

Chalk Talk

...from the Hessel School House, home of The Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center

Spring 2024
Volume 8, Issue 1

Visions becoming realities...

In January 2015, the acquisition and restoration of the Hessel School House began with a vision that led to many visions, and all with a singular purpose...to save a beautiful historic landmark as not only a centerpiece of pride for the Les Cheneaux community but to preserve for posterity its values, which are based on its remarkable heritage.

Thanks to the generosity of the Sewell Avery Family*, whose ancestor Captain Henry Clay Wisner, was the first of the seasonal visitors to build a summer cottage in the 1850s, that vision became the reality that has turned all subsequent visions into deeply meaningful realities...far-reaching ones to impact life experiences.

Beyond the many classes, programs, and workshops for all ages, focused on nature, writers, and the arts, we have the annual *Children's Halloween Carnival* that evolved in 2019, the enchanting *Children's Storybook Trail*, created in 2021, the annual publishing of *The Guide* for the multitude of Les Cheneaux visitors each summer which markedly services the community-at-large, and now the *Hessel School Alumni Memorial Garden*, featuring award-winning

sculpturer Andy Sacksteder's bronze statues of three former students. The annual *Aldo Leopold Festival*, now in its ninth year, has to be at the top of the roster as it exemplifies every aspect of Hessel School House's mission statement.

ALC Director Kristy Beyer aptly calls it, "*The Aldo Experience*". Held from May 29th to June 2nd, this was a record year with over 200 attendees and 70-plus field trips, events, and programs involving the 10 nature preserves that make this area so very special, thanks to *Little Traverse Conservancy* and *The Nature Conservancy*, the latter designating The Les Cheneaux Islands as "*one of the last great places on earth*".

Exemplifying how visions become realities, the first day of the festival began with volunteer Robin Penderly leading the *Les Cheneaux Sense of Place Tour*, to highlight its past, present, and future. The first stop was **E.J. Mertaugh Boat Works, founded in 1925 as the first ChrisCraft dealer in the country**, making the Les Cheneaux Islands one of the most distinctive locations in the wooden boat world.

Next were the **Les Cheneaux Maritime and Historical Museums** and the **Great Lakes Boat Building School**. There were intermediate stops at **Les Cheneaux Coffee Roasters** and **Les Cheneaux Distillers & Brewery** for special tastes of the present. The tour concluded with an amazing lunch at **Les Cheneaux Culinary School**, which is training chefs for the future in sustainable farm-to-table fine dining.



ALF attendee Reid Schornack's photo of the Maritime Museum's classic buoy, done as a take-off of the LC Distillery's distinctive logo, thanks to his wife Anita Lamour. This was their 3rd year, and they particularly enjoyed this new addition to the program.

Thursday evening, Emmy Award-winning journalist **Dan Noyes** and Les Cheneaux Club historian **Charles Fels** intrigued the audience with a delightful presentation of the history of the Leopold family's meaningful relationship to the area, capturing the magic of Aldo's childhood experiences exploring and mapping the woods and cedar bogs of Marquette Island.

There was a full house on Friday evening for the keynote speaker, **Steve Swenson, Program Director of the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin**. The essence of the program was the 75th anniversary of Aldo Leopold's now legendary book, *A Sand County Almanac*, considered essential reading for conservationists and anyone concerned about our relationship with nature.



Photo credit: Irene Marcussen

Continued on next page...

Special Highlights of The Aldo Experience...

New this year and rated “a real hit” was **The Fiborn Karst Preserve Tour**. Located in the Trout Lake area, it is an abandoned 480-acre limestone quarry that supplied high-calcium limestone to Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, from 1905 to 1936. Acquired by **The Michigan Karst Conservancy** in 1987, attendees **discovered intriguing remnants** such as the railroad house and ore-car loader.



Photo credit: Nora Cardinal

To expand the experience of the Les Cheneaux area and its remarkable landscape, **shaped by 800 million years of geologic history**, which created the Niagara Escarpment and the Great Lakes, the **Carmeuse Quarry and Gerstacker Preserve Tour** offered another fascinating dimension.



Carmeuse Quarry

The photo contest yielded some great shots, which reveal the uniqueness of **The Aldo Experience** and why it means so much to not only the attendees but the Les Cheneaux Area communities and the ongoing protection of its fragile world of nature that must never be lost.



Samara Hoag loving the lady's slippers

As always, **the birding and wildflower field trips** were among the first to fill, along with the ferns of the escarpment, and exploring the hidden wealth of the preserves. All the guides had so much to offer, like **Steve Baker**, a retired veterinarian with a passion for anything involving nature, who has been one of our most inveterate guides through the years. His knowledge and enthusiasm are boundless, completely engaging his participants. This year it was **carnivorous plants and orchids and wildflowers**.



Steve Baker

Nick Alioto, a PhD student at MSU, shared his fascinating research on the movement ecology of **red-tailed hawks in the Straits of Mackinac** and the valuable insights gained from several years of tracking them, and the resulting conservation implications. Shortly after his Saturday morning program, he headed over to **Pickle Point to paint a wooden tree swallow house**. Of course, with tongue-in-cheek, he had to involve his signature bird.



Nick Alioto

There was something special offered for all ages and interests the entire week, from **Nature Journaling with Carol Hubbard to Bird Songs Game Show with Dave Ewert to Stick Painting and Smartphone Photography with Sue Bakkila**.



Edith, whose family from Oklahoma summers on Albany Island, is trying stick painting. Photo credit: Sue Drenth



Capping it all off was Saturday evening's *Picnic on the Lawn*, catered by renowned *Audie's Restaurant* of Mackinac City, with an absolutely delightful background of enchanting Americana folk music provided by **Mark and Carol Palms**, **Bear Berends**, and **Bruce Gartner**, who volunteered their talents to add much to making another unforgettable *Aldo Experience*.

From behind the scenes, office administrator **Kelly Mitchell's** comments regarding her first experience working with

the festival: *"The festival seemed to go really well, and I had so much fun! I really enjoyed meeting and interacting with everyone. Everyone was so nice...all the presenters and festival participants alike! The check-in process went smoothly, and people commented on the ease of it. I loved it!"*

Kristy Beyer's words: *"The festival would be nothing without the help from our professional guides who volunteer their time to lead the tours. We can't thank them enough."*



Those who sustain the realities?

...the Volunteers, Of Course!

Please visit page 11 to see the full list of volunteers who played key roles in making this year's Aldo Leopold Festival so successful.



Pat Wilson at 2022 ALF

Sorely missed this year due to health concerns was **Moir** “Pat” Wilson, one of ALF’s most beloved, dedicated, and caring volunteer guides since its beginnings.

Many expressed their dismay. Pat truly “made” the Aldo Experience with her love for it and her incredible knowledge of the fungi and flora of the Les Cheneaux area.



Pat with her long-time friend Judy Hamel, another community giver.

Prior to each festival, Pat scouted the woods and bogs to see what was up to share with others. She would then draw maps, marking where the different plants could be observed. **Among her favorite spots were the forest ridges, Albany Creek, and the Oliver Birge Preserve, which adjoins the home that she and her late husband Paul built on Pte. Brulé Road.**

Her twice daily, 2-mile walks along Pte. Brulé Road were pure joy for her, offering never-ending sightings of *kildeer, swallows, flickers, redwings, osprey, eagles, hawks, families of ducks, swans, geese, and grouse, then frogs and turtles, pussy willows, marsh marigolds, lady’s slippers,* and on and on. Everyone knew who posted the signs, *Please*

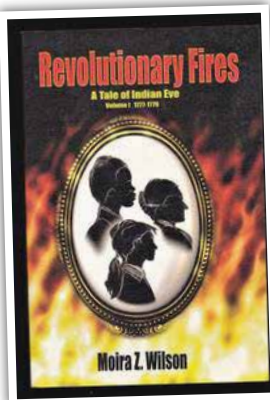
Don’t Pick The Wildflowers. As a special treat for Pat, every spring **Tim DeWick** puts up a string of his multi-colored **tree swallow houses** as soon as the frost leaves the ground in the marsh and along the shore.



The Wilson home is in the distance.

Multi-talented and with a deep love for nature and the arts, her ‘bio’ is intriguing: *author, historian, medical technologist, botanist, mycologist, fiber and multi-media artist.*

A longtime member of the Upper Peninsula Publishers & Authors Assoc. (UPPAA), in 2005, under her full name, Moira Z. Wilson, Pat wrote and self-published an absorbing novel, *Evolutionary*



Fires: A Tale of Indian Eve - Volume I, which covered the years 1777-1779, when the revolutionary fires were ignited by the British at Fort Detroit. Booksellers consistently gave it 5 stars.

Pat’s daughter, Wendy Barba, writes about her mother and the reasons she loves ALF and the Hessel School House/Avery Learning Center, where she continues to **serve on its Advisory Board to support its mission.**

“Mom loved biology and that’s how she got into frog conservation and learning the true plant names. She was a long-standing member of Poison Control as a fungi specialist and would identify mushrooms and save the lives of those who ate them. When I was a kid she would drop everything and go see what people, children, and dogs might have eaten to sicken them.



Pat identifying fungi at ALF.

“She loved to sing and was part of the DeTour Choir and also local book clubs. Mom taught remedial reading for several years. She regarded it as her second career. She was a medical technologist and worked in War Memorial Hospital as a laboratory technician for 5-10 years when I was in high school. She was proud of her ability to draw blood and manually do lab testing.

“She was a Master Spinner Weaver through the Sault Ontario Guild, as well. She was proud of that and of passing the dye test. Fittingly, she and Dad were involved in the Eastern Upper Peninsula Arts Council, morphing into the Sault Area Arts Council. They were supporters of Alberta House, participated in the Sault Art Show, and sold their work through the Olive Craig Gallery.”



Pat with Paul.

As a couple, **Pat and Paul Wilson exemplified the theme of this newsletter...** those who selflessly turn visions into realities to benefit their communities and the generations to come. Appropriately, in 2012, the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce named them *Citizen of the Year*, **the first couple to receive the annual award since it began in 1968.**

Paul died last November at age 84. In reading his obituary, one can quickly understand why he and Pat were so loved and appreciated within their community and way beyond.

Paul graduated from Central Michigan University in 1961, with a bachelor's in mathematics, and in 1963 he earned his master's in mathematics, becoming a **professor of mathematics at Lake Superior State University for 37 years** before retiring in 2000.



Paul was a skilled artisan and craftsman. His pottery was featured in the *Sault Summer Arts Festival Show* for many years. He had a love of nautical research and wooden boats, building many full-size boats, as well as remarkably detailed models.

He earned the *LSSU Distinguished Teacher Award* in 1983, and the *Michigan Heritage Award for Traditional Boat Building* in 2016. He also earned multiple model boat building awards from 2006 to 2022 for *Best of Show at Wisconsin Maritime Museum* in Manitowoc, Wisconsin for his Lakes Superior and Huron boats and historical models.

Paul was a founder and member of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Arts Council, a founder and the first board president of Great Lakes Boat Building School, president of the Les Cheneaux Historical Association and Maritime Museum, and longstanding member of the Nautical Research Guild and the Model Shipwrights of Niagara.



Those perfecting the realities...

In January, **Kerri Smith** announced her retirement after five years of exceptional dedication to her role as **HSH Director of Administration**. Everyone...board members, benefactors, sponsors, volunteers, and the many facets of the community who had worked with Kerri through the struggles of a young, growing non-profit during the seemingly endless pandemic felt saddened by the loss.



Kerri at the Halloween Carnival

Kerri worked many more hours a week than her job required, continually giving of herself to provide those extra touches to make the schoolhouse just that much more inviting and comfortable, and events unforgettable like the *Children's Halloween Carnival*.

With **Kristy Beyer**, as Director of the Avery Learning Center, having assumed a strong role in overseeing the direction of HSH, a committee was formed to search for an office administrator. After extensive interviews with qualified candidates, **Kelly Wilcox Mitchell** came onboard in March.

Originally from Brimley, Kelly attained her bachelor's degree in early childhood education at Bay Mills Community College. In 2021, through the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency, she became supervisor/lead teacher in Rudyard's early childhood program.



Additionally, she is proficient in office skills, time management, multitasking, problem solving, and is well organized. It did not take long to see that Kelly's a great fit for the job.

A special note: Kelly married James Mitchell of Hessel at the Hessel School House last September, and now lives only a block away.

And a very special recognition...

In April, **The Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District (CLMDC)** honored the Hessel School House /Avery Learning Center at their annual dinner as **The 2023 Cooperator of the Year**.

HSH has been a partner with the conservation district for years, with the two groups being involved together in a number of programs. In 2023, the Hessel School House was awarded a grant from CLMCD to host their conservation education series. **This provided 13 programs open to the public, drawing 193 attendees.**



Kerri Smith, Kristy Beyer, and HSH Board President Susie Rutledge, receiving the award.

What's Next & What's Needed...

The Hessel School Memorial Garden, specifically designed to honor the students who spent the years from 1938 to 1958 creating exceptional memories of a simpler world and way of life that is so sadly missed today, is virtually completed.



Respecting our fragile environment and in keeping with the natural surroundings, **all the plantings are native to the area and serve as pollinators.** Selected and **planted by expert Monica Cady**, they were each labeled last fall but winter had its way so much of the signage was lost.

As this goes to press, **Ken Kirkhof of Northern Natives Erosion Control** is coming from Newberry to identify each plant. His specialty is environmental restoration and management. **Ken is seeking volunteers** for HSH who have knowledge of native plants to assist in the continuing maintenance of the garden, **and we are posting a plea as well.** Additionally, the Cedarville Branch of Soo Co Op Credit Union is celebrating its Volunteer Day on June 19th by weeding the garden areas.



Dan Reelitz is finishing building a delightful little bridge to cross the water feature area for easy access to the nature trail he and his volunteers have initiated to the east of the garden.

Due to nature taking its own course and some circumstances beyond our control, **the official dedication** planned for last July had to be postponed to this coming July 20th (see **back page for more details and your invitation**).

Appropriately, the dedication is being held during the **Alumni Reunion, with the alumni and their families as the honored guests**, along with sculptor Andy Sacksteder and his wife Christine, and all our benefactors.

And speaking of volunteers...

...along with the wonderful expansion of programs and events, **we desperately need to develop our volunteer program and encourage as many of you as possible to participate in some way.**

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Come help make Hessel School House & Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center just that much more special!

Office & Tours • Hospitality • Garden • Storybook Trail
Special Events • Mailings • Building Maintenance • Bingo • ALF
Halloween Carnival • Christmas Decorating • Other

So please don't hesitate to contact Kelly at 906-484-1333 if you want to enjoy a wonderful community experience.

And last but far from least, a plea from the Board...

The Board of Directors of the Hessel School House needs to raise \$80,000 in the next couple of months to meet not only the costs of the



usual maintenance and repairs to be expected after almost ten years of increased use since the building's renovations in 2015, but the substantial damage to the bell tower and roof caused by recent weather extremes.

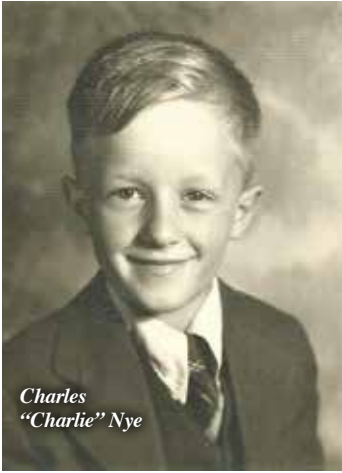
With many thanks to the immediate response of **The Lenore Broughton Follansbee Fund*** and an anonymous donor, \$12,000 has just been given to take care of the urgent need to repair the bell tower and the temporary patching of the roof in that area, but \$68,000 is still badly needed per the estimates and proposals submitted by respective contractors.

This does not include the desperate need for parking lot improvements involving grading, surfacing, and facilitating parking, which the Landscape Committee chairman, Dan Reelitz, has long been begging for. All this needs to be in keeping with the integrity of the setting, so he has hoped for tar-and-chip but it has been an endless challenge finding a contractor for this small a project. Aside from esthetics concerns, the cost of asphalt paving is almost prohibitive. One way or another something has to be done. We will apply for grant funding, yet matching funds will still be needed.

The Board greatly appreciates any help you are able to give.

Susie Rutledge, President

***Important note:** Lenore Broughton Follansbee, Sewell Avery's granddaughter (see pg. 1), was instrumental in saving the Hessel School House and wrote its mission statement. She and her son, Camm Broughton, have been exceptionally supportive of Les Cheneaux non-profits that sustain the area's values.



Charles
"Charlie" Nye

Memories of Hessel School

by Charles "Charlie" Nye (1943-1949)

Editor's note: Charlie initiated this column in the first issue of Chalk Talk in January of 2017. He and his cousin Bud Mathews have continued to contribute some priceless stories. In this issue, he is treating us to two stories. To view past columns, visit the home page of www.hesselschoolhouse.net.

The Earl Mitchell Years at Hessel School from 1947 to 1949

Earl Mitchell was the teacher for 3rd through 5th grades for a few years in the 1940s. Mr. Mitchell was a stern man and tolerated no disturbances while classes were in session. He had the difficult job of teaching eight- to eleven-year-olds all in one room. As a result, only one grade could receive instruction while the other two grades had to quietly study and review their own lessons until their turns for instruction were next. Homework was given out on Friday to be handed in the following Monday.

Some students just could not seem to get the hang of it. Roger Gill had a lot of trouble with the process. Mr. Mitchell at times used corporal punishment to enhance the assignments. (This was a common occurrence in the '40s.) Students who failed to have their homework ready to turn in on Monday were to stand in the front of the class and recite. If they failed (and they almost always did), Mitchell would slap them on the back of the head or neck with a rolled-up magazine, making a loud noise but little harm. At this point, all the other students would sit up straight in fear they may be next.

Roger Gill lived in the far reaches of Simmons Settlement and the school bus would pick him and his brother up at 7:00 a.m. in the morning before daylight in the winter and bring him home at 5 p.m. after dark. They lived 15 miles from the school.

Ron Huffman told me one time he made the mistake of talking back to Mr. Mitchell, and he (Ron) ended up in the corner of the room on his hands and knees. He had to stay there until lunch. A disciplinary measure was to send a transgressor to sit in the corner of a small library off the rear of the room. Bud Mathews thought Maurice "Punk" Carr spent most of the winter in the library.



Bud Mathews and Mr. Mitchell

Another measure Mr. Mitchell used was to throw a piece of chalk at a student in the back row to plunk him in the head. If he missed, the chalk bouncing around on the floor had its own effect. If chalk was not handy (he had a blackboard behind his desk), he tossed a blackboard eraser.

One day during the class, the back door of the classroom flew open, and a male parent yelled out to Mr. Mitchell, "Mitchell, come out here in the hallway! I'm going to kick your behind." But he used a different word to describe the behind.

Mr. Mitchell got up from his desk, removed his glasses, and walked toward the door. Apparently the enraged parent did not realize what a big man Mr. Mitchell was. Mr. Mitchell had been a soldier in WWII and was recently discharged from the army. He had obtained his bachelor's degree before he began teaching at the school. The threatening parent turned around as Mr. Mitchell approached, and walked out the door, got in his car and drove away, never to be seen again.

Mr. Mitchell was a great math teacher. After a year in one of his classes a student knew his times tables, adding and subtracting and how to carry the one, short and long division, percentages, as well as algebra and how to balance a checkbook.

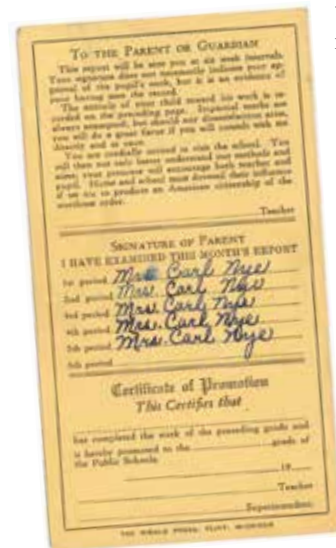


Roger Gill (1st row, 2nd from left), twins Ron & Don Huffman (3rd & 4th from left in 2nd row), Maurice "Punk" Carr (top row, 4th from left)

Back in those days, if a student failed to adjust and understand these basics, he or she was required to take class over again for the next year. It happened to very few.

Those of us who were in a room with multi classes, only got one-third of a year in study because time had to be split three ways. Most of us felt we were not harmed by this. However, as we went on to Cedarville beginning with 6th grade, we found we had missed out on sports, student councils, library clubs, a band with musical instrument

tutoring, close relationships with teachers, a large variety of subjects, quiet study halls, shop for boys, cooking classes for girls, and a large gymnasium.



Christmas at Hessel School - 1946

It was mid-December 1946 and winter was well along. Snowing became more pronounced, and temperatures were hovering near zero each night. Hessel Bay had iced-over and fishing shanties were starting to appear. The Hessel School was heated with coal that developed steam heat and hot water for the two classrooms, restrooms, kitchen, and gym.



Courtesy of Carol Rye Duncan & Kristy Beyer

We the town kids all had a sled for icy hills in winter. One of the favorites was called "The Bumps", located on the west side of 3-Mile Road, just north of town, across from what is now Baptist Church.

A larger, faster hill was all the way to Nye Road, and one slide there could carry one to the Nye Farm, 1/8 mile away. However, the walk back to slide again was a hike. The Bumps and Nye Hill are still there.

1946 started in the 3rd grade for myself and my classmates, who included Gerald Smith, Mike McLeod, Ray Hansen, Kathleen Andrews Landreville, Lois Harrison Lordson, Elenore Ferguson, Ron and Don Huffman (the twins), Charles Salters, and Sally Lindberg Smale.

As December progressed, we all began to think about Christmas. Most of us in the third grade were chosen by the teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Edgerly, to be in the Christmas Play, held in the assembly room (which also served as the gym and lunchroom), every year back then. We made and dressed in oriental costumes.

Gerald Smith, Mike McLeod, and me were the three shepherds in the program who had come to worship the Baby Jesus, singing, "We Three Kings of Orient Are". Sally Lindberg Smale played The Virgin Mary, and had brought a doll from home to represent the Baby Jesus in the crib in the stable. Other students had parts to memorize and say, and songs to sing like, "Silent Night", "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful", and other Christmas carols.

At the end, the curtain was drawn, and we all appeared on stage to a standing ovation. Do you know what it feels like to be eight years old and receive a standing ovation from the entire town?

Now came the surprise and highlight of the night for us. Hessel businesses had come together to give us all a nice Christmas present. Grocers Elroy Mielke and Hintz Fenlon, confectioners Nida McFee and her son Clark, Gene Mertaugh boat works, and Hank Kramen boat works Lyle McLeod plumbing, and Herman Ehle and Albert Linberg summer cottages, and other individuals provided a large bag of Christmas candy containing real quality goods, including chocolates, chewing gum, nuts, and taffy.

Some kids were from extremely poor families and this may have been the best thing they got for Christmas. The smiles and tears seemed to prove this.

What a great night! The proceedings are not allowed in schools anymore, much to our detriment.

by Charlie Nye



Front Row L-R: Elenore Ferguson, Ruth Eseltine, Lois Harrison, Judy McDonald, Gerald Smith, Ray Hansen Middle Row L-R: Mike McLeod, Kathleen Andrews, Sally Lindberg, John Eseltine, Charlie Salters, (unknown), Charlie Nye Back Row L-R: Margie Andrews, Ann Causley, Cleo Pope, (unknown), Jessie Burlew, Dorothy Windsor, Mary Andrews, Loretta Mongene, Bill Walker

And once again, it's all because of you...

DONATIONS

(April 2023 to May 2024)

INDIVIDUAL

Maureen Adgar #
Peter & Susan Allen
David Altmeier
George and Gail Andrews
Steve & Tami Autore*
Connie Baldwin
Kathleen & Mark Barry*
Susan MacKenzie & David Betts
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Kristen Knox
Marilyn Kraft
Joan Krempel
Margy Long
Jane McDonald
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Tammy Cruickshank
Brenda Dale
Kathy Dahlquist
Sue Drenth
Jane Dunn
Lisa Dunn
Barb Favret
Laura Fernelius
Steff Graeber
Kris Jurecki
Diane Keighley
Tod Krino
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Kelly Smith
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GIFT of \$500 up*
GIFT of \$1,000 up**
GIFT of \$5,000 up***
GIFT of \$10,000 up****
MULTIPLE GIFTS #

FOUNDATIONS / FUNDS

Lenore Follansbee Broughton Fund****
The Broughton Family Fund***
Deer Valley Foundation*
Les Cheneaux Arts Council**
Paul and Virginia MacDonald Charitable Fund*

LES CHENEAUX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ASK 2023

(\$9,545 in 2023 donations; released March 2024)

Stephen & Nancy Anderson
Connie Baldwin
Kathleen & Mark Barry
Wendy Wurtzburger Bentley*
Marilyn Moore & Jim Burks
Nancy & George Byers
Laura Campbell
Nora Cardinal
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BUSINESSES

Blue Sage Bistro
Central Savings Bank
Islander Bar
Islands Insurance
Maple Hardwoods, Inc.**
Children's Halloween Carnival - sponsor
Ostlund Pest Control EUP (Hal Burton)
Pickford Veterinary Hospital
Pickle Point

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Islands Wildlife

\$500 – Women’s Ice Fishing Workshop

Les Cheneaux Arts Council

\$3,000

MEMORIAM

Christine Baldwin Memorial Fund

In memory of Betty Huffman

James Huffman
The Huffman Family

Paul Wilson Memorial

Sharon Henley
Tim DeWick & Bonnie Mikkelsen
David Murray
Dan Reelitz
Mona Welke

MATCHING GIFTS

Morgan Stanley (Maureen Adgar)

GIFTS IN KIND

Angeline Bouley
Writers Program

Sue Harrison
Writers Program

Joe Haske
Writers Program

Kerri Smith
too numerous to list!

Kevin & Kelly Smith
200 stamps

GRANTS:

May 2023 - May 2024

Americana Foundation
March 2023 to Feb. 2024
\$15,000 - Nature Programming

Arts Midwest GIG Fund 2024
\$3,100 - funding for Writers Symposium

Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District
\$3,750 - funding for nature programs

Les Cheneaux Community Foundation – 2024
\$3,200 - Snowy Owl Month Programs (February)
Family Nature Programs (February to May)

Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC) - 2024
\$11,250 - operational support

Michigan Historical Alliance
\$2,471 – copier and photo archiving

United Way of EUP
\$480 – Story Book Trail books

ONGOING BRICK NAMING CAMPAIGN

4X8 BRICKS

Connie Baldwin:

In memory of Patti Hamel

Carol Duncan:

In loving memory of Nellie Lindberg

Kent & Elizabeth Gilges:

For Bonnie

Ted & Shelley Hennig:

Ted & Shelley Hennig

Sheelagh Knapp:

Jim, Scott, Rob, Barb Sheelagh, Dick Knapp All love it here.

Nancy Lamoreaux (two bricks):

Andrew “Bud” Mathews Hessel School Student

~~~

*Elmer and Nancy (Mathews) Lamoreaux Hessel School Alumni*

#### Gary Mielke:

*In memory of Donna Mielke Smith Gary Mielke Family*

#### Frank & Ann Morgan:

*Ann and Frank Morgan and Family*

#### Susie Rutledge:

*Sally D. Nye*

#### David & Jo Ann Schopp:

*In memory of Bill and Dorothy Nye*

#### Kay Stremler:

*Ron Sell Kay Stremler Rocky Point*

### 8X8 BRICKS

#### Steve & Tami Autore:

*In memory of our parents Tony & Ethel Autore Easter Sherlund Terry Leach*

#### Joe Haske:

*The Haske Family Joel G. and Myla A, Joseph D. Christopher J. James T.*

#### Katherine Kirk Ross:

*In memory of Tony Kirk Enjoyed 73 years of Family and adventures in Les Cheneaux “Go Do Stuff”*

#### Christine Baldwin Memorial Fund

(two bricks):

*Christine M. Baldwin*

*Love God*

*Loved Everyone*

*Loved to Shop*

*Hope Heaven*

*Has a Sale Rack!*

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Your song may

Be over, but your

Melody lives on.

In Loving Memory of

Christine M. Baldwin

1945-2023

MEMORIAL BENCH



Margaret & Robert Russell, Jr.:
Bruce & Jeanne McCullough

OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS!

Joanne Baker, Debbie Beukema, Alan Beyer, Kristy Beyer, Monica Cady, Laura Campbell, Nora Cardinal, Selden Collins, Missy DeWick, Tim DeWick, Matt Dost, Sue Drenth, Carol Duncan, Garrett Dunn, Jane Dunn, David Dutcher, Selma Edsinga, Barb and Jack Favret, Jane French, Cheryl and Dan Gordon, Brenda Hamel, John Hessel, Jim Harrison, Shelley Hennig, Katie Eberts Hoffmann, Carol and Lee Hubbard, Jim and Diane Keighley, Jo Kurlonko, June Maurer, Pauline Mitchell, Robin Pendery, Ozzie Portice, Deborah Baker Phillips, Deb Pysh, Dan and Jan Reelitz, Susie Rutledge, Linda Sattler, Marty Sherlund, Joan Smith, Kerri Smith, Linda Sudol, Carl TerHaar, Kathy Thomas, Keven Turk, Sharon Vance, Noel Weaver

Aldo Leopold Festival Committee:

Sue Bakkila,
Kristy Beyer,
Chris Cantway,
Nora Cardinal,
Ken Drenth, Anne Fleming, Bob and Sheridan Haack, Shaun Howard, Carol Hubbard, Mike McCarthy, Sydney Meadows, Kelly Mitchell, Dave Murray, Elliot Nelson, Amy Polk, Sarah Reding, Kevin St. Onge



Sheridan & Bob Haack at festival.

Volunteer ALF Program/Workshop

Presenters: Nick Alioto, Sue Bakkila, Michael Carlson, Josh Cohen, Julie Crick, Anna Ellis, Dave Ewert, Dani Fegan, Charles Fels, Jason Garvon, Aubrey Golden, Rachel Hackett, Shaun Howard, Carol Hubbard, Sierra LaRose, Amy Lipson, Karen Mazzoline, Marquita Mullen, Scott Myers, Dan Noyes, Robin Pendery, Rob Routledge, Talus Rutgers, Derek Shiels, Kunal Singh, Chace Scholten, Steve Swenson, Brad Von Blon, Tom Walker, Chris Wallin, James Watterworth, Marissa Wissner

Kudos and more Kudos to Yooper Troopers Team 4988: Cedarville High School teacher Mr. Hank McClure and his robotics students, Ava, Eli, Forest, and Jaycee, helped set up the tent for the Festival.

Americana Music at ALF’s Saturday Evening Picnic on the Lawn: Mark & Carol Palms, joined by Bear Berends and Bruce Gartner, volunteered their engaging musical talents to add much to making ALF’s Saturday Evening Picnic special.

2024 OPERATIONS SUPPORT

Your continued support is vital toward maintaining this exceptional historic landmark. We continually seek grants through all appropriate resources, but **many foundations choose not to support operations and maintenance. This is challenging because how can we maintain the programs without proper administration?** Thus, we must continually reach out to you to fund the basic costs of managing the facility and developing our programs to benefit the community at large.

THE ONGOING ENGRAVED BRICK CAMPAIGN

For something fun, yet meaningful and timeless, the proceeds go toward **upgrading the landscaping and gardens**, in keeping with their surroundings.

The bricks are featured in the north entry patio and a nearby small picnic area, and are available **in two sizes at \$100 (4x8) and \$250 (8x8)**. You can note in the enclosed envelope if you wish to purchase a brick, or call the office at 906-484-1333 for more information.

HESSEL SCHOOL HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Carl TerHaar

Pasqua Warstler

Moira "Pat" Wilson

**former students*



HESSEL SCHOOL HOUSE
P.O. Box 25
Hessel, MI 49745
www.hesselschoolhouse.org

Electronic Service Requested

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE *Hessel School Alumni Reunion* & MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATION



It was with deep regret that last year's **Alumni Reunion and Memorial Garden Dedication** had to be canceled due to unexpected events. But with many thanks to the hard work of Dan Reelitz, his dedicated volunteers, and professional native plant expert, Monica Cady, the authentic pollinator garden is now well-established as the perfect setting for **Andy Sacksteder's** extraordinary statues of three students, each representing the unique history and diverse cultures of the area; all made possible by the late **Dave Heiss** and his widow **Sandy**.

*The Hessel School House Board of Directors invites you to attend the
Dedication of the Hessel School Students Memorial Garden*

Saturday, July 20th | 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Dedication Program

*Beer. Wine. Cocktails. / Buffet Supper
(prepared by Les Cheneaux Culinary School)*

Mission Statement

The Hessel School House Corporation supports the Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center as the centerpiece of the Les Cheneaux Islands community for the purpose of ensuring the continued vitality and prosperity of the area and its residents.



Loretta Mongene (Miller)



Buddy Wabiginese



Ray Hansen

