

Farming the Right Way

Paul May’s local approach to the harvest

By Karen Roberts
Current Contributor

Paul May is a pretty happy guy. Yes, he has the no-nonsense demeanor of most farmers, at least those who succeed at the trade. He doesn’t give cozy nicknames to the goats, sheep, chickens, or cattle that he raises (well, maybe the cattle; he really likes cows).

Moving cattle and sheep from one pasture to another, May herds them by clapping and yelling, “Baa! Yip! Come on dummies!” No coaxing. Not a “sweetie pie” in the bunch. Just about everything is raised to go under the axe, but an animal that wins his approval can last a good long time. What makes a goat likeable to May? Trouble-free, healthy, and productive — no nonsense.

When he started his farm, May was on the steep slope of the learning curve. He learned to milk a goat by getting one and bringing it

home. It didn’t go so well for a while. But now, 12 years later, his goats hop onto the milking stand without hesitation, and milking is an efficient process.

Several roads brought May to farming. For one, his grandfather was a dairy farmer in Wisconsin in the days before farming “naturally” and “organically” needed a label — that was just how things were done in the 1920s, May says. He notes that farming techniques didn’t begin



For five years, Paul May has leased land for his animals on Lobb Road. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

to change drastically until after World War II, when war-production factories had to be

re-deployed to peace-time activities. Those factories that had been building tanks and planes needed to have something else to build. And as it turned out, the ingredients needed to blow things up were also those that went into chemical fertilizers.

More than half a century later, some books and documentaries will lead you to believe that farming in the United States is broken. But not the way that May does it. He describes his farming as belief-driven. Long before mainstream society caught on, May understood and rejected the risks and dangers of the centralized, industrial food-production and -distribution

Please see May Farm on page 7

Frankfort’s Car Collection

Hale family preserves classic Detroit wheels

By John McCormick
Current Contributor

There’s an automotive gem tucked away in the backstreets of Frankfort that draws car enthusiasts from far and wide.

Three adjacent barns house a treasure trove of classic General Motors cars, vintage Ford models, and other assorted brands. This collection of 50-plus cars belongs to Larry Hale and his son Jeff, who both live on nearby Crystal Lake.

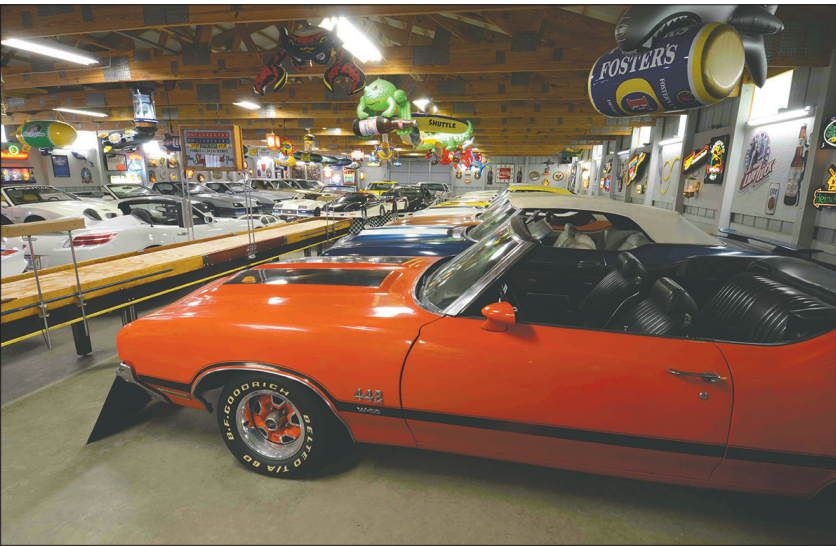
Jeff, 52, manages the collection and works on restoring the cars, acquiring new models, and related hobbies when he is not at his regular marketing job with a Traverse City publishing company.

Jeff describes the collection – started by his father in the 1960s – as an effort to

preserve a slice of American automotive history rather than a money-making investment.

“We haven’t sold any of the cars,” notes Jeff, who used to work at the Doner advertising agency in Detroit before heading north.

Given that



In addition to advertising collectibles and other memorabilia hanging from the rafters, the Hale barns are full of vintage cars. Photo courtesy of Phil Berg.

Larry Hale was employed as an engineer at GM in Detroit for several decades before retiring in 1991, it’s not surprising that the collection focuses heavily on GM cars. There are more than 15 Oldsmobile models from the late ’60s to the ’90s, including a couple of especially rare examples. One is a 1969 Hurst Olds, which was the personal car of George Hurst, a well-known maker of performance shifters.

“It has every option available, and the engine was modified and blueprinted under the supervision of George to produce 580hp,” Jeff says. “And it was featured by GM Parts at the R.E. Olds 100th anniversary.”

The other Oldsmobile rarity is a 1971

Please see Vroom Vroom on page 6

Oldies and Goodies, Part I: Beulah & Benzonia

Antique trail in Benzie County

By Susan Koenig
Current Contributor

There are numerous businesses in Benzie County that buy, sell, and display antiques, collectibles, re-sales, used items, and miscellaneous objects. The difference among these terms is a study in and of itself.

Webster calls an antique “a piece of furniture, silverware, etc. made in a former period, generally more than 100 years ago ... a relic, heirloom, rarity, object d’art ...”

“Collectible” is a relatively new designation, up for subjective interpretation, but commonly meaning articles that are in groups with a certain cachet — something of distinction or prestige relative to a bygone era that might be only 25 years ago (think Pez dispensers, Coca-Cola memorabilia, Star Trek, Nas-



Black Horse Antique in Beulah is a one-story former grocery that resembles a barn with sliding doors. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

car, even cows) and are considered to be “decorative” rather than “fine art.”

Then there are “re-sale” and “used,” which run the gamut from antiques to simply a novelty.

Don’t confuse those with “vintage,” a term that is primarily used to refer to wine but lately has morphed into a clothing and furniture term connoting styles from the 1940s to the 1960s.

“Retro” might be

slightly younger: styles from the 1970s and 1980s.

Locally, there also seems to be a theme of “cottage shopping,” wherein new cottage buyers or inheritors are redecorating their old bungalows with a decor that is homey and cottagey.


Our Benzie County antiques tour begins with Beulah and Benzonia.

Myers Granary Antique Market is a 10,000-square-foot building, located under the Beulah overpass and adjacent to the old railroad tracks (pretty antique themselves). This is the 25th season for the business, which was opened by Basil Myers, now retired. His son, Jed, who has a degree in graphic design, has taken over the operation. Jed’s goods occupy quite a bit of the building, but the rest

Please see Antiques on page 2

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Antiques

Continued from page 1

of the spacious, two-story, open-air structure is filled with stalls for various venders.

The front entrance leads into a wine-tasting area, which is all venerable wood, cozy, and European looking. Wandering through, a visitor enters a center aisle that is lined on either side by booths. Here, you can find almost anything, most of it old. In the back, there are some articles of esoteric interest like a barber's chair from the late 1880s, a 1920s wicker canoe chair with leather straps for attachment to the boat, and a \$1,200 set of four playground sand toys, circa 1907. (Sorry, it was sold the day this reporter visited.)

While eBay and craigslist have flooded the antique/collectible market with items that used to be very hard to find, Jed says, "People still want to come in and touch things." He doubts that online sales will be able to change that.

A visit to the Granary will take a long time, especially if you go around touching everything. Don't miss the upper level, where you'll find furniture and larger items. At 7300

and Jill Rineer, but operated mostly by Jill – is just a short jaunt away, heading back to US-31 through the business district of Beulah. In 1969, Jack bought the one-story building, then called "The Little Green Grocer," that resembles a barn with sliding doors. The couple ran it as a fruit stand until 1978, when they decided to turn it into an antique shop. The name change occurred in 1995 when Jill, a horse aficionado, bought a beautiful black horse. Hand-picking everything that is in her store, Jill is on the year-round search for inventory. She favors wicker, and she tries to keep her items from 1950s or before.

You may have noticed the old-style, colorfully painted metal chairs in front of and behind the store. Years ago, Jill's mother advised her to buy old motel chairs. "That's going to be the new thing!" her mother said. (And she was right!)

You will find beautiful pieces at Black Horse, as well as friendly and informative advice — just browse and enjoy. Black Horse, located at 11 North Benzie Boulevard, is open seven days a week from May through mid-October. Call 231-882-0231.

Cottage An-



Crystal Avenue in Beulah, the Granary operates May 1 through October 31 and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Call 231-882-9422.

Black Horse Antique – owned by Jack



Wandering through Myers Granary in Beulah, a center aisle is flanked by vendor booths full of goodies, like vintage postcards. Photos by Aubrey Ann Parker.

tiques is just one-fifth of a mile down the road: make a left onto US-31, and you'll find it across from the Cherry Hut. Owner Linda Cook and her daughter-in-law, Lisa Baker, have a profusion of

articles – nicely arranged among five rooms – from antiques to kitchenware and much in between. This is essentially a resale store with nothing on consignment. There are a few antiques, many collectibles, a lot of furniture and kitchenware, and an outstanding assortment of baby items and accouterments, all in excellent condition.

Linda was the owner of Crystal Lake Antiques, housed in downtown Beulah, until she moved to the present location about four years ago. She has been in the antique business for 30 years. Cottage Antiques, located at 232 Michigan Avenue, is open six days a week (closed on Sundays) throughout the year. Call 231-651-9380 or 231-651-9970.

Bourne Art and Antiques is in Benzonia. You drive south on US-31 from Cottage Antiques through the light. Across from the Roadhouse, in the former Vigland Gallery, the shop is now owned and operated by Ann and Whitney Bourne. Born in Midland, Ann comes from a family of artists and appreciators, as does her husband, Whitney, whose father, Bob, was well known in Glen Arbor as a gallery owner. (Of note: Whitney's family has roots in the Southwest, hence the Native American art collection that the Bournes have amassed.)

The Bourne showroom is bestowed with the couple's personal "lifetime collection of stuff," but this "stuff" happens to be fine art in the truest sense. Visiting here evokes the atmosphere of a small, elegant art museum — an enthralling assemblage of antiques and original art, in

which "every piece has a story."

Ann says that she has been fascinated by art for as long as she can remember; by the human effort, by cultures, by how pieces are formed and their provenance — who made them and why? Where did they come from? While in college, she bought her first antique: a beautiful pre-Civil War tavern table with a cherry pedestal.

Here you will find: antique furniture and beautiful original paintings; a Native American nativity set, positioned on a miniature Indian rug; an exquisitely hand-painted set of dishes from the Qing Dynasty; a Victorian lemonade set; a key chain from the "best beader in the Cherokee Nation;" and a collection from local Dr. Benisek who created world-class bowls from his woodlot in Benzonia. There is even a Haley's Comet bathrobe, created of course in honor of that great event.

The Bournes have limited hours but with flexibility: Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or you can call 231-882-4587 and

arrange a visit to 1077 Michigan Avenue at your mutual conveniences.

Emporium is a slight backtrack to M-115 through the Benzonia light toward Frankfort. Turn left shortly after the light when you see a sign that says "Antiques. Uniques. Juniques." Fifteen years ago, Rosana Bissonette bought the Rice's dairy building and began her business with one table. She says her philosophy was that "everyone has stuff they don't want, and everyone redecorates at one time or another."

Mostly a consignment business and primarily furniture, Bissonette's business also includes many decorative items such as lamps, wall hangings, paintings, rugs, and a very old wooden wringer washing machine. How about a leather baseball chair (shaped like a mitt, without a blemish) that she estimates at \$1,300 but is for sale in her store for \$345?

"People want real wood with craftsmanship," observes Bissonette. "A 100-year-old dresser will probably last much longer than something brand-new."

Most of her clientele has been consigning with her for 15 years. She sets a price with her customer, and – if it hasn't sold after the first year – she lowers that price by 10 percent. A typical client buys a table, then brings one in from home to sell.

This is a bustling place, and Bissonette is a witty, congenial hostess who is full of good advice. She knows that she has a great service going, so she needn't put on a hard sell. People will look...and look... until they find what they want.

The Emporium, located at 6613 Frankfort Highway, is open six days a week from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. It closes for about a month in mid-January. Call 231-383-0316.

Stay tuned, as our next issue will continue the tour of antiques in Benzie County.

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Armada on Crystal Lake

Sailing regatta attracts hundreds in early September

By Pearce Pomerleau

Current Contributor

The Crystal Lake Yacht Club will host the E-Scow National Championship, a large sailing regatta from September 5 through 7. The annual event is famous among inland sailors in the United States. With more than 80 boats competing — and with the families of sailors and fans of the sport watching — organizer Kelly Winter projects that the regatta will bring more than 500 people to the Frankfort area during the first weekend of September.

The regatta comes at a perfect time of year. In early September, Frankfort’s summer tourism season is winding down, and local businesses are no longer bustling. The Nationals will provide a great boost in local activity as hundreds of people flood the area.

The E-Scow is a class of racing sailboat that is manufactured by Melges, a Wisconsin-based yacht racing company that specializes in inland-lake racing. The “E” is 28 feet long and carries three sails: a mainsail, a jib, and a spinnaker. It carries up to four

people, the skipper and two or three crewmembers. Crews are called “racing teams,” and most teams include four people.

The E-Scow National Championship, known to most sailors as the “E Nationals,” is hosted in early September of each year. The



Last year’s E-Scow National Championship in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

venue for the regatta changes each time. Last year’s E-Scow Nationals were hosted by the Lake Geneva Yacht Club in southern Wisconsin. Each regatta lasts three days. Three races will be held on Friday, three on Saturday, and one on Sunday. The event is also highly social

and friendly; a casual “lean-in party” is held Friday night, and a formal dinner is held on Saturday night. A fun trophy ceremony also takes place on Sunday afternoon.

The Crystal Lake Yacht Club, which operates on Crystal Lake from June through August every summer, has a small fleet of eight E-Scows that race on weekends. Although the local fleet is small, its sailors have fared well in national competitions. In the 2013 E-Scow Nationals, the team of boat number CR66 — skippered by Rob Terry — placed sixth out of 85 competitors. Fans of sailing in Frankfort are excited to see Crystal Lake’s boats do well at the Nationals, just like rooting for the home team.

Since E-Scows are large sailboats, an armada of them on Crystal Lake will be an amazing sight. The Crystal Lake Yacht Club encourages anyone who

is interested to take a boat out to watch the races, which take place during the late mornings and early afternoons. Even if you don’t have a team to cheer for, the races are once-in-a-lifetime spectacles.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Israelite tribe

4 Biblical giants

8 Universe (pref.)

12 Stitchbird

13 Synthetic rubber

14 Table scraps

15 Eg. god of pleasure

16 Tallow (2 words)

18 Madame Bovary

20 Commotion

21 Padded jacket under armor

25 Son of Zeus

29 Dish (2 words)

32 Ganda dialect

33 Agent (abbr.)

34 Indian sacred fig

36 "Blue Eagle"

37 Ravine

39 Immense

41 Swelling

43 State (Ger.)

44 Medieval shield

46 Before (Lat.)

49 Culm (2 words)

55 Fiddler crab genus

56 Snake (pref.)

57 Unfledged bird

58 Centers for Disease Control (abbr.)

59 Love (Lat.)

60 Tooth (Lat.)

61 Exclamation

DOWN

1 Deride

2 Attention-getting sound

3 Raze

4 Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.)

5 Pigeon

6 Black cuckoo

7 Hindu god of love

8 Banner

9 Yellow ide

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

RIDD ROC RASE

IDEE ACH EDAM

FEET DAO GABI

TAPETI PALMER

SAC AWE

INITIAL ETAAC

CAB LIV DAN

ABOMA LECTERN

ABD HAE

LANNER IDALIA

ETAT ABC BABE

AMO I KAL OMAR

LASS ESE XENO

10 As written in music

11 Mountain standard time (abbr.)

17 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)

19 Pointed (pref.)

22 End

23 Auricular

24 Rom. historian

26 Build

27 Irish sweetheart

28 Hall (Ger.)

29 Created

30 Old-fashioned oath

31 Beer ingredient

35 Afr. worm

38 Vomiting

40 Drain

42 Amer. Cancer Society (abbr.)

45 Habituated

47 Alternating current/direct current (abbr.)

48 Apiece

49 Tibetan gazelle

50 Revolutions per minute (abbr.)

51 Exclamation

52 Nautical chain

53 Belonging to (suf.)

54 Manuscripts (abbr.)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Mondays

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. There will be 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. Every Monday in August from 10-11am.

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

Open sewing studio at Grow Benzie. 6-9pm.

Tuesdays

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

Pick-up soccer for all skill levels at the fields behind Watson car dealership in Benzonia. 7pm.

Dance Benzie: Improvisational partner dancing at the Mills Community House in Benzonia. Free, donations welcome. 8-10pm.

PUBLISHING DATES 2014

April 17
May 22
June 12
July 3
July 17
July 31
August 14
August 28
September 11
October 2
November 13
January 14 (2015)

BENZIE-CALENDAR.COM

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Thursdays

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

Story hour with Miss Julie at Benzie Shores District Library in Frankfort. 10-11am.

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

Steve Fernand will be singing songs from the last century on Thursdays and Saturdays from 6-9pm throughout the summer at the Cold Creek Inn in Beulah.

Saturdays

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



Sunrise over the Open Space park in Frankfort. The park serves as additional parking during salmon season and for fishing tournament. The annual Benzie Fishing Frenzy gives over \$25,000 in cash and prizes. Photo by Jordan Bates.

Join a Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore ranger for a different walk or talk or hike every Saturday — there's always something happening at 1pm. To find out what's happening, visit <http://goo.gl/aLUdAG> or call 231-326-5134 for details.

ON THE DOCK

Thursday, August 28

Jonathan P. Hawley presents his new book "From Artisans to Artists: Betsie Bay's Historic 'Island' Story" at the Benzie Shores District Library in Frankfort. 7pm.

Thursday, August 28

Chamber Music North Concert at the Oliver Art Center. Written in his unmistakable voice, Brahms' String Sextets No.1 in B Flat Major, Op. 18 & No. 2 in G Major, Op. 36 are rich in sonority and wealth of musical ideas. These masterpieces are full of radiance, emotional turmoil & musical intricacy. Sextet: A string quartet plus an additional viola and cello. 7:30pm

Friday, August 29

Concert in the Park: M&M Big Band in Frankfort's Mineral Springs Park. 7-8pm.

Saturday, August 30

BACN Bacon Cookoff features 12 chefs competing for the title of Benzie's Best With Bacon. Come taste, munch, nibble, and vote for your favorite dish at the Trinity Lutheran

returns at 6pm.

Thursday, September 4

Benzie Audubon Club presents "Birds of Madagascar" with Chris Van Lonkhuyzen. Although it's the fourth-largest island in the world, most of us know little about Madagascar. Located in the Indian Ocean off the coast of southeast Africa, Madagascar boasts more than 300 species of birds, of which over 60 percent (including four families and 42 genera) are endemic. The event will take place at the Tribal Outpost at 7282 Hoadley Road just outside Benzonia. All field trips and programs are open to the public without charge; everyone is welcome! 231-871-0503 or benzieaudubon.org for more information. 7pm.

Friday, September 5

Opening reception for the 2014 All-media Juried Exhibition at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Free and open to the public. Refreshments and appetizers. 5-7pm. Show runs from September 5 through October 3. (Drop off artwork on Sunday, August 31, or Monday, September 1. \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Two pieces, max.)

Friday-Sunday, September 5-7

Crystal Lake Yacht Club hosts the E-Scow National Championship. Three races will be held on Friday, three on Saturday, and one on Sunday. Registration is from noon-8pm on Thursday and from 7:45-8:30am on Friday, followed by a skippers' meeting at 8:45am. The initial warning signal will sound at 11am, and the "Lean-In" dinner with Jonny Magambo will begin at 6pm. On Saturday, the NCESA annual membership meeting is at 9, followed by 11am initial warning signal again and the NCESA banquet at 6:30pm. On Sunday, the initial warning signal sounds at 10am and the trophy presentation will begin after the racing. The event is highly social and friendly, as well as highly entertaining with more than 80 boats competing, so the CLYC encourages anyone who is interested to take a boat out to watch the races, even if you don't have a team to cheer for.

Saturday, September 6

Forestry Field Day at the 160-acre Cooper Woodlot, one-quarter mile north of the intersection of Wallaker and Joyfield roads in Joyfield Township. Free. Donuts and coffee. Registration required.; register by September 4 by emailing kama.ross@macd.org or call the Benzie Conservation District at 231-882-



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The Betsie Current

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Contributors: Susan Koenig, John McCormick, Aubrey Ann Parker, Pearce Pomerleau, Karen Roberts. Grandma in the rain.

The Betsie Current is a free tabloid, published 12 times this year and distributed throughout Benzie County. Advertising inquiries, comments, suggestions, critiques, articles, photos, poems, and letters are welcome. © 2014, The Betsie Current, all rights reserved. www.BetsieCurrent.com

4391. 9:30am-noon.

Saturday, September 6

Fall Birding at Platte Point with the Benzie Audubon Club. Carl Freeman will lead us on a search for fall migrants and late summer birds. Depending on the temperature and lake level, a wade or a boat shuttle across the Platte River may be involved. Bring your park pass, and meet at the parking lot next to the Platte River at the end of Lake Michigan Road. All field trips and programs are open to the public without charge; everyone is welcome! Call 231-871-0503 or 231-352-4739 or check out benzieaudubon.org for more information. 9:30am.

Saturday, September 6

8th annual Taste of Benzie & Beyond in Frankfort’s Mineral Springs Park. Come sample the area’s restaurants and what they have to offer at this annual food-, wine-, and beer-tasting event. Sidewalk chalk art contest and other kids’ games and activities will also be going on. Check out www.frankfort-elberta.com or call Joanne at 231-352-7251 for more information. 11:30am-3:30pm.

Wednesday, September 10

With a shotgun scramble format, the Benzie County Chamber of Commerce’s golf outing is an excellent opportunity to network and have fun enjoying outstanding Northern Michigan golf. Funds raised from this event will benefit the chamber’s building improvements fund. \$70 per golfer; includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, course games, prizes, and dinner. Check out http://bit.ly/1tOEP19 or call 231-882-5801 for more information. Crystal

Lake Golf Club, 8493 Fairway Drive, Beulah. Check-in at 11am with lunch. Shotgun at 11:30am. Dinner, awards, and prizes after.

Frid-Sat, September 12-13

Glass-blowing demonstration with Albert Young at Sleeping Bear Gallery, 10085 W. Front Street in Empire. Call 231-326-2278 or visit http://bit.ly/1tyrgEI for more information.

Saturday, September 13

Fall Birding at Arcadia Dunes Grassland Preserve on Keillor Road with the Benzie Audubon Club. Brian Allen will lead us on a birding trip to look for migrating sparrows, confusing fall warblers, and possible rarities of grassland birds & migrants. All field trips and programs are open to the public without charge; everyone is welcome! Call 231-871-0503 or 231-723-7956 or visit benzieaudubon.org for more information. 8am.

Tuesday, September 16

The Benzie Conservation District will be taking local youth out in canoes to learn about “leave no trace” and about the salmon. Trips will be on the Platte River, starting at Riverside Canoes. This event is for local youth in local schools. Call 231-882-4391 or visit www.benziecd.org for more information.

Friday-Sunday, September 5-7

Equestrian Fall Frenzy of events and prizes at Turtle Lake Campground, 854 Miller Road, Beulah. Call Roger & Becky Knapp of R&R Stables at 231-360-9985 or 231-360-9805 or Amy Peasley of Equine Fellowship at 231-942-1785. Or call Turtle Lake Campground at 231-275-7353 or visit www.turtlelakecampground.net/ for more information.

Forestry Day in September

From Staff Reports

Local forest landowners are invited to learn about forest-management practices with foresters Richard Cooper and Paul Gerhart — as well as Kama Ross, the district forester for Benzie, Leelanau and Grand Traverse conservation districts. The Forestry Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 6, from 9 a.m. until noon at the 120-acre Cooper Woodlot, one-quarter mile north of the intersection of Wallaker and Joyfield roads in Joyfield Township. The morning in the field will showcase forest-management practices used on the 120-acre property’s northern hardwoods, aspen, and red pine stands. Cooper has managed this forest since 1984 and has implemented four selective harvests in the

hardwoods, three thinnings in the red pine plantations, and two clearcuts in the aspen. “If you have an interest in making your woodlot the best, the healthiest, it can be, this is the perfect opportunity for you,” Ross says. “Doing nothing is not an option if you want to preserve our community’s current way of life. If we don’t intentionally manage our woodlots, insects and diseases will win out.” This is a free and easy way to learn from foresters with more than 80 years of combined experience. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. There will be donuts and coffee for attendees upon arrival. Register by September 4 by calling the Benzie Conservation District at 231-882-4391 or emailing Ross at kama.ross@macd.org.

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Paddling Across Lake Michigan

Five guys, 60 miles of open water, one goal

By Jacob Wheeler

Current Editor

Lake Michigan is crossed by sail countless times each year. It has been crossed by a handful of well-equipped kayakers over the years. But so far, very few standup paddleboarders have attempted.

By the time you read this, however, Andrew Pritchard, Kwin Morris, Jeff Guy, Joe Lorenz, and J. Mueller may be sitting at

Pritchard, digital marketing manager for Cherry Republic in Glen Arbor. "It's also a great opportunity to raise some money for these lakes that sustain our way of life and to draw attention to the significant issues affecting them."

Stand Up For Great Lakes, as the guys are calling their journey, features a bold and dramatic athletic event, but its real purpose is to help Alliance for the Great Lakes to raise awareness about the threats facing the largest freshwater source in the world. The lakes are



Can Lake Michigan be crossed by five men on standup paddle boards? These five dudes hope to be the first. Photo by John S. Gessner.

Stormcloud Brewery, tipping back a round of well-deserved pints. Or they may be still en route, traversing 60 miles across Lake Michigan from Wisconsin to Frankfort beach on standup paddleboards.

The goal of the journey is to raise \$10,000 for the Chicago-based nonprofit Alliance for the Great Lakes, which has preserved and protected the “freshwater seas” since 1970.

For these five paddleboarders, who have been training since last December, their goal has been to find a near-perfect window of calm weather before Labor Day to cross 60 miles of open water. Pritchard, Morris, Guy, Lorenz, and Mueller are all physically fit, experienced paddleboarders. For safety, they will not be alone on the lake; the group will have a support boat shadowing them at all times.

"It's the challenge of a lifetime," says

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Continued from page 1

442 W-30 convertible.

"It's one of 110 convertibles built and was a heavily optioned car, ordered new by a GM executive," Jeff adds.

A significant number of Indy pace cars are to be found in the Hale barns, including Oldsmobile, Buick, Chevrolet, and Pontiac editions. Jeff says that he was particularly saddened when Pontiac was axed during the GM bankruptcy. One of the collection's most prized models is a 1972 Pontiac Trans Am.

"It's very rare, very fast," notes Jeff. "It features the 455 HO engine and is one of the most sought after Trans Ams."



Larry Hale and tiki. Photo courtesy of Phil Berg.

The Fords in the Hale barns date from the late 1920s and 1930s, including a rare 1931 convertible sedan with fixed pillars.

Jeff has a soft spot for International Harvester Scouts, an early sport utility style vehicle that went out of production in 1980. His favorite is a 1979 International Scout SS II Baja Cruiser; fewer than 4000 were built, and Hale's example has all the options, including an eight-track player. He also has a 1976 International Scout Spirit, one of 384 built to commemorate the American bicentennial. It boasts a special red-white-and-blue paint scheme with a blue denim top.

Part of the charm of the Hale barns is the automotive paraphernalia that adorns the walls and hangs from the rafters. In addition to numerous dealer signs, advertising banners, and other car-related visual material, Jeff fills some of the spaces around the cars with vintage pinball machines and miniature wooden bowling alleys. The younger Hale has devoted part of one barn to the creation of a Hawaiian-style bar, complete with more than 200 Tiki mugs. A large collection of Texaco model cars also takes up the wall space in one of the buildings. And in case visitors are into boats, the Hales have six classic hydroplane racers that can be found amidst the cars.

What drives Jeff and his father to maintain such an impressive collection?

"It's really just for the enjoyment of being around so many interesting cars," Jeff says. "Sometimes you just stop and look at a particular car and think of the people who owned it. You wonder why they specified it the way they did. Each car has its own story."

The Hale car collection is not normally open to the public, but the family does open the doors quite frequently for interested car clubs. Visitors are welcomed by arrangement. Call 231-352-7720 for information.

John McCormick owns Word House, an editorial services company in Frankfort and can be reached at mccormick@wordhouseauto.com.



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May Farm

Continued from page 1

system. Delivering eggs to shareholders and customers stimulated his vision of the correct path forward: he shouldn't be driving eggs to people. Anyone can raise chickens and get eggs for themselves. Most of us could garden enough to supply ourselves with the vegetables that we need to eat. We need to learn how to feed ourselves, May says. (Okay, beef needs to be "ganged," but there could be goats and chickens "at every mile.")

This somewhat bucolic picture of sensible food sourcing has been modified over the years, as May has learned more about the business of farming. He has found a niche in the food rebellion, doing something that others might be able to do but aren't. He sidesteps the political questions that pit "us vs. them" and won't take the bait with questions about government regulation.

His work, simply, is to humanely raise animals using methods that will protect the land and provide safe and tasty food to people nearby. Some of the meat and eggs are sold through The May Farm's shareholder guild, some through local grocery stores, and some out of their farm stand on Adams Road, just outside Frankfort.

May is also participating in a Michigan State University-organized project to learn more about getting grass-fed beef to local stores and restaurants. This is one of several ways that May seeks to expand his distribution network by using a slightly expanded definition of "local." True to his vision, his meat and eggs should be part of our collective effort to feed ourselves — not part of a large and distant food system.

May takes obvious delight in how things fit together symbiotically. Why have goats? Well, The May Farm does produce goat sausage, but the best part is their milk, what he describes as his "secret weapon" for raising delicious chicken. Wait, what? Well, chickens raised with non-GMO-grown grains and the bugs that they can find in the field taste better with soured milk in their diets. Plus, barn cats like the milk (and the chicken livers), and May wants the cats around to eat unwanted

critters. Why graze sheep and cattle together? Like Jack Spratt and his wife, sheep like clover and cattle like grass — though each will eat the other's food, May notes that they start with what they like best.

Then there's the poop. May grazes his animals on land that, like much of Benzie County, is mostly a glacier-remnant sand dune. Rotation and manure bring forth good grass and clover to raise his animals, but May has to be assiduous about the rotation to make it work. Using a portable fencing system, the cattle and sheep are moved to new pasture twice a day. Watching them move from pas-

ture to pasture is like watching a flock of birds or a school of fish as the nine head of cattle and 18 sheep swerve and move as one. The broiler chickens, meanwhile, live in four mobile pens that are dragged twice a day down the pasture, leaving a manure-ridden, de-bugged area behind that regenerates within a matter of days. By the end of the season, his animals have covered the entire 30 acres of pasture, land that they share with three sandhill cranes (beautiful and good) and several

hawks (beautiful but hard on chickens, and one reason that The May Farm doesn't raise ducks). His animals do reseed his pasture — and he gives the lambs credit for converting his pasture from 1 percent to 3 percent clover — but he has also been rehabbing an orchard spreader and hopes to amend the soil later this year with compost tea, too.

Progress for The May Farm has not all been smooth. Paul May was diagnosed with bladder cancer last summer. At least 20 people were needed to replace him in what comes close to being a one-man operation (both before and after his illness). Lots of people rallied around May, his wife Sharron, and their son Avery to keep The May Farm and family show on the road — volunteers, fundraiser potlucks, and concerts. A year later, May is still happily bewildered by this profound demonstration of community, caring, and friendship.

"Nothing straightens a guy out like a dose of cancer," he says. Part of being a pretty happy guy is his sense of wonder at last year's experience. But another part, he confides, is that even with a 4 a.m. wake-up time, "I really enjoy this."



Paul May, heavy-weight chicken-wrestling champion of Benzie County. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.



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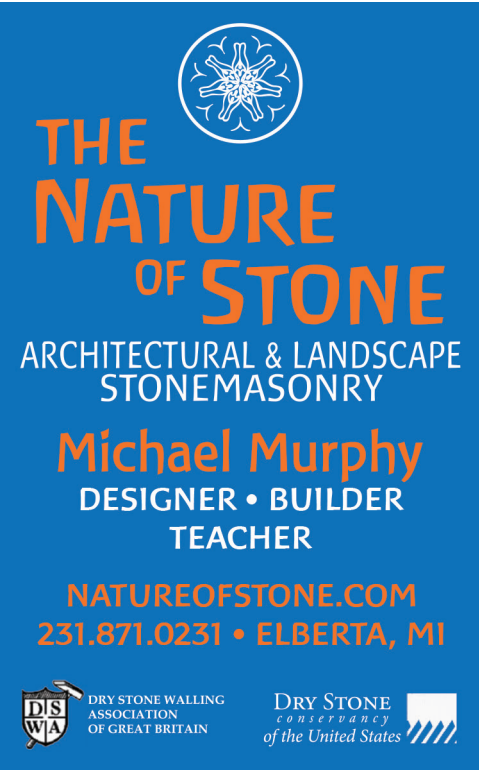
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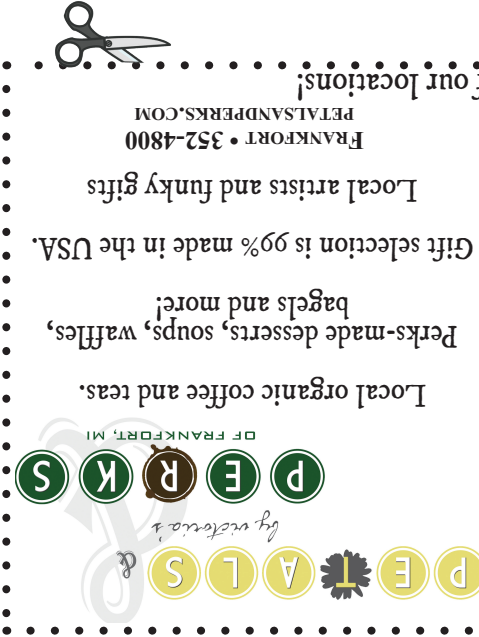
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