFD

2014, when he was able to send 210 brand new butterflies on their way; 2018 could be a contender, however, with 129 released so far and 40 chrysalises left, in addition to 40 caterpillars currently in captivity.

How can people help? Even if there is not interest in the hands-on monitoring through butterfly houses and manual releases like what Gilbert does, it is relatively easy to create an environment to foster a successful migration.

"They key is the milkweed," Gilbert says. Scattering and watering seeds in a protected area gives the butterflies an excellent place to lay their eggs upon return to the area. Planting native flowers also can help to attract the monarchs which, unlike bees, are able to see bright colors.

More information, including the aforementioned videos, can be found on the Mr. Lund Science Butterfly Project website at MonarchButterflies.Ida-Michigan.com/Videos.html.

Be(a)tles

Continued from page 1

also be spread by wind, humans, and wildlife.

What Can Be Done?

When faced with millions of seeds and a web of roots, control can seem daunting and often impossible, especially when facing an outbreak as expansive as the loosestrife that is currently growing on the outskirts of Honor.

Enter the purple loosestrife beetles, two species of *Galerucella* from Europe that are serving as tiny soldiers in the war against purple loosestrife. Given that both the plant and the beetle are from Europe, it follows that the beetles are natural enemies of purple loosestrife and target primarily that plant. (Although they will occasionally consume winged loosestrife/*Lythrum alatum* and swamp loosestrife/*Decodon verticillatus*, which are beneficial native species, so that is a not-so-favorable side effect.)

By eating the shoots and leaves, the beetles eventually cause enough stress for the plant to die. When the population of loosestrife shrinks and can no longer support the beetle, these little predators die along with it.

While this method of control rarely eradicates a plant population entirely, it does make it drastically smaller without the use of herbicides or the disturbance of manual control, such as digging or pulling.

Introducing a predator species to control an invasive species is called biocontrol and, understandably, this can cause some alarm bells to go off—how can introducing another foreign species possibly go well? These concerns are entirely valid. For instance, a parasitic fly that was introduced to eastern North America in the early 20th century from Europe to control gypsy moths turned its taste to the native wild giant silk moth, causing massive mortality. More well-known is the 1935 introduction in Australia of the cane toad, which was intended to manage the populations of a beetle that decimated sugar cane crops; cane toads soon took over, with nearly no effect on the beetle.

In both above examples, very little research was done before introduction took place—no one considered the fact that cane toads travel on the ground, while the beetles were found at the top of sugar cane plants, which can grow more than 15 feet tall. There was also no thought regarding the breeding capabilities of the toads (30,000 eggs per year).

Fortunately, the forms of biocontrol that are being used today are researched extensively and are thoroughly trusted as methods of control for invasive species, including purple loosestrife.

Studies on the effectiveness of *Galerucella* beetles began in the mid-1980s, and they were not established as a reliable biocontrol until their first release in 1992. Release sites included locations in Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and Canada. Since then, the beetles have been used throughout North America for loosestrife control with widespread success. It is predicted that, once the beetle becomes established,

purple loosestrife will be reduced by 90 percent over approximately 90 percent of its present range.

As for the more sensitive native species of loosestrife, the beetles prefer to eat and reproduce on the invasive variety. Additionally, in most cases, native loosestrife rarely grows densely enough to support a large population of beetle.

Help from EPA Grant

For several years, the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN) has been periodically contacted regarding the infestation of purple loosestrife in Honor. The invasive plant is taking over the roadside ditches, which serve as pocket wetlands as you approach the village.

Unfortunately, due to funding restrictions and grant requirements, ISN has been unable to treat the plants previously. However, this year, funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has provided the opportunity to start tackling this outbreak using the biocontrol method.

On July 12, ISN released approximately 1,000 beetles on the target area, located just west

of the shopping plaza along US-31. The Village of Honor and other local partners, including the Benzie Conservation District (BCD), assisted with coordinating this effort. This was the perfect location to do a beetle release, as the population of plants is very large and dense; smaller, more sporadic populations cannot sustain the beetles.

“The Benzie Conservation District’s in-

terest in controlling the purple loosestrife in Honor was really threefold: first and foremost, purple loosestrife threatens critical wetland habitat,” says John Ransom, conservation Specialist at the BCD. “Secondly, purple loosestrife is a highly visible invasive that lined highway US-31 in the heart of Benzie County, and finally we saw the opportunity to use a biocontrol, which is a unique way to combat invasive species compared to more typical mechanical and chemical treatments. Lastly, we are fortunate to be able to work with the Invasive Species Network, who stepped up to make sure this project was successful.”

Over time and with repeated treatments, the purple loosestrife population should begin to dwindle with minimal effort from people and no herbicide use.

The beetles are doing the hard work in this situation, although it is difficult to call eating one’s favorite food “hard work.”

It is also possible that the beetles will move on to find more populations of purple loosestrife, apart from the plants they were released on—studies done by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have found *Galerucella* beetles on plants that were nearly 12 miles away from their original site.

Only time will tell in this particular battle.

Emily Cook is ISN’s Outreach Specialist. Any questions can be directed to 231-941-0960 extension 20 or ecook@gtcd.org. For more information on purple loosestrife, other terrestrial invasive species, and management, visit HabitatMatters.org.



Two species of *Galerucella* purple loosestrife beetles from Europe are introduced to combat the invasive purple loosestrife plants in Honor. Photo by Emily Cook.



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ACROSS

1. Soap opera trope
5. "Lord of the Rings" baddies
9. "60 Minutes" net.
12. Ruse
13. Tattle (on)
14. Place for jewelry
15. Not quite never
16. Hawk highways
18. See 49-Across
20. Playground fixture
21. Step in it, so to speak
23. Not fit for children
25. Author Harper ____
26. You can take it
27. Window units (for short)
30. Bear cub in Michigan legend, nowadays
35. Buddy
36. Co. that still lets you check a bag for free
37. Background noise
38. "For the ____ Pete!"
41. Stormcloud Brewing Co. offering
42. Bloke's counterpart
45. Fall into place
47. Liza who has been married four times
49. He played Hawkeye on "M*A*S*H" (with 18-Across)
52. Mysterious sighting, for short
53. Egg
54. Prefix with berry
55. "____ the season..."
56. Sonic the Hedgehog console
57. Identical twin identifier, perhaps

DOWN

1. Harry Potter's crush
2. Suffix with ball
3. Iconic 90s dance
4. Figure skating jump
5. Only Great Lake that doesn't touch Michigan
6. Cheerleader's syllable
7. Bird topper
8. Mountainside stones
9. Union agreements (abbr)
10. Gaucho's tool
11. Austin fest
17. Olympic dream?
19. "Fiddlesticks!"
21. Nightmarish street
22. Harvest
24. Keep happy
28. Detroit founder (and luxury car make)
29. Cut with scissors
31. Run DMC track: "You Be ____"
32. Site of iconic photo of Marines raising a flag
33. Place for valuable jewelry
34. Watson and Crick studied it (abbr)
39. Margarine
40. It can open and close
42. Something obscene
43. Like an expensive stereo
44. MLB Hall of Famer: ____ "Country" Slaughter
46. "____ and the Real Girl" (2007 film)
48. Haul
50. Cool ____ cucumber
51. 91.5 FM, e.g.

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