

Lovells Township Historical Society

2024 Accomplishments & Highlights

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Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, board members and all of our donors, 2024 has been a great year. We brought back Beaver, Beer and Banjo and we had our first Fall Upland Hunting event. Of course our Hot Stove series and the Leaky Waders 1K were the hallmarks we've come to expect. You can read about this year's events herein but there were also lots of little things going on behind the scenes.

Richard Perry and his brother Roger crafted a new, period correct, door for the schoolhouse and installed it. George Charney varnished the doors on the Fly Fishing Museum and had a beautiful piece of stain glass art made to in-



New Stained Glass in the Window of the Fly Fishing Museum

We were honored this year to add to the collection of the Fly Fishing Museum when Chris Bogart gave us a beautiful collection

of Dick Walle flies and photographs. Many thanks to Chris and everyone else who thinks of us when interesting items arise.

We were happy to host visits from the Trout Unlimited Michigan Youth Campers as well as the TU Illinois Youth Campers and we were proud to serve as a backdrop for part of a national TU filming session with Robert (RT) Thompson.

We continue to take pride in adding to the fabric of the Lovells Community and we are ever grateful for your continued support.

We are also planning to replace the old porch on the Schoolhouse and add a handicap ramp, a project also to be funded by grants.

Dipping our toes into the grant process means we have also been busy working on a long term strategic plan. It's exciting to look toward the possibilities in the future but there's lots of work to do.



LTHS Decals Now Available!

\$5 Each

Request one with your donation or via email.

2024 Trout Opener & Leaky Waders 1K

We had a wonderful start to the 2024 season this year. Despite inclement weather over 125 spectators and 43 runners came out for the Leaky Wader 1K. The Crawford family dominated the winners circle as Alex Crawford won the men's division and his sister Aida won the women's. Madison

Crawford took Second in the Women's division and Frank Janca was the second place man. John Hunter was third for the men and Mary Lou Hunter, who has run in all 15 Leaky Waders, won Third Place Women.

Special thanks to the Crawford County Transportation Authority for

provided our shuttle service and to the Sheriff's office for traffic control. Thanks also to the merchants in Lovells, Grayling and Gaylord who provided prizes for the runners and to our exhibitors, merchants and all the volunteers that helped make this event a fun time.

Beaver, Beer & Banjo

After an absence of several years we brought back BBB this year with the support of the new owners of the Riverside Tavern. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fabulous bluegrass music performed by Steel & Wood, a Petosky area bluegrass band.

Steel & Wood set up on the deck next to the river making a picturesque scene that sounded great for the audience. It was a lovely summer evening on the river and we were thrilled to have so many supporters turn out to enjoy the event.

Sadly, due to complications from the Health Department, we were



Steel & Wood on the River

unable to serve Beaver Stew at the Tavern this year (ironically we were able to serve it at our Fall Upland Fundraiser at the Township Hall).

Thanks to our donors, attendees had lots of interesting items to bid on in the silent auction including many pieces of wall art and a Shupac Lake Cocktail Cruise among other items.

Thanks to all your support we raised over \$1,000 through the evening and we all enjoyed celebrating a musical summer evening on the North Branch.

2024 Educational Gift goes to Hunter Eurich



Hunter and "Duce"

Congratulations to Hunter Eurich, the recipient of our 2024 Educational Gift. Hunter is from Mio, Michigan and is a junior at Lake Superior State University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. Hunter was the first recipient of the restructured LTHS educational gift program.

Some of you may remember that in recent years our gift was disbursed by Kirtland Community College.

2024 was the last year for the Kirtland Award and the first year that LTHS is accepting and reviewing applications internally.

Hunter is an outdoorsman and conservation activist. He has spent his last two summers working with Northpoint Fisheries Mgmt doing stream restoration on the Au Sable and Manistee rivers. We are proud to help Hunter achieve his educational goals.

Museum of Fly Fishing History Rotating Exhibits

This season's exhibit theme for the Fly Fishing Museum was Conservation and we received wonderful exhibits from the key conservation organizations in the area.

Exhibitors included the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation, Headwaters Land Conservancy, Cedars for the Au Sable, the Mason Griffith Chapter of Trout Unlim-



The Au Sable River Royals visited the museum during Bridge Walk

ited, and Anglers of the Au Sable.

Every participating organization did a wonderful job with their exhibits and we are grateful for their participation.

Next year's exhibits will be focused on Rod Making and they are sure to impress and inform so make a note to stop by next season.

Fall Upland Fundraiser

Thanks to Board Member Richard Perry's initiative we held our first annual Fall Upland Fundraiser and it was a resounding success.

We finally got to cook the beaver we acquired for BBB and we served Beaver Stew along side Venison Chili and White Chicken Chili as well as side dishes, cornbread and dessert.

Many thanks to Sally Brand, Nancy Simonelli, Jo Johnson, Lillian Perry, Pam Charney and the rest of you responsible for feeding everyone so well.



Jim Wilkinson and Paul Mesack



Leslie Porteous and Bethany Stiles

Paul Mesack DVM and Jim Wilkinson from the USGS Upper Midwest Water Science Center were our featured speakers but we also had DNR Wildlife Biologist Bruce Barlow and John Paige from RGS/



Jeffrey McGowan shares a table with Bruce Barlow and John Paige



Dave Tatman, John Dallas and Glen Eberly

AWS in attendance. The informal atmosphere led to many vibrant discussions regarding a variety of subjects mostly focused on upland hunting.

Bruce Barlow brought a set of woodcock wing samples and showed guests how to age and sex the birds.

In addition to the food and fellowship we offered a silent auction which sent many attendees home with some tangible rewards and helped LTHS raise some funds.

We had so much fun we're going to make this an annual event so keep an eye out for next year's October date.

Hot Stove and The Backcast Podcast

2024's Hot Stove Series was as popular as ever bringing a diverse range of speakers including:

- Judge George Mertz
- Neil Wallace, ASNBAF
- Steven Woods, Huron Pines
- Brandy Solak, Federal Hwy Administration
- Frederic Township Fire Dept & EMS
- Mitch Salhaney, Grayling Fish Hatchery

The 2025 season is shaping up nicely and we already have commit-

ments from Michigan DNR Wildlife Biologist Bruce Barlow, Sheriff of Crawford County Ryan Swope, George Charney with Night Skies over Lovells Township, Author and Historian Dave Jankowski. Stay tuned for the rest of the line up - mark your calendars for the following dates:

January 23rd

February 6th & 20th

March 6th & 20th

April 3rd & 17th

Richard Perry and John Porteous continue to create interesting and

educational streaming content in our podcast The Backcast. There has now been more than 14,000 downloads of the Backcast.

2024 included interviews with Circuit Court Judge George Mertz, Michigan Natural Resource Commissioner John Walters and Rod Builder Chris Sparkman.

If you know someone who would be a good addition to Hot Stove or the Backcast please let us know.

Message from the President

Dear Friends and Patrons. As we enter the Thanksgiving season; I would like to offer my thanks to you all for another successful season. We've had some great exhibits and fun events!

I would like to take a moment to call out Bob Weed of the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation, Howard Johnson of Cedars for the Au Sable, Joe Snapper and Brandy Solack of the Mason Griffith Founders TU chapter, Julie Rubson from Headwaters Conservancy along with Joyce and Al Haxton of the Anglers of the Au Sable for their participation in this year's display celebrating our local conservation

groups. Their contributions and creativity made for a fantastic main display.

I would also like to recognize our board members for their participation in organizing and executing this year's BBB and Fall Upland Fundraisers. I feel very confident that we'll be back with an even better Fall Upland Event next fall.

On a personal note; this marks my 5th year with the Lovells Township Historical Society. It has been a pleasure to meet and interact with all of our friends & patrons and to have led such an amazing organization. However, it is now time for

me to move on and allow others to have as much fun as I have had. I hope you will offer the board and the Historical Society your continued outstanding support.

If you have ever had any inclination to become involved with LTHS, either as a board member or as a weekend volunteer; there's no time like the present to make yourself known. You may always get in touch with the board through our email account LTHSMuseums@gmail.com

Please accept our best wishes for a fantastic holiday season. Thanks & Best Wishes, John Porteous



LTHS

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The Backcast Podcast is available on our website or through a variety of streaming services including Apple, Spotify and Podbean.

Donations are the main source of funding for our Historical Society.

They make our events and activities possible and help with the Museum operations. Your financial contributions are much appreciated.

YES! I WANT TO HELP

(please and provide your info below, your receipt will be mailed to you)

Donation Amount \$ _____

I've enclosed an extra \$5 for a LTHS decal. Please send one with my receipt.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST & Zip: _____

** Email: _____

*****Please provide your e-mail and get all the latest news and updates throughout the year while helping us control mailing costs. We do not share your email address.***

LTHS is a 501(C)(3) Organization

Please and make checks payable to:

Lovells Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 2505

Grayling, MI 49738