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ThumbPrint News

An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

APRIL 2013



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COLUMBUS TOWNSHIP PROPERTY BECOMES A CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT

By **Walter Reghi Jr.**
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

When my parents, Walter Sr. and Janis Reghi, bought and developed the eight and a half acres they would call home here in Columbus Township (St. Clair County), Michigan, 17 years ago, whether subconsciously or purposefully, nature and wildlife seemed to always be at the forefront. The property, even prior to "development," was as wild as anyone could hope to find, teaming with white pines, oak, birch, sugar maples, etc. Over the next couple of years, my father and I planted approximately 20 blue spruce trees down the length of the driveway and in other various locations. We planted chestnut, pear, crab apple, and other seed and fruit producing trees. A large pond was dug and stocked with game fish, such as large and smallmouth bass, catfish, yellow perch and trout. Butterfly bushes and other natural nectar producing plants were introduced, as well as hummingbird feeders, butterfly houses and a bat roost.

Over the years, and through observation, it began to become apparent what wildlife were permanent year

See *WILDLIFE HABITAT*, Page 4



LANDSCAPING THE THUMB

Perfect Perennials for 2013

By **Paul Bujak**
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Spring has officially arrived! The first day of spring fell on March 20th, which means this is almost the perfect time to get your perennials planted. The average last frost date for the Thumb area of Michigan is early to mid May. The Farmer's Almanac states that this spring we will be seeing an increase in daylight and warmer

temperatures. Once that last frost passes, we can take advantage of this upcoming warmer weather by getting our spring planting started. Let's take a look at a few of the most popular and easy to care for perennials to plant this upcoming season.

• **Hemerocallis hybrid 'Going Bananas'** is a cheerful canary yellow daylily that blooms from the summer through the fall. Its blooms are twice the size of a regular daylily. Growing up to 20 inches tall, this heat tolerant, productive plant is destined to be a main attraction in your garden. It is great for edging,



See *PERFECT PERENNIALS*, Page 11

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

If you have been reading my editorials in the past few months, you will realize that I have recently become very fond of the Sarasota, Florida area. However, this month I have been doing some real soul searching about our beloved state of Michigan and I have come to the conclusion that it is the perfect state to live in. In fact, we don't ever even have to venture out of our state for the rest of our lives, if we so choose.

You see, if you long to travel to other places in the United States, you really don't have to. Within Michigan itself we have the cities, villages, townships and unincorporated communities of Atlanta, Austin, Bangor, Beverly Hills, Boston, Brooklyn, California, Carson City, Charleston, Concord, Covington, Dallas, Denver, Lexington, Memphis, Nashville, Oregon, Plymouth, Rochester, Salem, Texas, Vermontville, Vicksburg and Wyoming. If your longing is for more exotic places, Michigan also has Aloha, Argentine, Athens, Berlin, Bohemia, Caledonia, Canadian Lakes, China, Columbia, Delhi, Denmark, Dublin, East China, Frenchtown, Geneva, Genoa, Holland, Johannesburg, Lebanon, Lima, London, Luzerne, Manchester, Milan, Moscow, Norway, Orient, Paris, Pompeii, Rome and Venice.

Perhaps you are more of a nature lover and would prefer the woods over crowded cities. Try out Ash, Bark River, Beechwood, Birch Run, Branch, Buckeye, Burr Oak, Cedar, Cedar Creek, Cedar Lake, Elm Hall, Evergreen, Forest Hills, Forestville, Hemlock, Hickory Corners, Holly, Linden, Maple City, Maple Grove, Maple Rapids, Mount Forest, Oak Grove, Oak Park, Pine River, Spruce, Three Oaks or White Pine.

The animal lovers will enjoy traveling to Bear Lake, Bear Creek, Beaver Creek, Beaver Island, Beaverton, Carp Lake, Deerfield, Deerton, Eagle, Eagle River, Elk Rapids, Elkton, Fawn River, New Buffalo, Otter Lake, Peacock, Pigeon, Swan Creek, Trout Creek or Wolf Lake.

Looking for a colorful vacation? Look no further than White Lake, Redford, Orange, Hazel Park, Black River, Blue Lake, Brown City, Brownlee Park, Greenlake or Grayling. If you don't find the pot at the end of the rainbow in any of those, you certainly will in Golden.

Perhaps you are more of a water lover. Clearwater, Cold Springs, Coldwater, Crystal Falls, Deep River, Grand Beach, Lake, Rapid River and Sand Lake will all do the trick. In fact there are 28 different cities, villages, townships and unincorporated communities in Michigan that contain the word Lake, including six different counties that have a Lake Township!

If gardening for a hobby or farming for a living are part of your life, then Michigan has some great places that would be perfect for you: Applegate, Bloomer, Bloomfield, Bloomingdale, Cherry Grove, Cherry Valley, Cloverdale, Farmington, Flowerfield, Free Soil, Fruitland, Fruitport, Garden City, Hay, Orchard Lake, Paw Paw, Roseville, Sage or Wheatfield.

History buffs can learn all about some of our nation's great presidents in Adams, Buchanan, Cleveland, Clinton, Garfield, Grant, Hamilton, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, McKinley, Monroe, Roosevelt Park, Wilson and Van Buren, or perhaps other famous persons and historical events in Alamo, Bunker Hill, Cannon, Columbus, Constantine, Custer,

Franklin, Homer, La Salle, La Fayette or Napoleon. Do you want to remember our Native American heritage? What better place to do so than in Chippewa Lake, Cohactah, Hiawatha, Indian River or Mohawk?

For those of us who are directionally challenged, living in South Haven, East Pointe, North Branch or West Branch would make life a lot easier. In the towns of Interior and Inland, it is easy to know exactly in which part of Michigan you are.

Our earth gives up many of its precious gems and minerals in Copper Harbor, Coral, Hematite, Iron Mountain, Iron River, Pearl Beach, Ruby, Silver Creek and Sterling Heights.

Michigan is certainly known for its wonderful changing four seasons – especially in Summerfield, Springport and Winterfield. Fall however seems missing from the Michigan names.

Yes, there are so many wonderful places to live in or to visit in Michigan. Some places just illicit a positive feeling by their very names: Dollar Bay, Eureka, Fair Haven, Freedom, Gladstone, Gladwin, Good Hart, Grand Junction, Honor, Hope, Joyfield, Mount Pleasant, Noble, Pleasant Ridge, Port Hope, Resort, Richland, Sunfield, Temperance and Wise, and maybe even Maybee.

However, I do have to admit that a few places have me wondering, such as Climax, Colon, Crockery, Crump, Daggett, Detour, Flushing, Germfask, Grim, Loud, Mesick, Mullet Lake (brings back memories of Billy Ray Cyrus), Ransom, Rush and Rust. Most of us probably wouldn't want to find ourselves in Hell either!

After all of the considering I have done of each of these unique places in Michigan, I am just going to have to make up my mind whether I want to spend some of my time visiting Paradise, Michigan, or spend a lot of time at my little piece of paradise in Sarasota, Florida!

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*



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WILDLIFE HABITAT

Continued from Page 1

round residents, and which animals came only seasonally. Permanent residents include a wandering herd of about 13 deer, nomadic wild turkeys, opossum, three individual families of fox squirrel, seven grey squirrels, a lone black phase grey squirrel, seven red squirrels, rabbits, shrews, dozens of painted turtles, four species of woodpeckers, great horned owls, and a variety of raptors (hawks and kites). Seasonal residents include a mating pair of green heron (every spring/summer), great blue heron (summer), ruby throat and rufous hummingbirds (every summer), blue jays and cardinals (predominately winters), numerous reptiles and amphibians, a passing red fox, an entomologist's dream of insects, and a soaring bald eagle two or three times a year.

My parent's place was becoming a mini refuge, with all of these permanent and seasonal wildlife residents. The first time I saw an article about certification with the National Wildlife Federation was a year or so ago when I was reading a National Geographic or Audubon Society magazine while visiting friends in Chicago. After reading the article, I thought that this program was an excellent opportunity to foster stewardship and responsibility in sustaining wildlife populations and sound habitat conservation practices. However, life happens, and I didn't pursue further inquiry until this past December. As I was sifting through the various packs of wild flower seed mixes in my garage, I happened to notice that one of the packets was from the National Wildlife Federation. On the back of this packet there was a clause about the trademarked

Certified Wildlife Habitat and Gardening for Wildlife. With Christmas around the corner, I knew that I had to look into the process of having my parent's property certified as their perfect Christmas gift.

The application process was very straight forward and cost \$20 to file. In order to be certified, a property must provide the four basic essentials that wildlife need to thrive and survive, namely, Food, Water, Cover, and Places to Raise Young. Under each of these four categories, there are a minimum number of requirements that needed to be met. Under the Food category, a certified property must provide three sources of food, such as seeds, nectar, pollen, sap and suet. Under the Water category, one must provide a single water source, whether it is a pond, lake, river or birdbath. Under the Cover category, two types are required; examples would be wooded areas, brush/log piles, evergreens and dense shrubs/thicket. The last category, Places to Raise Young, has two minimum requirements as well. This can include mature trees, host plants for caterpillars, dead trees, caves and meadow/prairies. Additional benefits include a

one year membership in the National Wildlife Federation, a subscription to the magazine, *National Wildlife*, and your name and certification number included in the NWF's national database of mini refuges. Signs are also available to purchase at \$30 and \$100 and are not only beautiful, but made from durable metal as well.

I completed the application process, and at Christmas I was able to present my parents with their Certified Wildlife

Habitat certificate and multiple signs, a deserving gift for two persons who have devoted much of their life to making sure that their property provides the perfect habitat for so many animals and insects.

Because a Certified Wildlife Habitat is a mini refuge, your backyard and surrounding property, in essence, become an outdoor classroom, where with observations education can truly take place. Here, you learn that nature also has a dark side. Many a time, we have witnessed hawks taking a song bird, fish from the pond and rabbits. You also learn that animals, much like humans, aren't very good at sharing. Deer will use their front legs and hooves to kick and "box" with other deer; squirrels can be very possessive of feeding claims, especially the smaller red squirrels. A red squirrel here, which was affectionately named Bully, will guard a mound of ear corn with the tenacity and determination of an advancing Roman legion until he can systematically remove them one by one to a secret hiding spot known only to him. Additionally, you also learn what the preferred food choices are for specific animals and can adjust your routine to bring in animals you enjoy watching. For example, if you want to attract blue jays and woodpeckers, use raw peanuts in the shell. A blue jay will take this item over any other item every time. If you enjoy a wide variety of squirrels, use the small black oiler sunflower seeds. Feeding, outside of what nature provides, is of course optional. However, if you truly enjoy watching wildlife interact and enjoy studying animal behavior, sporadic supplemental feed piles are highly recommended (we only supplemental feed



Janis and Walter Reghi, with son, Walter Jr.

in the winter).

The NWF also asks owners of Certified Wildlife Habitats to integrate and practice environmentally sound gardening and landscaping techniques. They recommend reducing lawn size by planting native shrubs and bushes, thus eliminating the need to use fossil fuel burning lawn mowers on a regular basis. They ask that one practice sound irrigation techniques to help prevent soil erosion. Additionally, the NWF asks that pesticides, fertilizers and insecticides not be used and that environmentally sound alternatives take their place, such as using compost, coffee grounds and yard waste for fertilizer.

Because certain species of insects can cause problems for gardeners and flower growers, their presence does, at times, need

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The Angel Advisor

Fall Prevention in the Spring

By Jeffrey Johnson
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

There are plenty of great resources on fall prevention; just look at the great pieces on the internet and extranet. Yet, when was the last time that you actually glanced at those resources, or put the recommendations in place with a care recipient? If it has been quite some time since you reviewed fall prevention for the elderly, this is a gentle reminder of the seriousness of falls for our elder citizens, especially as the spring/summer seasons come into play and more and more people walk outside on uneven ground. Caregivers, clients and care recipients all need to take extra precautions for safety inside and outside.

There are numerous reasons that falls might occur: poor eye sight, illness, weakness in muscles, dementia, side effects of medications, etc. Although some of these precipitators may be corrected to help reduce the risk of falling, the area to truly focus on is the prevention of falls. Below are listed numerous thoughts from two sources to help with this task: The Mayo Clinic at www.MayoClinic.com, and American Family Physician at www.aafp.org. Both are excellent sources of information on many, many issues related to the elderly.

Fall Prevention Tips:

1. Begin by making an appointment with your care recipient's doctor for a full physical focusing on medications, history of falls, and general health issues, including balance, vision and hearing.
2. Continue or begin a walking/exercise regiment (of course with the doctor's approval). Tai chi is also very useful in developing good balance. The greater the time without movement oriented exercise, the greater the risk of falling when movement is initiated.



3. Wearing the proper footwear is also critical. More and more seniors can be seen walking with wide soled, running or walking sneakers on their feet. Having a good solid base to negotiate uneven terrain can make all

the difference in the world. Using lace-up shoes is preferable to slip-ons. Also, make sure that a professional measures the elder's foot to get the proper fitting shoe.

4. Don't forget about the inside of the house. Removing hazards such as loose electrical cords, discarded papers, and clothing thrown on the floor keeps pathways clear and safe. Cover slippery floors with nonskid wax or nonslip mats.

5. Make sure living areas are well lit. As we age, the need for more and more light becomes readily apparent. Check bulb wattage and increase, if necessary. Connect table/floor lamps to wall switches so your elder may turn on the light before entering a dark room. Have flashlights easily accessible in every room and check those batteries. Use plenty of night lights.

6. Have an occupational therapist review the home for the need to use assistive devices. For example: hand rails for both sides of a stairway, toilets seats that are raised or have handrails, bathroom grab bars in appropriate spots (i.e., tubs/baths), and railings on outside walkways.

It often seems that the most obvious solutions to the most serious issues are the most often forgotten. Don't let this be the case for you and your elders. Remember that falls are the leading cause of accidents for people over age 65, with those falls leading to very serious injuries and even death in older people. The items/actions listed above are simple and generally inexpensive to incorporate – begin the process of preventing falls today! 🌱

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By Laura Smith
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Photography Contests - Fageddaboutit!

Early in my photography career, I entered my fair share of professional photography contests because I actually thought I was good enough to win. These contests are disguised under the "call for entries" format and target professional photographers from the world over. Well, guess what—the average professional photographer has about an ice cutter's chance in hell of winning.

The professional and non-professional photography contests are big money makers. For example, a well known professional photography magazine has a readership of at least one million readers worldwide. The magazine then has its annual photography contest and it costs \$30.00 per photo to enter. The top prize may be a website portfolio for a year, a \$3500.00 digital camera and the entrant's winning photo is featured in the annual photography book of the top photographers. Of course there are second and third place prizes. The magazine knows that at least 25% of the readership is going to enter. So 25% of 1,000,000 readers is 250,000 entries at \$30.00 each equals \$7,500,000.00 in entry fees. The advertising, prizes, magazine space for the winner, the salaries for the people judging and business taxes is a small investment compared to the return on investment.

And that is also why the time between the end of the contest and the announcement of the winners is so long. There are actually people looking at the photos, but because there is such a high volume, each photo is just glanced at for

about three seconds. Since photography is subjective, if a photo does not catch the eye of the person judging it, it is tossed into the garbage can. This process is repeated until they narrow down the pile to the winners. What I have found is that the winners are usually the same people who are regularly featured in the magazine as writers or contributors with the token unknown winner of the second or third prize.

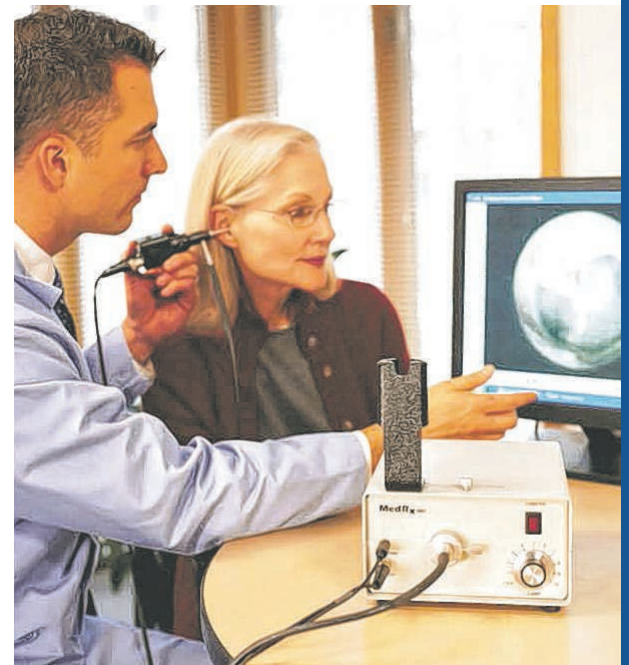


There are the online freebee contests out there, but what I discovered is that when you enter you have to give your email address. After they announce the winners (and of course, it is never you), you begin to start receiving all types of emails on photography products, baby and children's items, clothes, etc. The reason for this is because some online photography contests are a way of accumulating emails so the company can sell them. People who enter those contests don't read the fine print which says email addresses will be shared with third parties and the entrant checks the agree box to enter their photo. This is because again, people who enter think they are going to win because their photography is better than all of the other entrants. Really, hey, I have a used cow for sale that sings, "I'm the cream in your coffee". 🐄

Laura Smith lives in New Baltimore, Michigan, and is a professional photographer who started her business back in 1990. Laura will be offering tips to photographers of all skill levels – from beginners to professionals. Laura's website is www.photographyplusbylaura.com.

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GRANDPA'S STONES

By Rev. Lynn White
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer



In the summer of 2001 I came across a few stones that I knew had been formed by human hands. I placed the smaller stones into a box which I called the "body part" box. As time went by I had filled the shoe box with natural formed stones and some human formed artifact stones, which had the likeness of animal body parts. I found wings, heads, limbs and others parts, all of which, if they were put together, would be full bodied animals. So with my creative imagination and a hot glue gun, I set out to give life to the "body part" box. I now have a room full of animal figurines. My wife has made it very clear to me that, "One room is all that you can have!" What you see here is just a few of the animals that live in "my" room.

The animal figurines are made of human shaped stones (artifacts), as well as (natural) shaped stones, all of which have been found on my wilderness acreage in the central part of Michigan. The site has not been dated, but based on my findings and a few other sites within close proximity; it would most likely be from the Glacial Age.

Many of the pieces which make up the rock art figurines are scrapers, knives and flaked tools. The heads of some of the animals, I believe, were made to be heads, like the duck heads and the bear heads. It has been a fun and entertaining hobby. The

cost is right and I have had the opportunity to present them to grade school classes and libraries.

Here are a few of the animal figurines that I have made. Keep in mind that I did not shape, break or form any of the stones nor the pieces of artifacts. 🌱

Editor's notes: Lynn White, who resides in New Baltimore, Michigan, is an ordained minister and has served in that calling for over 42 years. He and his wife, Carol, have pioneered three churches in the state of Michigan. Though presently he is not serving as a senior pastor, he is active and fulfilled with evangelism extension ministries outside of the Church walls. He does, however, look forward to returning to his wilderness acreage in search of more artifacts.

He makes no claim that these figurines were ever assembled by early man, as you see them here. However, many of them have pieces of artifacts that he has used to make the rock art animals. All have been hot glued and some he has touched up with water color paint. No stones have been broken or shaped to fit.

If you would like to see more of the stone artifacts that he has found, you can visit his web site in progress at grandpastonepile.com.



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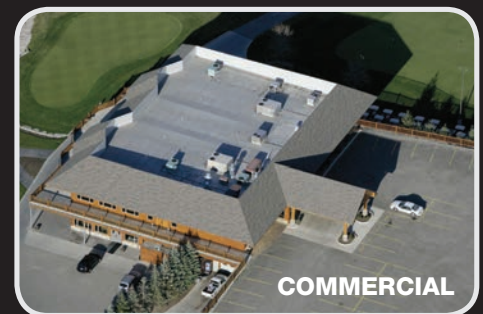
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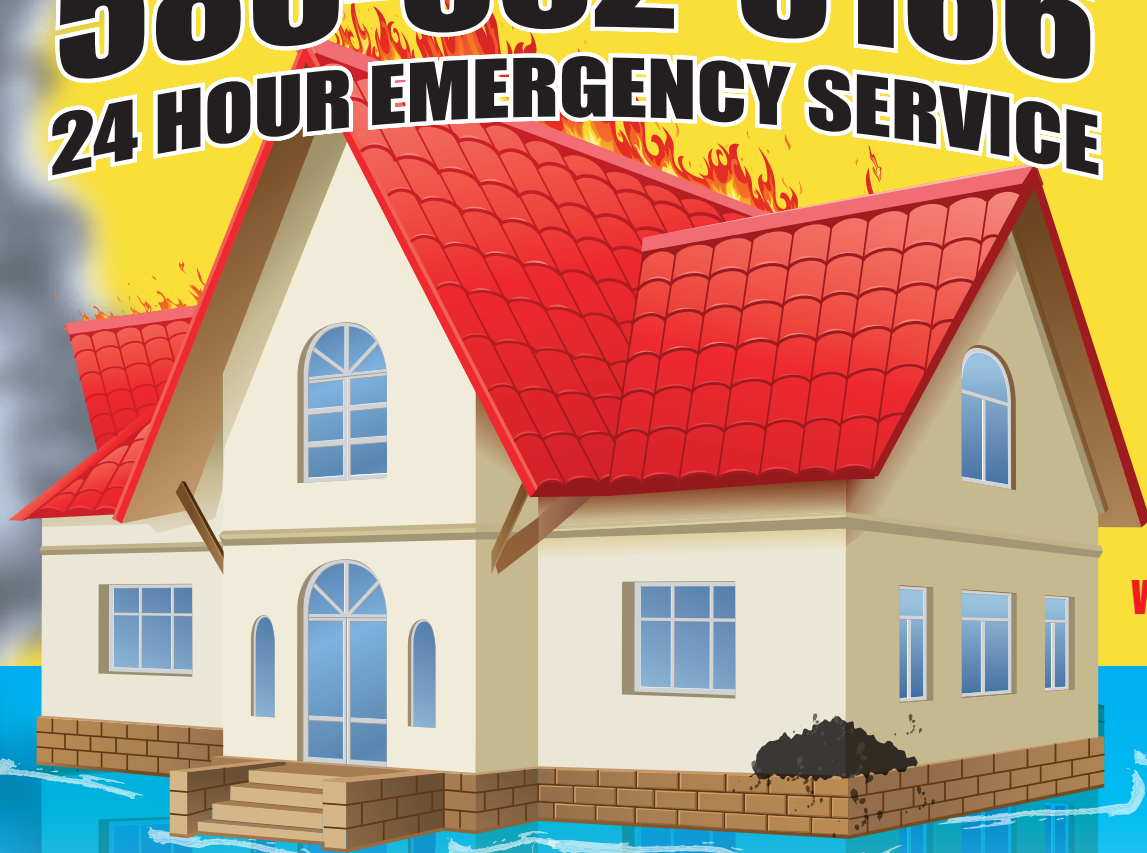
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On The Track

Western Hunting Application Strategies

By Jeremy Yarbrough

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

In the February issue I spoke about the importance of building points and shared some of the past successes I have enjoyed due to following that philosophy. My goal with this article is to provide a comprehensive outline of the strategy I use – along with providing a few other resources that are available to assist you in the pursuit of western big game bow hunting.

Two resources that have been invaluable to me are *Huntin' Fool* and *Eastmans' Bowhunting/Hunting Journal*. These publications share specific state information and allow you to get a “feel” of how these complicated point systems work. *Huntin' Fool* costs \$100 per year and includes very specific information (e.g., units, type of terrain, trophy potential and landowner tags) all in 12 monthly magazines. *Eastmans'* will set you back approximately \$40 per year if you subscribe to both the bow hunting and hunting journals; a must do because different issues of each journal cover different states. If I had to choose only one, hands down *Huntin' Fool* would be my selection.

My personal application strategy sometimes changes from year to year, but my long-term goals remain the same.

The beauty of building points in a variety of states and across a host of species is the flexibility it affords me each fall. Three key points to remember as you view my strategy are: preference points (the individual with the most points draws the tag), bonus points (basically a 50/50 type of draw; the more tickets you have the higher your statistical odds are of drawing the tag) and building points only (guaranteed not to draw a tag). I have been applying or building points since 2005. I often wonder if the annual expense is really worth it – only time will tell, but one thing is certain: within the next few years I will be sneaking around the woods in the best units this country has to offer.

If chasing world class animals excites you, then do yourself a favor and start building points today. It's an investment with unlimited return opportunities!

Please feel free to email or call with any questions.

Till next time – keep the sun at your back and the wind in your face! 🍃

Editor's note: Jeremy Yarbrough is a State Farm Insurance agent and can be contacted at 4080 Huron St., Ste A, P.O. Box 708, North Branch, Michigan, 48461 or by phone at (810) 688-700 or (810) 688-7100. Jeremy's email address is: jeremy.yarbrough.m2ib@statefarm.com.

Arizona

- Managed for quality not quantity – thus limited tags
- Bonus point state with the option to build points only
- Non-refundable license cost of \$151.25
- Bonus points are \$7.50 per species.
- I apply or build points for elk, antelope, Rocky Mountain/Desert bighorn sheep, deer and bison.
- Offer a loyalty point for every species applied for after five consecutive years
- Offer a permanent bonus point for all species if you travel to Arizona and complete a hunter education course

- Limited over-the-counter (OTC) tags

Colorado

- Some species are managed for quality not quantity and vice-versa for others.
- Great OTC state for elk and awesome mule deer opportunities
- Preference point state with the option to build points only
- Non-refundable point fees are approximately \$30 per species, except moose, sheep and goat which are \$3 per species.
- I apply or build points for elk, deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, moose and goat.
- Great state for archers

Iowa

- Preference point state with the option to build points only
- Non-refundable \$50 point fee
- I apply or build points for deer only.
- No OTC tags

Kansas

- Preference point state with the option to build points only
- Non-refundable \$22.50 point fee
- I apply or build points for deer only.
- No OTC tags

Montana

- Unfortunately, Montana keeps changing their regulations and tag prices have gone through the roof. Once I capitalize on the points I have accumulated, I'm probably done applying in Montana unless they become more non-resident friendly.
- Bonus point state that doesn't allow an individual to build points only – this forces you to apply for hard to draw units in the years you don't want to draw.
- Very complicated drawing system; you apply for a general and limited license with the option for an 80% refund if you don't draw the limited. This ends up costing approximately \$200.
- I apply for elk, deer, moose, goat and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.
- No OTC tags



Nevada

- Managed for quality not quantity – thus limited tags
- Squared bonus point system with the option to build points only
- Non-refundable \$142 license
- Bonus points are \$10 per species.
- I apply for desert bighorn sheep, California bighorn sheep, deer, elk, antelope and goat.
- No OTC tags

New Mexico

- Managed for quality not quantity – thus limited tags
- No bonus or preference point system – everyone is on a level playing field each year.
- Refundable \$65 license if not drawn
- I apply or build points for Rocky Mountain/desert bighorn sheep and elk.
- No OTC tags

Utah

- Managed for quality not quantity – thus limited tags
- A bonus and preference point system exist depending on the species; an applicant can choose to build points only.
- Non-refundable \$65 license
- Points only are \$10 per species.
- I apply or build points for elk, desert bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, premium-limited deer, general deer, goat, bison and moose.

Wyoming

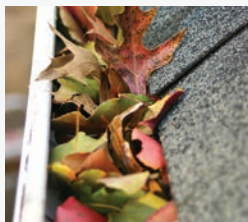
- Wyoming offers the most hunting opportunity and diversity of all western states and is a personal favorite of mine.
- A preference point system is used, but it varies from other states due to 75% of tags going to applicants with the most preference points and 25% going to random draw.
- Points only for antelope, deer, elk, moose and Rocky Mountain sheep, which costs \$30, \$40, \$50, \$75 and \$100 respectively
- I apply or build points for antelope, deer, elk, moose, Rocky Mountain sheep and bison.
- Great general license hunting opportunities
- No OTC tags

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PERFECT PERENNIALS

Continued from Page 1

small spaces and small containers.

- **Hybiscus hybrid 'Summerlicious'**,

(also known as Rose Mallow), is a short but full hibiscus with beautiful cranberry red flowers. The black buds open up to deep scarlet red, 7-8 inch flowers with heavy overlapping petals. You can enjoy this hummingbird attracting, cranberry colored bloomer from midsummer through the late fall months.



- **Hosta hybrid 'Whee!'**

is a medium size hosta coming from the liliaceae family. It has a green center with creamy yellow ruffled margins. It comes up in the spring and provides light lavender flowers in mid-summer. You will be amazed at the curly, twisty effect this hosta will give to your landscape.



- **Panicum virgatum 'Cheyenne Sky'**, (also referred to as red switch grass), is an ornamental grass with blue-green



leaves that turn a wine color during the summer. During the end of the summer, Cheyenne Sky provides a purple colored flower just above the foliage. It requires full sun and will keep its color all the way into the fall and winter. Red switch grass is best used in containers.

- **Heliopsis helianthoides 'Tuscan Sun'** is a perennial sunflower. Staking is not needed for this golden yellow flower beauty. It is a heat tolerant, long blooming, and easy to care for award winning sunflower. It works best in the front of plant beds, in containers and grows up to 20 inches in height.



- **Veronica hybrid 'Hocus Pocus'**, also known as Speedwell, features long vivid violet flowers with well branched stems.



Its butterfly attracting flowers appear in early to mid-summer. It is perfect for landscape edges and containers. It is also great for cutting and easy to care for.

What are you waiting for? Spring is here. Visit your local nursery or find these plants on many online stores. Get out there and plant some of these beautiful perennials today and give your landscape color from spring through fall.

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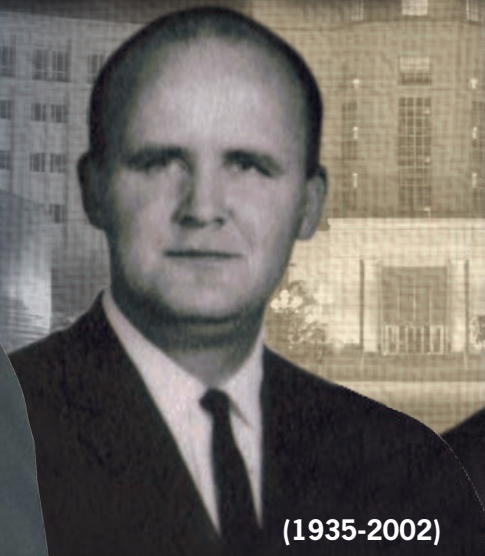
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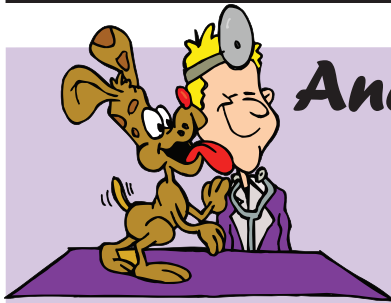
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Watch for my article in next month's issue!



Anal Gland Disease

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Anal glands (sometimes called sacs) are two small glands seated just inside the rectum. These glands produce a foul smelling liquid material. This material is expressed when your pet has a bowel movement. Its purpose is for marking their territory. This is what animals smell when they greet each other. Anal gland disease is very common in pets.

Anal gland disease starts when the glands become impacted and the secretions cannot be expressed properly. This can be caused by insufficient pressure on the sacs during defecation because of small, soft stools or by inflammation causing the secretions to thicken and block the openings. Impactions tend to occur most often in small-breed dogs and in overweight dogs and cats. The first sign of an impaction is usually scooting. The glands will be tender at this stage of the disease.

Impactions can be treated by manually expressing the anal glands to clean them out. This is done by placing your index finger just inside the rectum and your thumb on the outside and squeezing the gland until it is emptied. I always recommend wearing latex gloves for this and being very careful not to get any of the secretions on your clothing. The smell will linger for a long time. Normal secretions will be a brown liquid. If the discharge is thicker, yellowish in color or bloody, the sac could be infected and you should see your veterinarian. Impaction can lead to infection if not treated. Your pet may be scooting, licking at the rear end or straining to defecate at this point. There will be a red painful swelling and some pets will not even allow their owners to look under their tail. If the infection progresses to an abscess that ruptures, the swelling will turn purplish in color and the bloody discharge will be draining to the outside. Oral antibiotics will be needed at this stage. Treatment at this point not only consists of expressing the anal glands but also flushing

the glands with saline and infusing them with an antibiotic ointment.

Some pets never have any problems with their anal glands while others have constant problems. Many dogs with allergies and certain breeds, such as Cocker Spaniels and Beagles, seem to have more problems. Once a pet has had problems I advise having the anal glands expressed every six to eight weeks to avoid further problems. In some cases adding fiber to your pet's diet can help with natural expression and of course keeping your pet at a good weight can also head off problems. In very severe cases where despite treatment and prevention the pet continues to have problems, the next step is surgical removal. While the animals can do fine without the glands, there is some draw back to the surgery. The nerves that control the tone of the rectal muscle can be damaged during surgery and your pet could have fecal incontinence or the inability to control its bowel movements. In most cases this is only temporary after surgery, but in cases where there has been significant infection and scar tissue this could be permanent. 🐾

Editor's note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a

veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is: www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com. Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.

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Holistic Health

By Renae Hardy
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

“Holistic” is used to describe a myriad of alternative healthcare practices. Originating from the Greek word *holos*, holistic by definition means whole or complete. Holistic Health is a philosophy of healthcare that focuses on the entire Being. The body, mind and spirit (true essence / core self) are closely interconnected and equally important to treatment, healing and wellness.

Holistic Health is an approach to “how” treatment should be applied. Traditional medicine focuses on treating the symptoms of disease, whereas holistic therapies focus on preventing, or determining and addressing the cause of illness. Holistic services employ numerous methods including chiropractic, homeopathic, naturopathic, acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, nutrition, meditation, power of intention, sound therapy, therapeutic massage, aromatherapy, FIR sauna therapy, energy medicine, Reiki, and spiritual counseling, to name a few.

A holistic practitioner realizes the body has a natural ability and intelligence to

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“heal” when provided with the appropriate tools. Holistic practitioners use non-invasive, drugless healing methods to promote self-healing. They help facilitate in bringing a state of homeostasis to the client. Balance of body-mind-spirit is essential. The Holistic practitioner understands that the client is fully responsible for their own healing and views them as an active participant in the healing process. The emphasis of holistic health is one of prevention, health maintenance, longevity and wellness.

Complimentary Alternative Medicine (CAM) has become more mainstream as integrative healthcare practices continue to increase. Combining traditional medicine with holistic methods provides an ever-expanding and health benefiting personal approach in achieving greater health wealth.

Live a healthier life. Explore and experience the alternatives available. Be Whole ... Be Well ... Be Radiant! 🐾

Editor's Note: Renae Hardy is the owner of Radiant Beings, 25962 Knollwood S., in Chesterfield. Renae is a certified energy practitioner and offers many choices for alternative healing. Contact Renae at (586) 949-0112 or (586) 489-8611.

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Jobs for Teens

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Recently I read a couple of articles regarding the dismal jobs market. Most focused on private-sector jobs that have been cut due to the recession and those lost to overseas companies to reduce labor costs. One of the essays that caught my attention addressed part-time employment opportunities for teens. It caused me to think of another time well over 50 years ago when trying to find a job as a teenager seemed as difficult as it is today.

I remember my first employment opportunity mowing the lawns of neighbors and family friends. I certainly didn't consider this a

career-starter, but it did provide a few dollars spending money. The economy was good then and it was a time when many adults in the workforce, mostly men, were working long hours and had little time for keeping the yard in order. Teenagers seeking work seemed like a perfect fit and the competition was keen. In the winter months the same teen lawn-mower often became the snow shoveler.

My second part-time job was as a pinsetter or, as it was called then, pin-boy at the bowling alley adjacent to the movie theater on Front Street in downtown Algonac. I imagine anyone under 50-years of age would have a difficult time understanding that this job was not performed by an automatic mechanical system. It was accomplished by people, mostly younger boys, who would actually pick-up fallen bowling pins and manually reset them in the correct position, then return the ball to the bowler. If you were really good at what you did, you could jump from one pit to that of another lane and accomplish your task. So, why would you want to do that? Well, at twenty-five cents per game and the bowlers' tips that resulted, it was financially rewarding.

Just before my 16th birthday I got my first full-time summer job. I became a pearl-diver at Sid's Bar & Restaurant just north of Algonac. Oh, again, for those not yet qualified for AARP membership, this very romantic sounding job did not allow me the excitement of diving off a cliff in search of an ocean jewel. It encompassed the washing of plates, pots and pans. Possibly I should have remained in this career. I recently discovered that both Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald

Reagan were pearl-divers in their youth.

Many of my friends were successful in finding gainful part-time employment, especially during the summer months. One was a gas station attendant. I guess here, too, I need to explain.

A gas station attendant, sometimes referred to as a gas-jockey, was someone who worked in a full-service gasoline service station. He actually pumped the gas, washed the windshield, checked the vehicle's oil level, and sometimes

even made sure the tire air pressure was adequate. The driver rarely left the car and paid only for the fuel. Sometimes the attendant would receive a tip.

Another friend worked all through

high school as a paper-boy, rising at 4:30 a.m. each morning to deliver the *Detroit Times* newspaper. He would also devote two afternoons each week to visiting all of his customers for the purpose of collecting money for the newspapers he had delivered the previous week. He actually purchased the newspapers and was able to keep the difference between what was collected and the price of the papers. He did quite well and saved funds for his college education.

Several friends worked at the local H.A. Smith grocery store in downtown Algonac as bag-boys. Their primary responsibilities were to bag the groceries purchased and take them to the customer's automobile. The customer would customarily tip the bagger, which constituted the largest portion of his income. Some who remained on the job for a longer period of time advanced to other positions in the store, mostly in the areas of stocking the shelves and maintenance tasks.

A few other jobs you might normally find teenagers doing in the 1950s include car-hop, retail clerk, soda-jerk and baby-sitter. But, as I review them all, I fully understand how things have changed over time.

With the advent of riding lawnmowers and high-powered snow blowers coupled with the influx of adults who now provide yard-care services, the teen yard-work entrepreneur has gone the way of the dinosaur. Child labor laws, liability insurance and automation has eliminated the lane pit jobs in our bowling allies.

While a teenager today might find a job in a restaurant, more than likely it will be in a fast-food diner flipping burgers where there's little or no need

for a dish washer. And, forget pumping someone's gas for a fee. People do it themselves at a substantially higher cost.

Newspapers are now delivered mostly by adults in their automobiles. Even they are going the way of the proverbial dinosaur as many people get their news online. Car-hop jobs don't exist because of drive-through services and baby-sitting being taken over by adults who receive anywhere from \$12 to \$20 per hour.

In the 1950s, finding a part-time job while attending high school was a daunting task. Certainly, attempting to balance work with school, extracurricular activities and a social life was difficult. But, as we have examined, there were jobs then that no longer exist. There's little evidence that the jobs available 60-years ago were ever replaced with others that a contemporary teen is able to take.

This brief nostalgic step back into history has left me a little sad for my grandchildren and their friends. It's not just the great number of adults who have been left jobless, their children and



1950s photo of Sid's Bar and Restaurant just north of Algonac



1950s photo of downtown Algonac

grandchildren have as well. Let's all pray for a better tomorrow. 🍀

Editor's note: I must admit, although I was born in the 1950s, I had never heard of the term "pearl divers" in reference to dishwashers. I was curious as to how the term evolved. So, I did what most people today would do; I googled it! Not only did I find a possible answer, but I also found a site that offers some wonderful insights into restaurant customs and history. Go to <http://restaurantingthroughhistory.com/2011/12/06/washing-up-to-find-out-more-about-pearl-diving>. Then hit the home button to see what other interesting facts you can discover.

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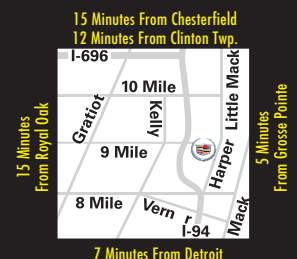
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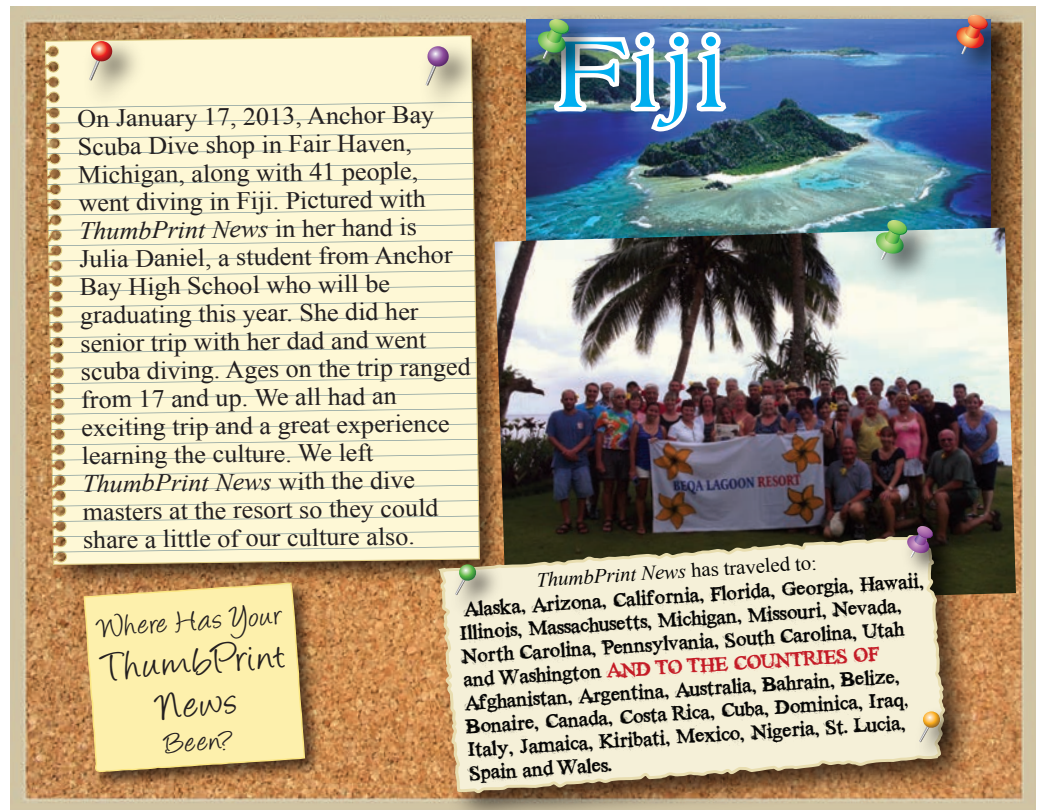
ThumbPrint News Travels to Fiji!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 1,000 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but readers have also taken *ThumbPrint News* with them to many different states and countries (listed on the right on the bulletin board). *ThumbPrint News* was even seen on television on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and at Walt Disney World in Florida with several of the Disney characters!

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken *ThumbPrint News*, we never expected such an overwhelming response! The newspaper has even traveled to all of the seven continents.

This month's photo shows *ThumbPrint News* traveling to the exotic island of Fiji with 41 persons from Anchor Bay Scuba Dive Shop in Fair Haven, Michigan. Mickey Wrona of the shop sent in the picture on the right.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you have been able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net (jpeg format preferred). Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in *ThumbPrint News*. When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition. There are many places where *ThumbPrint News* has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next person to help us in our quest? 🍀



Chesterfield Township Man Repeatedly Joins our Mission to Help *ThumbPrint News* Travel the World

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Everyone at *ThumbPrint News* is appreciative of each and every individual who takes the time to help *ThumbPrint News* travel the world – looking for new places to be seen and new famous people and characters to discover. However, it seems that we owe an especially great big thank you to Tom Klempay of Chesterfield Township, Michigan, who repeatedly and enthusiastically finds great new places to photograph *ThumbPrint News* in his travels. He first appeared awhile back when he took the newspaper to Torino, Italy. Then, somehow we inadvertently left Italy out of our list of countries *ThumbPrint News* had traveled to and Tom kindly sent us an email identifying our omission. Apparently, we didn't stop him from keeping us in mind during his travels. Recently Tom took *ThumbPrint News* with him again to Italy – this time to Genoa, and also to Morocco, a country in North Africa. We figured we owed him his own space this time!

Here is what Tom had to say in his email to me:

During a trip last fall I brought ThumbPrint News with me on an extended business trip. Please find attached photos and a short story. I always take ThumbPrint News to read the great stories and history of the wonderful towns in

Michigan when I am away. I will be visiting other countries soon. And, guess what? The visits are not complete without me taking my ThumbPrint News!

Tom's first stops were at Casablanca and Marrakech, Morocco, North Africa. We will let Tom tell you about them in his own words:

Casablanca, a world away from the picturesque scenes of Marrakech and Fes, is, thanks to the 1942 film of the same name, associated with the Western definition of Morocco (although not a single scene of the film was even filmed in that country!) Carefully planned by the French, its skyline is dominated by office and residential tower blocks, while fashions are so far from traditional that it's easy to forget you're not in southern Europe. The awe-inspiring Hassan II Mosque, the second biggest religious monument in the world after Mecca, was built in 1980 to commemorate the sixtieth



birthday of the former Moroccan king, and is a must-see on a visit to Casablanca. Everything about it screams size; it has space for 25,000 worshippers inside and a further 80,000 outside. The 690 foot minaret is the tallest in the world and its roof is the size of a football pitch. Even the cost (estimates range from \$500 to \$800 million) was astronomical and has led to ambivalence towards it on the part of many city inhabitants. While they feel pride in the grandeur and undeniable beauty of the building, there's a feeling that the money could have been used more responsibly and it also caused resentment that the construction of the mosque necessitated the destruction of a sizeable slum whose residents didn't receive any compensation. The Hassan II is the only mosque open to non-Muslims – for a fee!

We arrived late afternoon in Marrakech and had dinner. If we were looking for chaos, we found it at the night market in Marrakech. Motorbikes sped and weaved around the crowds of people and carts pulled by donkeys. Some local men were charming cobras and dressed in costumes. Around us, souks were hawking everything from bras to raw meat to household goods. Wonderfully colorful shops of spices, shoes, fabrics, metal works and ceramics also brightened the way. The only bad part about it is that we had to leave after



spending only a few hours, as business meetings beckoned early the next day.

Tom then continued on his way to Genoa, Italy, the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. Here is what Tom had to say about that visit:

*I visited Genoa, Italy, for a quick Sunday afternoon from my base in Turin via Porta where two towers are located in midtown that resemble a scene right out of a Disney fairy tale! They mark the spot where an opening was formed in the city walls during the ninth century and were built in 1155 to protect the city. Underneath the towers is the home of Christopher Columbus, where it is thought that he was born and raised. The house was destroyed in 1684 when the area was bombed by the French, but was rebuilt and has undergone extensive archeological explorations and restoration. I brought my favorite paper – *ThumbPrint News* – and relaxed reading it at a nearby park.*

Tom, let us thank you once again for all of the places you have taken *ThumbPrint News*. We are looking forward to the places you will be taking our paper in the future. Happy and safe travels! 🍀



WILDLIFE HABITAT

Continued from Page 4

to be addressed. An excellent alternative to insecticide application came to me through daily observations of the activities of wildlife here on the property. In St. Clair County, and especially Columbus Township, we are blessed with a large population of two praying mantid species, the European mantis (*Mantis religiosa*) and the much larger Chinese Mantis (*Tenodera aridifolia sinensis*). The summer and fall months here seem like an airport, as male mantids crisscross the property in search of a mate. The beauty of mantids is that they are extremely intelligent and discerning, will allow you to handle them, and consume some of the worst garden invaders, like aphids, grasshoppers and Japanese beetles. Mantids also exist side-by-side peacefully with ladybugs. Ladybugs are also an excellent garden defender of pest insects.

Mantid egg cases, called ootheca, can be purchased from garden centers or online for around \$10 an ootheca. Most of these will be Chinese mantid egg cases, as European mantids are somewhat more rare. Here, because they are so plentiful, I have done numerous catch and release breeding initiatives with both species. After mating is complete, I will collect two females of both species and fatten



European mantid (*Mantis religiosa*) ootheca (egg mass)

them up on crickets and moths. After a month or so, I release them back into the flowers and shrubs to discharge their oothecae. After the oothecae are deposited, the female mantids will live approximately one month before dying (mantids do not go dormant, but die off every winter). I typically will harvest two European mantid ootheca and two Chinese mantid ootheca to store until they hatch in spring, ensuring viable offspring the following spring. The rest I leave to the forces of nature. Each ootheca will contain 200 - 400 nymph mantids;

however, survival to adulthood (9th instar) is typically only one to two percent. I can attest with certainty, though, that if you have plants and landscape that attract pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths...), you will have mantids...and mantids that stay.

If you have a piece of property that you are interested in developing into a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation you will find all of the necessary information at www.NWF.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat/ or by calling (800) 822-9919. Discover the rewards of gardening for wildlife. 🌿



Chinese mantid 2 (*Tenodera aridifolia sinensis*)

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TRASH TO TREASURE

By Cindy Fockler

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Sometimes “trash to treasure” doesn’t have to be a large piece of furniture or a large piece at all. Recently my great niece was up visiting from Georgia and her momma made the comment that Miss Madi was into playing dress up or, as she stated it, “It’s all about the dress up”.

I happened to have an empty box that paper had come in that my daughter had brought me home and I thought it would be perfect since it was sturdy, had a lid and even had handle cut outs for carrying. It would make the perfect Dress Up Box.

As you know by now I am a huge fan of Mod Podge and I always have fabric or paper lying around just waiting to be used. So I gathered my supplies, scissors, paper, Mod Podge and a little bit of bling and started at it.

First I measured the outside dimensions and made sure I cut my paper to fit. Then I



spread on the Mod Podge and adhered the paper to it. I made sure to use the same paper on the side of the box as I did on the side of the lid; that way when it was not open it still looked nice.

Since I own a Cricut die cutting machine cutting out the letters and shapes for the embellishment part of the project was a snap, but you could easily use a marker and write the name on it and any sayings you would like. Just about any craft store also sells precut shapes and numbers.

Madi is quite the fan of princesses and fairies, so the dress up box had to reflect both of those. Thus, the bling for this was plastic gem stones that I had in my stash, but you could use glitter or purchase new. Since this is a trash to treasure project, I tried to use materials that I had on hand or stashed in the cabinet.

The hardest part of this project was covering the corners of the box and the

lid. Since I ran the paper to the edges on both sides, it left an open seam on every corner. So, I did what every crafter does, I improvised. I cut squares out of a dark contrasting paper and then glued a fancy cut piece onto that and covered the corner. This was easier doing after I folded the contrasting paper and then applied it. It was too stiff of paper to just push over the edge and have the glue hold. By folding it I had the shape made and the glue just held it in place.



Once everything had dried I embellished the top with her name and a little more bling. Then it came time to fill it up with dress up supplies. The only things I purchased for this project were a hot pink feather boa, her initials premade of bling and a sheet of craft foam. The rest I made with my handy dandy glue gun and left over fabric. When I was done creating I had a fairy princess cone hat with tulle spilling out of the top of it (of course decorated with bling), a princess crown, a fascinator, a furry shawl and a cute muff for her hands.



The Dress Up Box came out adorable and little Miss Madi just loved it! This could easily be made into a Dress Up Box for a boy simply by changing the colors and the contents. Visiting your local thrift store will provide an endless supply of items. HAPPY JUNKIN' 🍀



Editor's Note: Cindy Fockler of Croswell, Michigan, has been crafting and repurposing items since she was a child. Her favorite mediums include polymer clay, paint, paper and fabric. Many of her creations are pictured on www.facebook.com/CindysCreativeCrafting or www.cindyscraftstore.blogspot.com.

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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

THE NIGHT THE DOORBELL RANG

By Gabriel Jones, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Our first family pet was a dog named "Cinder." We got him at a nearby animal shelter.

There were many dogs there in various cages and we took our time going from cage to cage. After much discussion and petting of the animals, we picked the one we wanted. He was a happy dog that warmed our hearts—just the type of pet that we wanted. He was a mutt with "character."

WAS HE CUTE!

When we brought him home, we named him "Cinder", because of his black color.

At the time, both my wife and I were working during the day and would put the dog in the utility room. He would stay there all day, without doing his business, until we came home from work. Then we would let him loose in the yard and he could run around and get his exercise. Sometimes, we would get home late from doing an errand, and not put him out in the yard until late.

That was the night when "it" happened.

"What," you may ask?

It was the night when our

doorbell rang.

My wife went to the door wondering who it could be so late at night.

She opened the door and was surprised to see a delivery man holding a pad for her to sign. It was for a telegram!

A TELEGRAM!

She signed and was handed a telegram and the man left.

My wife was shaken and told me what she had received at the door.

We opened it and....

To our surprise, it stated:
**YOUR DOG IS BARKING
LATE AT NIGHT.**

**I GET UP VERY EARLY FOR
WORK AND NEED MY SLEEP!**

There was no signature. We didn't know who sent it, but we suspected one particular neighbor across our back yard.

Imagine, in today's society... a telegram from an anonymous neighbor, telling us our dog is barking late at night.

It makes us laugh, now, but at the time we made sure that our dog was controlled in his barking at night.

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🐾



What Happened On This Day In History?

April

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

- 1** On this day in 1748, the ruins of Pompeii were found.
- 2** On this day in 1877, the first Easter egg roll was held on the White House lawn.
- 3** On this day in 1966, *Luna 10* orbited the Moon.
- 4** On this day in 1972, the first electric power plant fueled by garbage began operating.
- 5** On this day in 1896, the first modern Olympic Games officially opened in Athens. 
- 6** On this day in 1909, the North Pole was reached by Americans, Robert Peary and Matthew Henson.
- 7** On this day in 1933, Prohibition ended and Utah became the 38th state to ratify the 21st Amendment. 
- 8** On this day in 1879, milk was sold in glass bottles for the first time.
- 9** On this day in 1950, Bob Hope appeared on television for the first time.
- 10** On this day in 1981, a computer glitch kept space shuttle *Columbia* grounded.
- 11** On this day in 1906, Einstein introduced his Theory of Relativity. 
- 12** On this day in 1938, the first U.S. law requiring medical tests for marriage licenses was passed (New York).
- 13** On this day in 1972, the first baseball players' strike ended after 13 days.
- 14** On this day in 1853, Harriet Tubman began her Underground Railroad, helping slaves escape.
- 15** On this day in 1892, General Electric Company was formed and incorporated in New York. 
- 16** On this day in 1959, the New York Yankees unveiled their first message scoreboard.
- 17** On this day in 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was convicted of assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy.
- 18** On this day in 1838, Wilkes' expedition to the South Pole set sail.
- 19** On this day in 1934, Shirley Temple appeared in her first movie, *Stand Up and Cheer*. 
- 20** On this day in 1967, U.S.'s *Surveyor 3* landed on the Moon.
- 21** On this day in 1865, Abraham Lincoln's funeral train left Washington, D. C. 
- 22** On this day in 1970, the first Earth Day was held internationally to conserve natural resources.
- 23** On this day in 1989, students in Beijing, China, announced class boycotts.
- 24** On this day in 1923, Colonel Jacob Schick patented Schick shavers.
- 25** On this day in 1901, New York became the first state to require auto license plates (\$1 fee). 
- 26** On this day in 1984, President Reagan visited China.
- 27** On this day in 1972, *Apollo 16* returned to Earth.
- 28** On this day in 1937, the first commercial flight across the Pacific took place (Pan Am). 
- 29** On this day in 1961, ABC's *Wide World of Sports* debuted.
- 30** On this day in 1942, the first submarine built on the Great Lakes was launched (*Peto*) in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. 

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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100 at the end of this year! On December 31, 2013, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In March's edition, we asked our readers to identify the object pictured below:

Randomly selected from those submitting correct answers was Diana Evans of Fort Gratiot, Michigan, who correctly identified the object as a "dove" found



inside a broken sand dollar. Diana will be entered into our year end drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100.

The sand dollar is a spiny, hard-skinned animal that is shaped like a flattened disk. Many different species of sand dollars live on the sandy ocean floor. Most sand dollars are found at depths of 30 to 40 feet. They bury themselves under the sand, with an edge poking up out of the sand. On the back of the sand dollar the opening in the middle is actually its mouth. While anchored in the sand, the sand dollar will position itself so the water from the current will carry food particles directly to its mouth opening. When a sand dollar is broken, many hard, loose, white pieces will fall out which look like the "dove" pictured above. These are actually the teeth of the sand dollar.

Most of the sand dollars that wash up on the beaches are dead. These are usually white, tan, or green, depending on how long they have been bouncing around in the water or lying on the beach being bleached by the sun. Live sand dollars are usually very dark, almost black in color, with a velvety covering made up of tiny spines. Live sand dollars when found should be returned to the ocean.



Sand dollars that are dead can be collected and put in a mixture of 1 gallon of water to 1/2 cup of bleach for about 15 minutes to make them whiter. Do not keep them in longer than 15 minutes, as the bleach will begin to

make them more brittle than they already are. After the sand dollars are thoroughly dried, a mixture of 1/2 water and 1/2 white glue can be carefully brushed over the entire surface on both sides of the sand dollar. This will make the sand dollar a little less prone to breakage.

One myth about sand dollars states that they are the coins used by mermaids.

Another legend attaches a religious significance to the unique markings on the sand dollar.

For our April contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object below is. Email your answer to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Again, be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are correct and are entered in the random drawing at the end of the year for a gift basket valued at over \$100. Good luck!



The Legend of the Sand Dollar

There's a lovely little legend that I would like to tell, of the birth and death of Jesus, found in this lowly shell.

If you examine closely, you'll see that you find here, four nail holes and a fifth one, made by a Roman's spear.

On one side the Easter lily, its center is the star that appeared unto the shepherds and led them from afar.



The Christmas Poinsettia etched on the other side, reminds us of His birthday, our happy Christmastide.

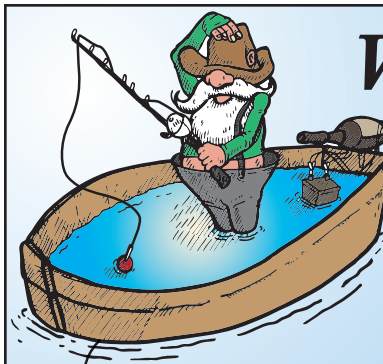


Now break the center open, and here you will release, the five white doves awaiting, to spread Good Will and Peace.

This simple little symbol, Christ left for you and me, to help us spread His Gospel, through all Eternity.



- Author Unknown



What's it take to float a boat?

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Thumb Area Activities & Events for April 2013

If you have an event in May that you would like listed in the May issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by April 12, 2013. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some submitted events, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

Editor's note: Before traveling beyond your home town to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

Genesee

Flint – April 17

Jazz Ensemble Concert, 303 E. Kearsley St, 7:30 p.m. Presented by University of Michigan-Flint Department of Music. \$5 general admission/ free to students with valid I.D. For more information call (810) 762-3377.

Huron

Ubyly – April 18

Ubyly/Bad Axe Fishery Workshop, Ubyly Fox Hunter's Club, 2153 Ubyly Rd., 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Michigan Sea Grant Extension, in partnership with fisheries agencies and stakeholder organizations, host public information workshops annually. The workshops focus on current research and information related to the regional status of Great Lakes fisheries. These workshops are open to the public, and provide valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals and other interested stakeholders. For more information call (517) 353-9748.

Lapeer

Almont – April 13

Euchre Night, Almont Lions Hall, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. There will be two sets of five games each with a break in between. Refreshments and lunch will be served during the break. Generous prizes are awarded to the top three points holders. \$15 donation at the door; if a player brings a first time player, they both play for \$10 each. Euchre nights are held the second Saturday each month from September through May. For more information call Don at (810) 798-9609.

Macomb

Richmond – April 2

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Memorial Library conference room, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome. Bring a friend and join us. This is the first step to making new friendships and making a difference in your community. For more information email lynnsuniverse@yahoo.com.

Richmond – April 4

Historic Village Presentation, Historic Village, corner of Beebe and Park Sts., 7:00 p.m. Keeper of the Past, Tony Panepucci, a privy historian, shares treasures found during privy excavations. The program is free to the public and he will help date any old bottles that are brought in for examination. For more information contact Mary Ellen at (810) 329-5797.

Richmond – April 4-6

St. Augustine Rummage Sale, St. Augustine Parish Hall, 68035 Main St., 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. – noon on Saturday. Bag sale on Saturday only. For more information call (586) 727-3666 or (810) 543-0402.

New Haven – April 20

Euchre Night, New Haven Lions Hall, 57882 Lutes, doors open at 6:30 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. \$12 per person plus quarters for euchres. Includes a light dinner and beverages are available. Prizes awarded to the top 3 places. Contact Lion Andy at (810) 543-0951 for more information.

Richmond – April 26-27

Annual White Cane Sale, intersections of Main/Division and County Line Rd./St. Clair Hwy. Sponsored by the Richmond Lions Club. For more information email cityofrichmond@comcast.net.

Oakland

Auburn Hills – April 2 & 4

Michigan Spring Break Fun for Kids: Spring Break Jump-N-Art Camp, 1720 Opdyke Court, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Jump-N-Art was developed by a fine arts education center and emphasizes the joy of self expression through fine art. Studies have shown that when physical activity is blended with creative pursuits, that creative capabilities are greatly enhanced. Kids spend part of their time laughing, bouncing and playing games and part of their time exploring their inner Rembrandts. They'll also have lunch, snacks and experience other awesome activities! This camp promises to be a blast. All the art projects will have a winter theme. The camp is targeted for 4 - 12 year olds. \$20 per child per day or \$35.00 per child for both days includes: crafts, lunch, snacks, games and more! Call (248) 375-1100 to pre-register.

St. Clair

Memphis – April 1

Free Movies, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 2:00 p.m. Not leaving Memphis for Spring Break? All students in grades K – 5 are invited to join us for a free movie. All movies are rated PG so parental permission is needed. Please

sign up at the circulation desk. For more information call (810) 392-2980.

Port Huron – April 1-30

Sports Physicals Available, Teen Health Center, 3415 28th St. Playing school sports? Get your sports physical today. Most insurances accepted. No co-pays or deductibles. Cash clients receive a discount if paying the same day of service. All physicals completed after April 15 are valid for spring, fall and winter sports. Appointments preferred – walk-ins accepted. Call (810) 987-1311 for more information.

Port Huron – April 3

Meet Your Local Rescue Workers, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 10:00 a.m. Meet and greet representatives from the Port Huron Police and Fire Department. Learn about the training involved in becoming a police officer or firefighter. Discover facts about their careers. Receive spring and summer safety tips from professionals. View police and fire vehicles live! Ages 12 and under. For more information call (810) 987-7323, ext. 132 or 130.

Capac – April 4 and 18

Kid Kreations, 111 N. Main, 4:30 p.m. Bring your friends to hear some great stories and do a fun craft. Registration is recommended. For more information call

(810) 395-7000.

Fair Haven – April 5, 12, 19 and 26

Tot Time, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories, music and crafts. Ages 0 – 5 and their caregivers. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

Port Huron – April 5-13

KidSAKE Monthly "First Friday Films" by LUNAFEST, Art for Good, 331 Huron Ave., 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$15 for adults, \$8 for students. Following the films will be an optional open discussion. For more information call (81) 937-5578.

Kimball – April 8

Kimball Library Garden Club, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 5:30 p.m. Interested in local gardening? Become a member of the Garden Club. Ideas and plans will be discussed. Everyone welcome. For more information call (810) 982-9171.

Marysville – April 10

Fizzy Foam Science, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:30 p.m. Explore the scientific principles behind mixing safe chemicals and watching the fizzy reactions. We will make colorful erupting foaming lava. Free program made possible thanks to a grant from your St. Clair County 4-H Leaders Council. Grades K-5. Registration

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St. Clair – April 10

Teen Texas Hold ‘Em, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 6:00 p.m. Come learn how to play Texas Hold ‘Em-style poker. Play for candy and try to double your winnings. Grades 6 – 12. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

Lakeport – April 11

“Pizza and Pages” Teen Club, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 4:00 p.m. Come eat pizza, discuss your favorite pages of your favorite books, and play games. Pizza and beverages are provided. 2nd Thursday of every month. For more information call (810) 385-8550.

Yale– April 13

Children’s Tea Party, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 11:00 a.m. Mary Pollack, author of the book, *Harrietta’s Hair*, will be here to read and discuss her book; a craft will be made and refreshments served. For more information call (810) 387-2940.

Fair Haven – April 16 and 17

ABCN Co-Op Preschool Open House, 6572 Church Rd., 10:00 a.m. – noon on both days and also 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on the 17th. Programs for children 18 months – 5 years. For more information call (586) 725-7978.

Algonac – April 18-20

Algonac Community Theatre Presents *Our Town*, by Thornton Wilder, Algonquin Middle School, 9185 Marsh Rd., 7:00 p.m. Thursday \$5 for everyone. Friday \$5 for children, \$7 pre-pay for adults, \$9 at the door. Saturday, \$5 for children, \$8 pre-pay for adults, \$10 at the door. For more information call (810) 794-5097.

Fair Haven – April 19

Euchre Party, St. Peter Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation, includes free goodies, coffee and tea. Cash prizes. Hot dogs and pop \$1 donation. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

Marine City – April 22

Creative Cards, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 6:00 p.m. Interested in scrapbooking? You’ll love “Creative Cards”! Using many of the same techniques, join local hobbyist Adele Klaassen as she helps us create our own greeting cards. \$5 charge. Make & Take sponsored by Friends of the Marine City Library. For more information call (810) 765-5233.

Port Huron – April 24

Their Sacrifice Immeasurable, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. Dave Belair will speak about his book which was published in the summer of 2012 regarding 57 men from St. Clair County who died in Vietnam. Everyone is welcome. For more information call (810) 989-0399.

Algonac – April 25-27

Semi-Annual Book Sale, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 9:00 a.m. Books, music and movies on sale. Donations of new or gently used clean books, movies and CDs accepted up to April 22. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

Port Huron – April 26-28

Xanadu, Port Huron High School Performing Arts Center, 1799 Krafft Rd., 7:00 p.m. on the 26th, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the 27th and 2:00 p.m. on the 28th. Presented by Port Huron High School Drama, *Xanadu* is a Tony nominated musical adaption of the 1980 film where silliness is its own reward when Greek mythology slams into roller disco. A muse with an Australian accent and leg warmers is on a mission to inspire a surfer dude, street artist to realize his dream of creating a roller-disco palace. However, to succeed they must overcome evil sisters, friends from the past, and even Zeus in order to fulfill their destiny. \$8 for children/students/seniors, \$10 for adults. For more information email vlarstrong@comcast.net.

Sauilac**Sandusky – April 13 and 27**

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members. \$10 membership (per year). On April 13 we will be entertained by The Natural Tones and on April 27 by Lighthouse Three. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Tuscola**Mayville – April 3**

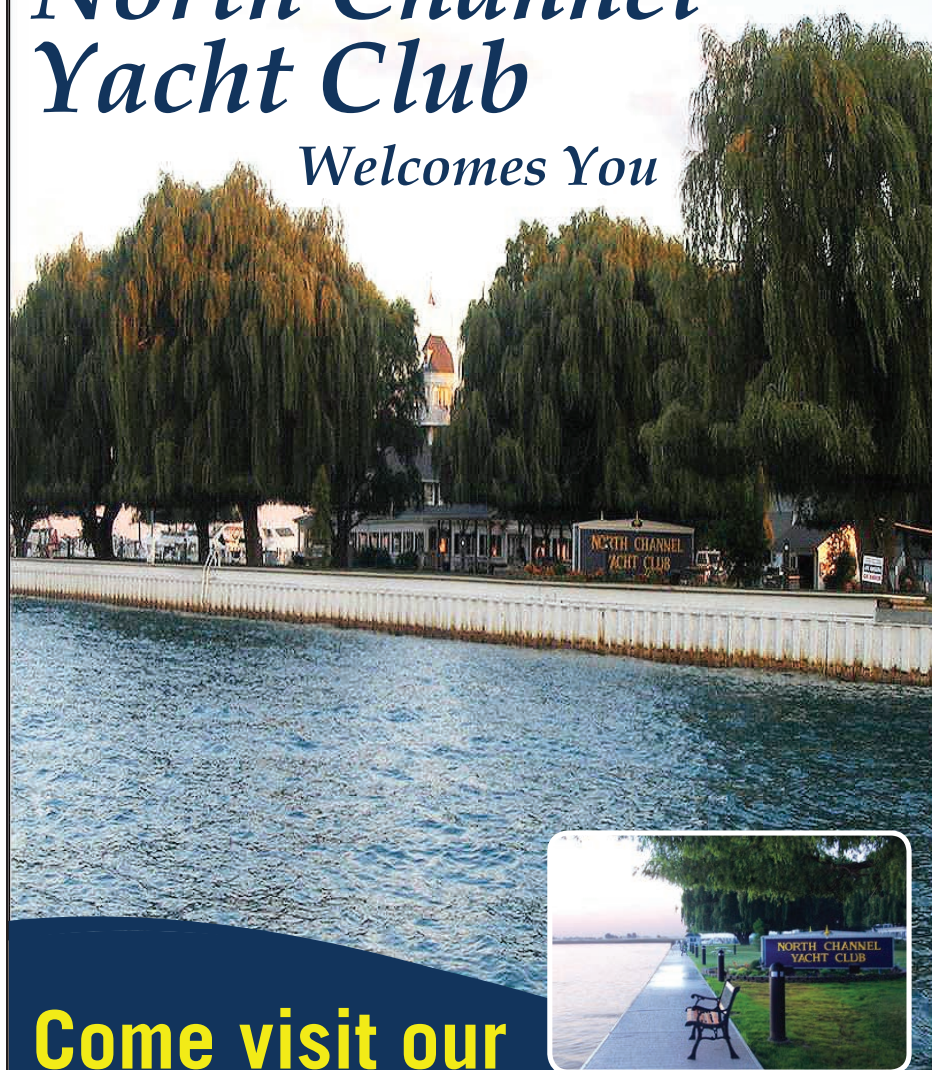
Quilt Lecture and Luncheon, Knights of Columbus Hall, Mayville Loose Threads Quilters, United Methodist Church, 601 E. Ohmer Rd., 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Ami Simms, award-winning teacher, quilter and author from Flint, Michigan, will be the featured speaker with “How Not to Make a Prize-winning Quilt”. Reservations only, \$15 per seat. For more information on purchasing tickets call (989) 843-6418.

Millington – April 5

2013 Season Opening of Millington-Arbela Historical Museum, 8534 State St., 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. The museum is open every Friday and Saturday from April through December. Permanent displays include Indian artifacts, area veterans’ information from the Civil War through the present, history of area schools, and military displays. Other displays of local interest are updated and changed on an ongoing basis. Free admission. For more information email millingtonarbelahistoricalociety@hotmail.com.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

My mom, Kathryn Seestedt, always told me that she believed that the bigger "Thumbprint" you leave on earth, the more you live on in eternity. Well, today after picking up *ThumbPrint News*, her print got much larger.

She loved writing the articles for your paper and I know she would be elated knowing that her "Cherry Beach History" was printed for all to read and hopefully enjoy. I surely did, as it seemed quite surreal seeing Mom's name on the front page. I must say it seemed she was reaching out from the "other side".

I am happy you were able to track down her writing, but feel bad that with us living here in Algonac now, I could have gotten you the information easily. I have enclosed a copy for your records along with a



supplement which is mostly a pictorial update I did along with Mom's input. It brings pictures and river travel up to the year 2004.

Just prior to Mom's passing, Annette and I purchased a condo here on Kenyon Rd. and enjoy the river right from our own boat dock. I am happy to say that the Cherry Beach house that was purchased

by Grandpa Seestedt in 1971 is still owned by several Seestedt family members. I do hope that in the future I will be able to purchase the house on my own and spend my last days enjoying the view from the front porch!

We read all issues of *ThumbPrint News* and really enjoyed the current issue!

Sincerely,
Paul Seestedt

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Editor's note: If you are a Thumb Bird and you spend part of the year in Florida, why not join our Thumb Bird email list? The purpose of this list will be to communicate with each other about things to do and see, events to attend, recommendations for restaurants, hotels, etc. and just to share interesting highlights of our Florida experiences. The only requirements to be on this list will be that you live or have lived in the areas served by ThumbPrint News and that you now either spend part or all of the year in Florida. Please send your first and last name, your mailing address and phone number in both Michigan and Florida and your email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Thumb Birds" in the subject line. Alternately, you can mail that information to me at Diane Kodet, ThumbPrint News, 8061 Marsh Rd., Algonac, Michigan, 48001. I assure you that none of your information will be shared with anyone else without your permission. Hopefully, the Thumb Bird group can include enough people who may wish to get together sometime in the future – and, if you are in the Sarasota area when I am, let me know. I will send you an invitation to join us for a few drinks and hors d'oeuvres under our backyard tiki hut while we talk about Florida and Michigan stuff!

**By Diane L. Kodet**

ThumbPrint News Editor

When I first saw the public beach on Siesta Key, Florida, it was love at first sight, a love that continues to this day. In 2012 Siesta Key Beach was rated #1 in the U.S. by Dr. Leatherman aka Dr. Beach. I have no doubt he made the right choice.



The beach is made up of quartz crystals that when walking barefoot on the sand feels just like walking through powdered sugar. It is as white as powdered sugar as well. The great thing about sand composed mainly from quartz is that it is never too hot to walk on – even on a 100 degree day!

Although a few tiny shells may be found after a storm, the beach is mostly shell free. One can walk quite a distance out into the ocean and still not have the water be more than waist high. An occasional dolphin or two may glide and play just out of reach of the swimmers. I have even been swimming and had a manatee float lazily by me.

One thing I will warn you about, however, are the seagulls. Pull out a sandwich or a bag of chips and, seemingly out of nowhere, they appear. Many an unwarned tourist have lost their lunches as a hungry seagull dives in and quickly snatches the treat.

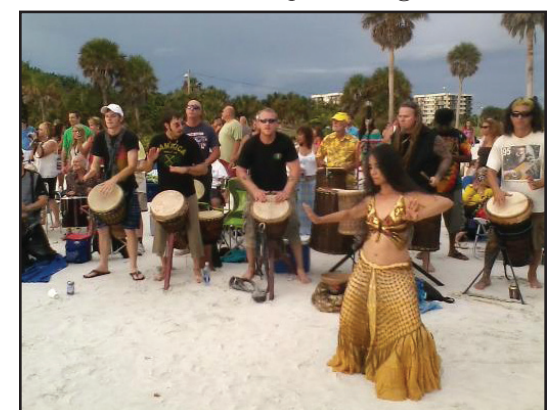
There are restroom facilities available, changing rooms, a snack bar, a place to get beer and wine and a few beach essentials. The one problem is the parking. Although there is ample parking space (free), on weekends and during the busy

season (which is February through the end of June) the lot will normally be full well before 10:00 a.m. Arrive early and enjoy a coffee and muffin at the snack bar for breakfast if you plan on spending time at the beach throughout the day during these months or you may be circling the parking lot along with fifty or more other cars for an hour or more waiting for someone to leave.

Every Sunday night about an hour before sunset, all the local drummers and tourist drummers come out for the drum circle that has become quite a tradition on the beach. Others bring their towels, beach chairs and coolers and just watch. It is people watching at its best. Kids hula hoop, dancers (sometimes in costumes) move to the music and people of all ages have a fabulous time. At sunset, many stroll down to the ocean's edge to view the sunset that cannot be topped anywhere.

If you are interested in finding out more about Siesta Key Beach, go to www.seesarasotalive.com where you can find lots of information on the Sarasota area and live webcams of not only Siesta Key Beach but other favorite local haunts.

If any of you Thumb Birds out there have favorite Florida beaches, places, restaurants, etc. that you would like to write about in future Thumb Bird columns, email me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net.



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March's Question: What was the early nickname for a midshipman? **Answer:** Snot nose kid.

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Melanie Duquesnel

The Truth About Mystery Shopping

By Melanie Duquesnel & Lindsey Dahl

In our recent press release, "Better Business Bureau Names 'Top Ten Scams' of 2012", we refer to the mystery shopping scams as the 'Top Employment Scam' because of the prevalence of scammers offering bogus mystery shopping jobs. We also mentioned that there are legitimate mystery shopping opportunities through The Mystery Shopping Providers Association www.mysteryshop.org, but we thought it might be helpful to have an executive at Shopper's View, one of the BBB's A+ accredited businesses, address this topic for us.

Lindsey Dahl, the Director of Operations at Shopper's View, has this to say about mystery shopping:

Mystery shopping (or secret shopping) is a legitimate business and an extremely valuable tool for analyzing a company's customer service skills and more. Far better than customer surveys, mystery shopping companies use shoppers to provide the client with a clear picture, a "birds-eye view," of a typical customer's shopping experience.

Our company, Shoppers' View (Grand Rapids, Michigan), operates nationwide and evaluates banks, restaurants, retail stores and much more. We hire independent contractors to report on everything from the moment they pull in to the parking lot: curb appeal (cleanliness outside), signage, proper greeting, upselling, friendliness, closing, etc.

Unfortunately, for the many legitimate mystery shopping companies such as ours, these scammers give the whole industry a black eye as far as the general public is concerned. This is particularly true for those who have fallen prey to a scam.

It is important for consumers to know that mystery shopping can be a legitimate way to make some extra money.

To avoid scams, please also know that:

- You do not have to pay to find jobs.
- It can be a FUN job ... but it is a job!
- You will not make hundreds of dollars a day or even in a week. For most, mystery shopping is a part-time career.
- You must be able to follow very detailed instructions.
- You must have a good memory, be good with details and have good

writing skills.

- You usually do not get paid in advance. Usually it is four to six weeks before you are paid.
- You will not get the prime jobs (cruises, hotels, casinos) until you have a lot of experience, and then there is a lot of competition.

Furthering these tips, the BBB suggests that consumers look for reputable firms that:

- Qualify and train mystery shoppers to perform specific evaluations.
- Enjoy a good reputation with their clients and shoppers, and
- Do not charge a fee to complete an application.

To steer clear of get-rich-quick offers, the BBB advises mystery shopper applicants to:

- Ignore claims that you will make big profits easily. Mystery shopping will not make you rich; at best it provides part-time income.
- Avoid falling for claims that "guarantee" a position, without training.
- Be cautious of unsolicited e-mails offering "work-from-home."
- Never pay money up-front. A legitimate mystery shopping service will not charge money for materials, training or recruiting.
- Obtain the name of the company and check the business out with the BBB, local consumer protection agency, and state attorney general.

To find the legitimate companies, review job listings, and to get certified as a Mystery Shopper (required by many companies), sign up with the Mystery Shopping Providers Association (MSPA) at www.mysteryshop.org. You can also check out Lindsey's company at www.shoppersview.com.

Editor's Note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan & the Upper Peninsula, which is a non-profit organization that fights fraud and promotes ethical business practices in the local marketplace through its business accreditation, consumer education and dispute resolution programs. Contact your local BBB by calling (248) 223-9400 or by visiting www.bbb.org.



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