

Hazelhurst Highlights

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A newsletter by, for, and about Hazelhursters

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SITEHOLDER'S MEETING

AUGUST 13, 2016

Red Barn 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight
Time

VOYAGEUR CANOE TRIP

The annual Marsh Meander Voyager Canoe trip along the Galien River in New Buffalo is Saturday August 20 at 10am. Sponsored by Chikaming Open Lands, you can enjoy the natural beauty of one of the richest habitats in the world. \$10 per person. Free to COL members. Space is limited. Register by contacting COL at [269-405-1006](tel:269-405-1006) or col@chikamingopenlands.org

IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Announcement: There's an addition to the Barn Program schedule! On Friday, August 19, Marilou and Johann Gerlmayer will present a program of traditional Irish music. The Gerlmayer's are traveling in the United States from their home in Germany. They are visiting their relatives, Tom and Linda Taylor, and have agreed to share their performance with our Hazelhurst audience. Add it to your calendar!

Programs for this summer:

All programs begin at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted, always on Eastern time.

Saturday August 6, 2016:

Ice Cream Social occurring precisely at TBA

Saturday August 13, 2016:

Leo Krusak – Machu Pichu and Galapagos Travels

Friday August 19, 2016:

Traditional Irish Music - Marilou & Johann Gerlmayer
(family of Tom & Linda Taylor)

Saturday August 20, 2016:

Serena Sutcliff – Chesterton Library
"The Prairie Club Years, To & Fro"

Saturday August 27, 2016: ???

FERNWOOD SUNDAY CONCERT

By Layton Olson

Fernwood Botanical Garden holds its next free Second Sunday Concert outdoors on Sunday August 14, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

The 1 hour concert is sponsored each summer month by WAUS 90.7 classical music of Andrews University

in Berrien Springs. Tune in to learn about who will be performing. This is a wonderful time to visit Fernwood for the first, or one of many times, including an opportunity to see its restored prairie, woods, open areas and marshes along the St. Joseph River.

Come early or stay late, including to see natural artwork displayed, and see willow-sculpture and model railroad in a natural setting. Plus, many places to view birds inside and out. About 35 minutes from Hazelhurst. Take US 12 south from 3 Oaks, turn into Buchanan, and follow the signs. Go to second red light, turn right onto the road over the St. Joseph River, and then turn left at the sign on Town Line Road, and go about a mile and turn left into this beautiful setting.

VARIETY SHOWED TO GREAT ADVANTAGE

By: Ellen Elrick

Congratulations to all the performers in the Variety Show last Saturday night. Great show! Entertaining skits and jokes, dance routines, and lots of music filled the evening. Prairie club kids and adults in the show: Will Ballard, Haley Elrick, Ramsey and Alex Foote, Petra and Trey Foote, Luther, Wesley, and Sadie Hoy, Lauren and Anna Scott, John and Kate Worden, Gabby Boosenberg. Charlie McKelvey, Bill Worden, Frank Calkins, Libbie Buchele, Hilary Critchfield, Rich and Diana Spurgin. Directors and assistants: Ellen Elrick, Libbie Buchele, Dorothy Simmons, Lynne Scott.



POND RESTORATION

By: Patrick Gilligan – Dam/Pond Chairman

The dredging & restoration of the Hazelhurst pond may be the largest and most important conservation project ever at the camp. This unique biome is home to a host of plants & animals found nowhere else on the grounds.

If we truly care about the natural world it is our duty as good stewards to care for that which has been long neglected. We are partially to blame for increased erosion caused by our development along the ravine. Added to this our road management practices have added tons of sediment over the years. Now is the time for action this issue has been "swept under the rug" for the past 41 years. Funding is available no special assessment is required just the willingness to do it.

Thank you in advance for your support

A film review by Layton Olson

You will be amazed by the opening shot in [The Messenger](#), a 2015 documentary about songbird declines. A black-throated Blue Warbler, closer than you will ever see one, flies in slow motion against a black background. The film was recently presented by Fernwood in cooperation with Chikaming Open Lands at the Vickers Theater in Three Oaks.

Songbird populations have been declining for decades—a fact bird watchers are aware of and the general public is catching onto, thanks to programs like the [North American Breeding Bird Survey](#) and the [State of the Birds](#) report. But the question of why they are declining is harder to answer clearly.

In order to gain better tracking data on migratory songbirds, microchips were attached to birds in Pennsylvania, which allowed international tracking of migrations up into Canada within a few days in the spring and within a couple weeks to Brazil in the fall. Cutting night lights in New York City during migration seasons and new dotted windows on Toronto high rises have reduced bird crash deaths by 80%.

Filmmaker Su Rynard surveys ornithological research around the world show the impact of deforestation, industrial sound interference on mating calls, and the disorientation of migratory birds. Climate change can cause starvation if bird migrations are no longer in sync with the narrow windows of time when insect populations are available to them. Domestic cat predation may have caused the extinction of up to 32 species of birds.

Sound recording devices are being used in upstate New York to estimate the numbers and kinds of birds in the area by identifying and cataloging their voices. In Germany, France, Costa Rica, Turkey and Canada, bird researchers are working with local farmers in partner with habitat restoration efforts to prevent the extinction of migrating birds.

The movie did not show bird migration patterns over Western and Eastern Lake Michigan flyways, but we can expect more information as Midwest bird tracking by GPS becomes the norm. In particular it will be interesting to see Berrien County patterns in the east and Nippersink Wildlife Refuge in the West flyways. This information can provide important guidance on how Prairie Club habitats can work with neighbors and regional planners to maintain the exurban character of our two camps in 2050 and beyond.

PUBLIC LANDS FOR SALE

By: Rick Krumbacher

The House committee on Natural Resources recently voted to adopt [HR 3650](#), **State National Forest Management Act of 2015**, the summary of which reads:

“This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, through the Forest Service, to convey to a state up to 2 million acres of eligible portions of the National Forest System (NFS) in it that it elects to acquire through enactment by the state legislature of a bill meeting certain criteria. Portions of the NFS conveyed to a state shall be administered and managed primarily for timber production.”

In other words, the bill is intended to remove federal forest lands from Department of the Interior control and

place them into the hands of state governments for sale to commercial developers. This should be an important issue in the current political campaigns. However, the vote has not been widely publicized for obvious reasons. The sale of public lands is not popular.

A broad spectrum of conservationists have vehemently opposed HR3650, including the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, whose president and CEO, Whit Fosburgh, recently stated, “Make no mistake, these are the first votes on legislation that would legitimize the wholesale transfer or sale of America’s public lands.” A growing number of western county boards have expressed opposition to the measure because they fear uncontrolled commercial development on their lands, if the bill passes.

According to Wes Siler at IndefinitelyWild, even Donald Trump opposes it: “I don’t like the idea because I want to keep the lands great, and you don’t know what the state is going to do,” Trump told Field & Stream. “I mean, are they going to sell if they get into a little bit of trouble? And I don’t think it’s something that should be sold. We have to be great stewards of this land. This is magnificent land.”

HR3650 appears to be a direct, deliberate and long-term attack on the very concept of conservation on public lands. Hopefully, we can make our politicians aware of our stance on the issue.

For more information, go to ProtectOurLand.org.

EMBRACE THE NIGHT

By Rick Krumbacher

We walked to the end of Dune Road by the white circle of light swinging from the flashlight. There, Dad switched off the light and darkness flooded over us, extinguishing all sense of location. Take us home. It was my responsibility to guide my parents back to the cottage without the light. We walked to the end of Catalpa Road by the same light; I led us home in the same blackness. I was seven years old. A standard ritual for Hazelhurst kids of the time: learn to see in the dark so our parents would never worry that we could get lost in the night.

By the time I was in high school – 1968 to 1972 – my Hazelhurst friends and acquaintances had all graduated from the same night vision school and wouldn't be caught dead carrying a flashlight. We had all learned that you can see much better in the dark than you can with a flashlight. Without the light, you can see the world around you; with the light, all you see is the circular hole it tears in the dark – it blinds you to everything else and betrays your position to anyone else nearby. I can recall meeting friends on the trail under a moonless black sky, in the forest, recognizing them and having conversations as we would do on the beach in the bright afternoon sunlight.

Of course, seeing in the dark wasn't always a great thing. One night, Jeff Bauer woke me up and said he had a date with Mary Foote. This seemed improbable for many reasons, but I went along, figuring it would at least result in a good story to tell later on. We slipped quietly up to the Foote cottage, whereupon Jeff began softly rap-tapping about. What he awakened were two large hands which came out of the night, gripped our necks, bumped our heads together a few times and demanded to know what we two boys were doing there? Evidently, Bob is a light sleeper. And he can move with remarkable stealth.

Those were days when the summer community began gathering around Memorial Day and by mid-June the camp was full of people who would spend their entire summers here. Many of the older Hazelhursts were Chicagoans who never owned an automobile. There was a path worn diagonally from the square-dance slabs to the corner of the property by men who arrived every Friday evening on the South Shore bus, carrying overnight cases, and who left the same way Sunday afternoons. Wives and children spent the summer in camp. Many of them raising vegetables in garden plots located between the outfield of the softball diamond all the way past the clubhouse to Prairie Road. There were water pumps every so often to provide water, at the price of working the pump handles. That area is mostly wooded now.

Hazelhurst was a much closer knit community in the days before cottages had bathrooms. Mornings and evenings there appeared a crowd of people with towels slung over their shoulders, tooth brushes and tooth paste in hand, milling about the entrance awaiting their turns in the bathrooms – red barn for the men,

farmhouse for the women. It was a bit like Monday morning coffee twice a day, sort of. It caused a bit of a scandal in 1959 when my parents began building Cottage number 30 with internal bathroom facilities. Which of course everyone knew about because the entire camp took the time to wander through our cottage until doors and walls became sufficiently complete to impede pedestrian traffic. My parents didn't mind of course – the concept of privacy was foreign to the Great Depression/World War II generation.

My parents thought they could have the exterior of our cottage built by a contractor and then finish the interior themselves over the following three months. They worked on it for about 25 years and gradually gave it up, more or less but not entirely complete. My Dad served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The first partitions in our cottage were Army tarpaulins with U.S.A.A.C. logos in the middle. Dad wore his old fatigue shirts while working, sergeant strips cut off the sleeves. Air Corps fatigues were gray, so I took the opportunity to tell visitors that Dad had fought for the Confederacy.

Whenever I see kids going past in the night, lighting their way by holding smart phone aloft, I feel somewhat as though I've emigrated to a foreign country by living more than 60 years. I anticipate that those kids will have their own pleasant reminiscences of Hazelhurst one day. Hopefully, they have learned something of value here, as we did long ago.

HIGHLIGHTS EMAILIZATION

The existing email list for people who want to receive the Highlights via email had exactly 6 names on it. If anyone wants to receive the Highlights via email, please send your email address to: hazelhursthighlights@gmail.com.

RED ARROW SHARPENING:

Red Arrow Highway will close for reconstruction of the culvert just west of Harbert on August 15, 2016. Detours will be onto Three Oaks Road from Warren Woods Road on the south or onto Sawyer Road on the North

