



Newcomers News

Published by the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
(Antrim - Benzie - Grand Traverse - Kalkaska - Leelanau)

April
2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL PROGRAM
Tuesday, April 26

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BRIDGE

April 21

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NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS

April 7 & 21

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April 6

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April 5

SOLOS

Various, see p. 6

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

April 6 & 21

WALK IN THE WOODS

April 23

Visit us on the web
at
gtnewcomers.org

Join us for the April Program:

Michelle Ferrarese, Birch Point Farm Director Community Supported Agriculture

Tuesday, April 26
6:30 PM

History Center of Traverse City
322 Sixth Street
Traverse City, Michigan

An interesting statistic: *"If every household started spending just \$10 a week of its current grocery budget on locally grown foods, more than \$37 million each week would remain in Michigan. When \$1 is spent locally, that \$1 benefits three to seven local businesses before leaving the local economy."*

Birch Point Farm near Lake Leelanau is one of several Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs in the area. The CSA concept is relatively simple: CSA farmers grow insecticide-free vegetables for a fee to members that the farm can support from early spring until the end of October. Each week members stop by the farm or a local farm market to pick up their share of vegetables for the week which were picked and cleaned directly from the field that day. The Birch Point Farm land had been dormant for the past 30 years and one of the goals is to preserve it by keeping it in active agriculture.

Michelle is a Michigan native who has lived on the west and east coasts, and in the southwest, but has always returned to the Great Lakes. She attended U of M for undergrad and MSU for her masters' degree, studying botany and horticulture, respectively. Her first experience on a farm was volunteering at the Community Farm of Ann Arbor (the first CSA farm in Michigan), which changed her life. She worked at several farms before becoming the manager of the Student Organic Farm at MSU and running the year-round CSA there for three years. She also created a video about Michigan CSAs. Since 2007 she has been living and farming at Birch Point Farm where she hopes to stay for a long, long time.

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PRESIDENTS' NOTE

April 2011



Jo Anne Gerben & Marshall Persky

Hi Everyone,

Finally, spring has arrived and we have survived another "up north" winter. Even if the weather isn't as warm as we'd like or if an unexpected spring storm hits, all we have to do is look around us for the signs that nature is waking up and all the wonderful changes of the season are occurring. The surest sign of spring, though, is the email I received today that announced a hike on Alligator Hill this month. Soon all the familiar warm weather Newcomer activities will begin giving us lots of opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine and each other. Many thanks to our activity group chairs who facilitate these wonderful outings.

In the spirit of the seasonal change, our April general meeting will focus on a subject that is closely associated with the upcoming seasons. Michelle Ferrarese, Director of Birch Point Farm, will speak about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which has become so important to all of us living in the Grand Traverse Area. She will share her knowledge of farming, healthy food and business benefits of local CSA products. This should be a really informative and enjoyable evening, and we hope to see a large crowd to welcome Michelle.

This year we have had so many positive comments about our monthly meetings, and we have two wonderful Vice Presidents, Kathy Tuckerman and Dan Klimaszewski, to thank for setting up our programs and major events. We are always open to suggestions for programs, so if there is a topic you would like covered or a speaker you want to hear, please let one of them know. Our goal is to highlight the many interesting aspects of the area such as the natural beauty, local writers and/or artists and topical issues. Programs are chosen that will appeal to the majority of our members and will enable them to enjoy all that this wonderful area has to offer.

In the next few months, we will have two programs that will top off what has been a great year for Newcomers. One of these events is something new which you will learn more about next month. Newcomers will be hosting a Game Night to be held at the History Center, our regular meeting place now. This will replace the Ranch Rudolf outing which many felt was fun but needed a rest this year. The other event is our end of the year picnic which will be held at Bowers Harbor Park on Saturday, June 25. Both the Game Night and the picnic should be great fun so we hope to see all of you there.

Finally, it won't be long before some of our current board members step off the board. If you have been contacted or if you think that serving on the Newcomers Board might be something you would like to do, please let Marshall or Jo Anne know (our contact information can be found at the top of the left-hand column on this page). Being a board member is both rewarding and lots of fun. We hope you will consider it.

Jo Anne and Marshall

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, May 24: Plans are underway for a fun-filled evening of food and games for all to enjoy.

Saturday, June 25: Annual Newcomers Picnic at Bowers Harbor Park (note that the picnic will be held on a Saturday this year).

Look for more information about these upcoming programs in future editions of the Newcomers News.

NEW MEMBER CORNER

Robert and Brenda Knaack
Manistee, MI

Eric Sanko
Rochester Hills, MI

You Too Can Be a Beach Bum Host Family



Submitted by Dick & Carol Thompson

The Traverse City Beach Bums professional baseball team is looking for new host homes. It is a wonderful, fun experience to have a young man, 22-26 years of age, in your home from early May to early September. Keep in mind that they are on the road for away games half of the time.

We will be hosting a player, or two, for the sixth summer this year. We refer to our players as our "summer sons" and really enjoy having a young person around again. We have learned so much from them, from computers to what a professional athlete really goes through as they work hard and follow their dream of making it to the "biggs."

The main question we are asked is about cooking for them. Horrors!! We find that during the two weeks of Spring Training we invite them to eat with us, whether we cook or take them out. That's because their hours tend to be about 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM during that time. When they are at home during the season they usually report to the ballpark around 2:00 PM and come home between 11:00 PM and midnight. Of course they are all different about when they come home. If he is a position player who plays most every game, he is tired and comes home. They are fed at the ballpark before and after the games. After about a month they tend to tire of some of the food offered so they are very happy with leftovers and whatever you wish to have available in the house. Some hosts go all out and cook their brains out and some don't at all.

If you are at all interested, you can check out www.traversecitybeachbums.com. Click on Wuerfel Park, then "Host Family Program."

If you have any questions at all feel free to contact us: Dick & Carol Thompson 276-5080 or dickthompson@chartermi.net.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

BIKING GROUP

Saturday April 16, 11:00 AM, TART Trail

We will meet at Darrow Park on the corner of Bay St. and Monroe St. From there we will ride north to the end of the blacktop trail (6 miles), turn around and come back. At the end of the ride we will go to Sleder's for food and drinks.

If you are interested in joining the first bike outing of the year, please **contact Don Eastway at muglure@yahoo.com or phone at 231-884-1106.**

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 5, 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Both the morning and the afternoon book groups meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the lower level of Horizon Books. All books that have been selected for reading are listed on our website: gtnewcomers.org, under "Literary Activities".

April's book is *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosenay. Tatiana de Rosenay was named one of the top 10 fiction writers in Europe in 2009. This work of fiction provides a portrait of France under the Nazi occupation in 1942.

Katie Brown will lead the morning book discussion. Robbin Stott will lead the afternoon discussion.

Katie Brown is the activity leader for the morning session. You may contact her at 231-922-9389 or jkbrow@att.net. Terrill Persky is the activity leader for the afternoon session. You may contact her at 231-922-8153 or terrillpersky@gmail.com.

MIXED PARTY BRIDGE

Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM

This group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. All skill levels welcome. Different hosts each month.

Contact Rick and Kathy Bodette, 271-7524 or richardrbodette@cs.com.

DINNER OUT

Sunday, April 17, 5:30 PM

It's time to pack away the snow shovels, boots and window scrapers. It's a time of eager anticipation in welcoming the first scent of spring, the first robin and the first daffodil! Celebrate Spring and her longer warmer days and take a lovely country drive to the quaint cross-roads village of Cedar where we will dine at the Cedar Rustic Inn. Upon arrival you will feel welcomed by the wood porch, the earthy coziness born of natural materials

and the native hues reminiscent of a "park lodge".

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of American, Chef Aaron Ackley and wife Nikke manage the restaurant using as many local sources as possible. All of their soups, sauces, dressings and desserts are home-made. "Regional Americana" best describes the menu; most entrees are in the low to mid-teens. Aaron will select a menu especially for us and as usual we will have separate checks and drinks are on your own.

Please join us at 5:30 PM for cocktails and conversation and feel free to invite a friend, neighbor or relative - all are welcome. **Reserve your spot before April 12 by responding to Michele Richard at richard.michele@rocketmail.com or 944-5844.**

Cedar Rustic Inn
8699 Good Harbor Trail (County Rd. 651)
Cedar, MI
231-228-2282



EUCHRE

Euchre groups meet once a month in each other's homes. We currently have seven groups. Each group is made up of three to four tables. Group members change tables and partners throughout the evening which makes for a lot of opportunity for lively conversation. Of course, food and drink are involved.

Euchre group Eight is looking to add another table. We have two potential players but need two more to complete a third table. The group meets in the evening the first Tuesday of every month. Interested players should be **available to play for the majority of the playing season — fall through spring.** Please contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net if you would like to join this group as a permanent member.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, April 14

The Film Group is a casual, fun group made up of people

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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who love going to the movies. We attend movies at different theaters throughout the season and go out for discussion, food and libations afterwards. The group meets the second Thursday of every month from September through May. I may occasionally add an extra film date during any given month if a film looks interesting and may not be playing at the time of the regular scheduled meeting.

Watch your email or check the web site for specifics each month. Notification as to the film, time and place is emailed to group members a few days before the outing. Anyone interested in joining the group may contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net.

FISHING

Ice fishing is mostly finished and steelhead fishing should be in full swing this month. The last Saturday in April is the beginning of the season for several species, including trout. Michigan's fishing regulations are complex; make sure you consult the regulation booklet for this year. As a reminder, your 2010 fishing license expired on March 31. Contact one another for any trips you would like to organize or to advertise fishing opportunities.

Contact Pete Albers, phalbers99@gmail.com, 922-7289 if you are interested in participating in any of the group activities.

GOLF

HELLO NEWCOMER GOLFERS! It's time to start thinking GOLF. NC golf is open to **ALL** Newcomers regardless of skill level. **If you have not played with us and would like to, email me at brickmanbus@yahoo.com and I will add you to the group.** All but one course is confirmed for this season and I expect to have it confirmed by the time you read this. The season will be 21 weeks long and we will play 15 different courses. There will be two new courses this year, El Dorado and Briar South. The full schedule is listed below.

I will be sending out a test email the week of April 18 to check for errors in the roster. Please reply to that message ASAP so I can make corrections.

The 2011 season will start at the Crown on Monday, May 2 at 10:00 AM. As in the past, if you will be playing email me by the previous Friday at 6:00 PM so I can adjust the number of tee times needed.

I hope all of you are looking forward to this season as much as I am. We have a great schedule and I hope we can fill all five tee times each week. Let's have a season of great golf.

May 2	Crown	August 1	Elmbrook
May 9	Leelanau Club	August 8	Crown
May 16	A-Ga-Ming	August 15	Champion Hills
May 23	Briar South	August 22	Grandview
June 6	Briar North	August 29	Twin Birch
June 13	Pinecroft	Sept. 12	Mistwood
June 20	Crown	Sept. 19	El Dorado
June 27	Timberwolf	Sept. 26	Emerald Vale
July 11	Emerald Vale	Oct. 3	Leelanau Club
July 18	Crystal Lake	Oct. 10	Crown
July 25	Briar North		

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, April 25, 10:00 AM

The Men's Book Club meets in the lower level of Horizon Books in Traverse City. Our selection for April will be determined at the March meeting. We welcome any man who might want to participate, regardless of whether or not he has previously attended our meetings and even read the book. We always have a friendly, interesting and insightful discussion, usually followed by lunch at a local eatery.

Members and potential members are cordially invited to join us. Contact Ralph Mittelberger for questions and information, mittelberger.ralph@arentfox.com.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, April 6, 9:00 AM

This group meets at the Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM. We meet all year around and always meet regardless of the weather. Bring all the testosterone you can muster.

Contact George Kobernus: gkobernus@chartermi.net or 933-9321.

NEWCOMERS NEEDLERS

April 7 & 21, 1—3 PM

You are invited to join the Needlers Group, where members enjoy a couple of hours, twice a month, working on their needlework projects. Carole hooks fabulous rugs, a bunch of us knit everything from baby blankets to tea cozies, some of us crochet, and one works on her yarn embroidery. We show off our projects, help each other with problems

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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(needling and personal!), and enjoy a cuppa by the fire at Aroma's.

On the fifth Thursday in March, we went on an excursion, visiting the knit shops and bookstores in Cedar, Glen Arbor, Leland, and Suttons Bay, with a stop for lunch.

We meet on the first and third Thursdays, 1-3 PM, at the Aroma's Coffee Shop (www.aromascoffeeshop.com/) at Kid's Creek shopping center on Division, just south of 14th Street. The next dates are April 7 and 21.

Have questions, want to be on the email list, or just want to let us know you'll be there? Contact Sandy Seppala, sansep19@earthlink.net, 421-3343.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, April 6, 1:00 PM

Patisserie Amie is a delightful addition to the Traverse City downtown dining scene. It is a small French bistro located at 439 East Front Street, tucked along the bank of the Boardman River near Wellington Street. Look for the striped canopy with Patisserie Amie's signature sign. Inside, a glass case filled with bombes, tarts, madeleines, chantillies and dense and delicate chocolate specialties dominates one end of the café, while a cozy cluster of tables and a few window seats line the walls. An eclectic mix of French posters and knick-knacks season the space with comfortable ambience.

Please contact Sis Leake at 929-7036 by Monday, April 4 if you plan to attend.

POKER

Tuesday, April 5, 1:30 PM

The poker group meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1:30 - 4:30PM and summer hours of 6:30 - 9:30 PM. The group meets on a rotating basis at each member's home. The game is small stakes to keep the game and conversation fun and friendly. The host merely has to provide the home and setup, while members bring snacks and drinks.

The April meeting will be hosted by Jim Neibauer. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5th from 1:30 to 4:30 PM. **Please contact Jim by phone or email or the group coordinator if you plan to attend the April meeting.** Jim's email is jeneibauer2@charter.net. Jim's phone is 231-267-9553.

The poker group coordinator is Mike Huffman. Phone is 517-655-3374. Email is wdcspike@yahoo.com.

SOLOS

Upcoming SOLO events:

Call Judy** to express interest in any of the following events (922-9619):

April 10, 3:00 PM: Symphony at Corson. Tickets \$28 or \$38. RSVP by March 24th.

April 11: Shop in Alden, Walk at Grass River, Eat in Kalkaska. Meet at 12 Noon, Place TBD.

April 17: Walk at 7 Bridges, Bring lunch for picnic, (weather permitting). Meet at 1PM, place TBD.

April 21, 6:00 PM: India Today at the Milliken \$10 at the door.

(Judy is not sure if she can attend the next two events:

April 23, 7:30 PM: International Orchestra at Interlochen, \$10

April 30, 3:00 PM: Children's' Choir Interlochen, \$6.)

**Judy will be out of town 3/25/11 until 4/9/11

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

Wednesday, April 6 & Thursday, April 21

State Theatre Volunteers: Join us as we work in the concession area, take tickets, sweep floors, usher, run errands, and sometimes we even get to watch the movie.

Free popcorn and pop, a voucher for another movie, and tokens for the parking ramp complete the experience. Our afternoon shift is sometimes slow and sometimes busy. Give it a try and perhaps you might like to move to a busier time on your own. You are more than welcome to remain at this less active level too.

We now have two shifts per month and you may choose the one you prefer. We now work on the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of each month from 2:30 PM until 5:15 PM. Join us for dinner afterwards if you have time. The dates for April are April 6 & 21.

Contact Nancy Johnson at johns526@msu.edu or 231-668-9633 if you would like to be added to the list of potential volunteers.

WALK IN THE WOODS,

Saturday, April 23, 11:00 AM, Alligator Hill

The Walk In the Woods Activity will resume in April. We will be walking on April 23 at 11:00 AM at Alligator Hill in Glen Arbor, weather permitting.

Alligator Hill Trail comes equipped with beautiful views of both Lake Michigan and Big Glen Lake. Alligator Hill has a total of nine miles of trail, which are divided into different loops. The hike is very hilly and passes through beautiful Michigan forests.

The 1.5 mile hike from the Stocking Road trailhead to the

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Islands Lookout on top of Alligator Hill is a relatively gentle uphill walk through Maple-Beech forest on an old road bed. The view from the Lookout is outstanding. On a clear day, you can see North and South Manitou Island and Sleeping Bear Point. Quite often South Fox Island will also be visible. There is a bench at the lookout, so you can take some time to relax and enjoy the view before continuing your hike. From this vantage point you will often see a freighter making its way through the Manitou Passage.

For more information on the Alligator Hill Trail, feel free to visit the National Parks Service's webs site at <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/trailalligatorhill.htm>.

The Alligator Hill area is just west of Glen Arbor and just south of M-109. From the main intersection in Glen Arbor, proceed west on M-109 to Stocking Road. Turn left (south) on Stocking and go about a half-mile to the trailhead turnoff, which is on your left.

If you are interested, please email jedgrewe@charter.net. We will send out an email reminder just prior to this hike.

UnderPantry Collection April 1 - 16th

The UnderPantry collects undergarments for Goodwill Inn guests and community members. Undergarments are items many people take for granted. All sizes of underwear, undershirts and socks are needed for children, men and women. Bras and diapers are also appreciated.

To see other needed items see the Goodwill web site: www.goodwillnmi.org/wishlist.

GET READY CHICAGO—HERE COME THE TC NEWCOMERS!

Be sure to check your calendars and plan to join us as we head to Chicago for a 2-3 night stay this fall. We are looking at two dates: October 16-19 and December 4-7 (the December dates come with \$109 per night rates at the Seneca).

More details will be available soon.



WEBSITE

We are still looking for some winter activity photos to update our website @ www.gtnewcomers.org. If you have any photos, suggestions or questions, please contact our Newcomers' webmaster Lynn Huffman at lhuffman@gammet.com.

Be sure to check the web site for listings of local volunteer opportunities. Let Lynn know if you have any listings to add.

Also, just a reminder that the current issue of the Newcomers News can be found in full color on our web site. Back issues are also available for your viewing pleasure.

Activity Group Leaders Needed

A Leader and/or Co-Leaders are needed for the Gardening and Solo Groups.

If you are willing to help with either of these groups, please contact Pauline Watt at 231-360-3216 or email her at jwatt1107@charter.net.

Patronize our sponsors

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Grand Traverse Children's Clinic
3537 W. Front St., Ste. G
Traverse City
935-8822

Interlochen Center for the Arts
4000 S. M-137 Hwy.
Interlochen, MI
231-276-7200

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935-0555

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Pat Westbrook 929-1830

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Briant Sikorski, 231-922-6831
333 W. Grandview Pkwy, TC

**Munson Healthcare Regional
Foundation**
935-6482

Music House Museum
U.S. 31 North, Acme
938-9300

**Northwest Michigan College
Extended Educational Services &
Life Academy** (Classes for adults
over 50)
231-995-1700

Oleson's Food Stores
Hammond Rd. & 3 Mile and
3850 N. Long Lake Rd. TC
9471-900/947-6510

Old Town Playhouse
148 E. Eighth St., TC
947-2210, ext. 3

Oryana Nat. Foods Coop Mkt.
260 East Tenth, TC

Pizza Hut
3030 US 31 South, TC
947-2077

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**The Mom's Club of Grand
Traverse Area**
www.TheMomsClub.net

Traverse City Beach Bums
Wuerfel Park
333 Stadium Drive
Ticket office: 231-943-0100

**Traverse City Record Eagle
Newspaper**
946-2000



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
C/O Terrill Persky - Membership
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Traverse City, MI 49684