

Lovells Township Historical Society

Fall 2016

2017 Schedule of Events

January 11 Hot Stove Night: Brad Jensen, Huron Pines-How Social Trends Will Shape the Future of Conservation.

January 25 Hot Stove Night: Tim Riley, MDNR-Grouse/Woodcock Forestry.

February 8 Hot Stove Night: Steve Sendek-North Branch Restoration Projects.

February 22 Hot Stove Night: Tom Baird-Anglers of the Au Sable History and Update on the Fish Hatchery.

March 8 Hot Stove Night: Steve Johnson-2016 Trip to Ireland.

March 22 Hot Stove Night: Craig Porter-Au Sable Trout Video Programs.

April 5 Hot Stove Night: Chris Radke-Art Neumann & TU.

April 29: Annual Trout Opener and Leaky Wader 1K.

June 17: LTHS Annual Meeting. (tentative)

July 15: Beaver, Beer & Banjos. (tentative)

August 19: Lovells Bridge Walk.

September 17: Historic Lodge Tour. (tentative)

The tentative dates may be changed.

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2016 Year in Review

As the 2016 season closes, so does one of our most successful years ever. LTHS saw 2,187 visitors to the museum and at our events. The museums were open from April 30-September 30 and featured the exhibit:

Anatomy of a Fisherman: John Voelker—Lawyer, Author, Fisherman. The exhibit included a traveling loaned by Northern Michigan University, **Hollywood comes to Marquette: The Making of Anatomy of a Murder**, about the making of the movie based on John Voelker's popular novel, and a temporary exhibit loaned by the Old AuSable Fly Shop, **John Voelker's Letters to Jim Enger.**

The exhibit featured artifacts once owned by John Voelker, loaned by NMU, and items loaned by or donated by a number of others. The exhibit kicked off on April 30, our traditional Trout Opener with a viewing of the movie **Anatomy of a Murder** at Grayling's Rialto Theater.

Besides the annual exhibit, we also had our annual Trout Opener event on April 30, the annual Beaver, Beer & Banjo event on July 23, the Lovells Bridge Walk on August 20, and the Historic Lodge Tour on September 18. We had great turnouts at all of the events, bringing in new visitors to the museums and creating excellent buzz about the LTHS and the historical museums.

We expanded our marketing this year with advertising spots on WCMU public television, due in part to a generous donation, and an ad in the Spring-Summer Grayling Visitors Guide that has a circulation of more than 10,000. We were also featured in a newspaper article that ran in all eight of the M-Live newspapers in May, and mentioned in *Michigan History* magazine in the July/August issue. Finally we were featured in a television new story on MiNews 26 and on local radio station WQON 100.3FM.

The LTHS annual meeting was held on June 18. The new board officers for 2016-2017 are Richard Perry and Sally Bund as Co-Presidents, Eric Bankhead as Vice President, Heather Lovell as Secretary, and Steve Johnson as Treasurer. Board trustees are Donna Andrews, Carol Britton, Glen Eberly, Roger Fechner, and Darby Kuenzel. (Continued on page 3.)



2017 Exhibit—Art Neumann, from Wanigas to Trout Unlimited

How do you follow up an excellent exhibit? With another one, of course. The 2017 exhibit at the Lovells Museum of Trout Fishing History will be about Art Neumann, one of the founders and early leaders of Trout Unlimited. We are proud to announce that our exhibit for 2017 will be **Art Neumann—From Wanigas to Trout Unlimited: Celebrating a Michigan Trout Fishing Legend.** Like

John Voelker, the subject of this year's exhibit, an exhibit on Art Neumann will further take the Museum of Trout Fishing History statewide.

Out of his backyard shop in Saginaw, Art Neumann ran his Wanigas (Saginaw, spelled backwards) Fly Rod Company. Through this business, he became well known throughout Michigan's fly fishing community. In 1959 after a gathering at

George Griffith's "Barbless Hook" on the AuSable, Trout Unlimited was born and Art Neumann was elected as the organization's vice-president. In 1962 he was asked to take on the additional role as executive director (unpaid). It was under his direction that Trout Unlimited grew from a small local Michigan organization into a national one.

(Continued on page 2.)

A Fond Farewell from the Director



This edition of the LTHS Newsletter brings a farewell from me to the membership and friends of the Lovells Township Historical Society and the Lovells Historical Museums. I have completed my second one-year contract and unfortunately I need to look for more permanent full-time museum employment. Although my contract as museum director is up, I am still involved for the time being as co-curator and lead exhibit designer for the 2017 Art Neumann exhibit. I have thoroughly enjoyed my

time in Lovells. Lovells is a great little community and I felt welcomed from the start. I was not a complete stranger, having lived in Crawford County since 1998, but I had not spent much time in Lovells previous to 2015.

My time with LTHS has been a success. Attendance at the museum rose over the last two years, we had a successful exhibit that gained statewide notice, and we have expanded our marketing. I also instituted professional museum best practices with the creation of a

collections policy, which the museums lacked.

Although the board has informed me that they are financially unable to hire a new director in my absence, I am confident that I leave the museum in good hands under their leadership. I do suggest that an advisory board be created for guidance and assistance to continue to move the Lovells Museum of Trout Fishing History towards being the premier trout fishing museum, not only in Michigan, but in the Midwest. *(Continued on page 3.)*

2016 Historic Lodge Tour—Fighting Dears



Fighting Dears, built by Albert Pochelon, was the site of the 2016 Historic Lodge Tour on September 18.

The 2016 Historic Lodge Tour was held on Sunday, September 18 at Fighting Dears Lodge on the North Branch of the AuSable in Lovells Township.

Fighting Dears, a two-story log lodge plus other buildings, was built by Albert Pochelon of Detroit in 1921. Albert Pochelon, an immigrant from Germany, was the founder of FTD Flowers.

More than ninety people attended this third annual event,

which is a fundraiser for the Lovells Township Historical Society. Those who attended, had a chance to tour the lodge and other buildings, take a tractor ride down to the island and across the river, enjoyed appetizers and drinks, and a visit by William B. Mershon, as portrayed by LTHS Museum Director Rob Burg, in a historical program.

The Tom Morgan Book and Flies drawing was also held at

the Lodge Tour and LTHS would like to congratulate Boyd Dillon for winning this nearly one of a kind item.

LTHS has not yet determined on the location for next year's Historic Lodge Tour, but be assured that it will be an excellent choice once again.

Thank you again to everyone who came out and made this day possible.

2017 Art Neumann exhibit (continued from page one).



Art Neumann in his Wanigas Fly Rod Company shop.

In 2008, Art Neumann was elected to the National Fly Fishing Hall of Fame.

This exhibit will follow Art Neumann's life as a fly fisherman, owner of Wanigas until 1990, and his involvement with Trout Unlimited. We have begun planning for the exhibit and identifying artifacts for potential use. Art Neumann passed away in March, 2016 at the age of 99.

Because Art was so well known

and was such an iconic figure, we'd also like to get personal stories from those who knew him, fished with him, or were customers of his. If you have a story or memories to share, please contact co-curator and LTHS board member Steve Johnson at

45johnson@gmail.com or by mail at LTHS, P.O. Box 2505, Grayling, MI 49738.

LTHS is working in cooperation with the family of Art

Neumann, the Michigan History Museum in Lansing, which recently received the contents of the Wanigas Fly Rod Shop, Michigan Trout Unlimited, and many more. This is going to be an exciting exhibit! Grayling resident Steve Southard will be loaning the original Wanigas sign. It hung inside the former Ray's Canoe Livery and Fly Factory for many years. After this exhibit, the sign will be donated to the Michigan History Museum.

Donor Spotlight: Jeff Johnson

The Lovells Township Historical Society would like to recognize one of our special donors for 2016. Jeff Johnson, owner of Brookhaven Lake in Clare County, has been a great friend of the Lovells Museum of Trout Fishing History for many years.

Jeff has donated the grand prize, a fishing trip for two to Brookhaven Lake, for the annual Log Drive each August. Brookhaven Lake is a cold, spring-fed lake stocked with arctic grayling and trophy-sized brook trout. It is the only place in Michigan where anglers can fish for grayling.

As a great fan of John Voelker, Jeff Johnson has also donated several Voelker (Robert Traver) authored books to the museum for the 2016 John Voelker exhibit. Jeff has also donated a mount of a Canadian arctic grayling to the museum, which is now on exhibit.

If you have seen the LTHS television spot on WCMU public television this year, then you have to thank Jeff Johnson. Jeff was able to make it possible for the Lovells Township Historical Society to be able to pay for a televised spot this year on WCMU television. This is

Michigan's largest public television broadcast station covering the eastern Upper Peninsula, much of the northern Lower Peninsula, parts of mid-Michigan, the Thumb and down to the metro Detroit area. Jeff Johnson's support has allowed us to reach out to folks much further afield than we would otherwise be able to reach.

Please join us in thanking Jeff Johnson for all of his contributions to LTHS. If you are interested in fishing at Brookhaven Lake, visit the website, www.brookhaven-lake.com for more information.



The Arctic Grayling mount that was donated by Jeff Johnson. Just one of several contributions that Jeff has made to the LTHS and the Lovells Museum of Trout Fishing History.

2016 Year in Review (continued from page one).

Glenn Blackwood, noted Michigan fly fisherman and authority on fishing books and authors presented the program *The Literary Legacy of Robert Traver* at the annual meeting and was well received. Glen has previously presented programs for LTHS.

In our developing museum store, we started carrying some unique merchandise. Along with our popular Historic Lovells Note Cards, our pins, and historic prints, we are the

sole retailer of *The Trout of Michigan*, originally published in 1938. We have hardcover (\$20) and softcover (\$10) reprints of this excellent reference book. We also have DVDs of *Trout Madness*, a short film based on John Voelker's book of the same name, and the 1982 Emmy winning documentary *John Voelker (AKA Robert Traver) Anatomy of an Author*. Both are available for \$20. Lastly we now offer credit card sales

through PayPal. So if you are looking for Christmas gifts for your favorite fisherman, we can help you out.



The traveling exhibit *Hollywood Comes to Marquette County* on loan from Northern Michigan University's Beaumier Heritage Center.

A Fond Farewell from the Director (continued from page two).

In time, I think it will get there.

The one thing I had hoped to continue to work on was in updating exhibits in the Lone Pine Schoolhouse by making them more child friendly. I had started this year with the theme of *Growing Up in Lovells*. This was not a new exhibit, but enhancing the current exhibits through the experiences of those who grew up in Lovells. I had planned to make these exhibits more

hands-on with the addition of games and toys that would have been played by the youngsters in Lovells in the early 1900s. It is important for LTHS to develop younger audiences or be susceptible to perishing as far too many small historical societies do. Children, families, and Millennials are key demographics to be captured.

The current board of directors is made up of some great people, but the entire LTHS organ-

ization could use some extra help. I hope some of you will be able to find the time to volunteer at the museums or at some of the events, and maybe get more involved as potential new board members. All organizations are only as strong as their memberships.

I'll miss Lovells. I value all of the friendships that I have made over the past two years. Happy Trails! —Rob Burg.





Find us on:
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**Lovells Township
Historical
Society**

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Our Mission:

The mission of the LTHS is to identify, acquire, preserve, exhibit, store and present the rich history of Lovells Township and the surrounding area. Maintain museums in which to display and interpret such collections for the benefit and education of the residents and visitors. It shall be the policy of the Organization to provide equal membership/employment/service opportunities to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Become a Member of the Lovells Township Historical Society

Your dues help supports the programs and operations of the Lovells Township Historical Society and the two museums of the Lovells Historical Museums: The Lone Pine School Museum of Lovells History and the Lovells Museum of Trout Fishing History.

YES! I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER

(Circle the category)

- Adult \$10.00
- Family \$20.00
- Business \$30.00
- Sustaining \$50.00
- Life \$200.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE&ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

(Get all the latest news and updates throughout the year. We do not share your address or email address.)

LTHS is a 501(C) (3) Organization

Please mail your dues to:

**Lovells Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 2505
8405 Twin Bridge Road
Grayling, MI 49738**