

Lovells Township Historical Society

Inside this issue:

Collection Corner	2
Bamboo Rodmaking Exhibit for 2025	3
Mail Drop on 612	3
Message from the President	4
Donations/Memberships	4

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Lucky Volunteer

Yes, it happens. With all volunteer run organizations, active members eventually round third base and start heading for home. Those members need to be replaced by like minded, capable folks who have a passion for the cause and bring skills to the organization.

I have had the great pleasure to be part of the Lovells Township Historical Society since 2002 when we planned the new log building which became the Trout Fishing Museum.

During that 23 years I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with some

amazing people, learning about the rich history of Lovells and our North Branch and sharing it with a wide and appreciative audience.

Subjects such as Early Settlers, the Douglas Hotel, Lodges (their members and caretakers), Riverboats, Guides, Fly Tiers, Bamboo Rod Builders and the Demise of the Michigan Grayling and introduction of Trout, the Geological Formation of the Au Sable Watershed made for fascinating and worthy exhibits.

Events such as Hot Stove Night, Historic Lodge

Tours, Beaver Beer and Banjo, The Log Drive and the Leaky Wader 1 K Fun Run were all volunteer driven and have added to the fabric of our little community.

Now, you don't have to be an antique to be involved with our Historical Society. This newsletter will advise you of upcoming subjects and events that will continue the good work of this volunteer organization. But we need volunteers. So, get involved. Contact a board member and begin a rewarding experience as another Lucky Volunteer!

We Can't Get Enough History

Do you live in or are you visiting Lovells Township?

The Lovells Township Historical Society (LTHS) is in the process of gathering information and artifacts to add to Lovells Township's documented history. We are interested in hearing from you on the following topics:

When did you first come to

Lovells Township?

What was the purpose of your visit?

Describe your interaction with the area from that time until the present.

What activities do you participate in?

Did you purchase property or a home in the area?

If so, in what year?

Are you a resident?

Do you have any pictures, documents or artifacts that illustrate your history in Lovells Township that you are willing to share?

We want to document the stories of our current residents and visitors.

Memberships are Back

Were you once a member of the LTHS? Well, we are going to offer that privilege again. It's not going to get you discounts or free admission (our museums are free to all) but it will warm your heart and it will help our board anticipate part of

our annual revenue. It also gives us some statistics to share with corporate and private foundations when we seek grants.

You can join on our new website (lovellshistory.org) or you can send in the form

on the back page of this newsletter.

So please consider joining us a member. You'll have our undying thanks and the warm glow of knowing you're helping us continue.



LTHS Decals Now Available!

\$5 Each

Request one with your donation or via email.

Collection Corner

We are in the process of trying to raise some grant money to build a digital exhibit platform. Think big, touchscreen, monitors where you can scroll, search and view curated collections of photos, documents and stories.

Did you know that our collection includes over 2,000 documents and photographs? There will never be enough real estate to display all of them at once but a digital platform will, theoretically, make it possible to display it all in the space of one or two 55 inch televisions. Stay tuned to our website and the newsletter to learn about our progress, but in the meantime here's a taste of the collection.



Chief David Shoppenagon early 1900's



Elm Run Lodge (near McMaster's Bridge)

Left to right...Dan Stephan, Jack McMasters, John Stephan, Vinegar Bill Christensen, George Stephan (seated)



John Kellogg with the stonework for High Bank Lodge

Bamboo Rodmaking Exhibit for 2025

The 2025 exhibit in the trout Fishing Museum will be Bamboo Rodmaking. We will have static and media based displays featuring the various aspects and related subjects pertaining to creating Bamboo or cane fly rods. The material and tools needed as well as the process and some of the people in the craft will be explored and on display for

your entertainment and information.

Additionally we will be making a bamboo rod over the course of the season in the museum. Several rod makers will participate and the sessions will be live streamed on our Facebook. If you have an interest in bamboo fly rods this will present an

opportunity to meet and talk with some accomplished rod makers and see how it all goes together.

The finished rod will be offered for auction and the drawing will be at the fall upland event Oct 11th.

We look forward to seeing you in the museum.



Leaky Waders IK and the Lovells Arts & Crafts Fair

Plans are coming along nicely for the sixteenth annual Leaky Waders Fun Run. We are making registration available online for the first time (www.lovellshistory.org) and we've got a great group of artists coming to sell their work. This year we welcome Grayling fine artist Dan Feldhauser (<https://www.danfheldhauser.com>), fly fishing artist Stacy McKellip (<https://www.stacymckellipstudios.com>), Chicago ceramic artist Debi Anderson, local artists Nathan Baker, Nancy Klein and Chris White, and Grand Rapids/Traverse City based Cabin Lamp Designs (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/CabinLampDesigns>).

And, of course, some of our conservation friends will be on hand to share information. Hope you can make it!



Mail Drop on County Road 612

This charming structure sits just off County Road 612, just north of town. I'll be honest, I always thought this was a doghouse. It must have a story, I thought, but it looks like a doghouse. Turns out it was a kind of post office or, more specifically, a mail drop.

We don't seem to have much information about it but we do know that Randy Sellers owns the property it is on and he intends to restore it. Maybe we can learn a little more about it while he does. If you have any information please help. Who built it? When was it built? Are there any old photos out there?

Message from the President

Greetings from the Lovells Township Historical Society! The 2025 season is here, and we invite you to visit our museums and attend our events. First, we have some updates to share regarding our leadership and the upcoming 2025 season. Following our December elections, the new officers of the board are:

- * President: Richard Perry
- * Vice President: Sally Brand
- * Secretary: Lyle Kearns
- * Treasurer: George Charney

Both Sally Brand and I have previously served as President. Lyle Kearns and George Charney are continuing in their respective roles. I would like to express our sincere gratitude to John Porteous for his dedicated service as President over the past three years. John curated some of our most exceptional exhibits and made significant strides in integrating WIFI and media-based presentations into our programs. We are deeply appreciative of the contributions of all our board members and volunteers.

You may have noticed that we have launched a new website and email address. Lyle Kearns is spearheading our efforts to enhance our financial and business systems. You can expect to receive regular newslet-

ters and updates through our social media and website.

Events for this year include the traditional trout opener on April 26th, including the craft show, Leaky Waders fun run, and hot dog lunch. It will also be opening day for the museums. You can register for the Leaky Waders run in advance at www.lovellshistory.org. The Schoolhouse will be doing another iteration of the quilting and fabric display that was so well received in the past. The Trout Fishing Museum will offer Bamboo Rod Making. In addition to several static and media-based displays, we will be making a bamboo rod in the museum this year. We have several rod makers lined up to help out with this project and it will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. If you have an interest in bamboo rods, this is an opportunity to see the process and talk with some rod makers. A new feature this year is a computer-based mapping app detailing the fishing access points on the North Branch. This will be available in the Trout Fishing Museum for your convenience.

We have a couple of ideas for a mid-summer event, and the fall upland hunting dinner and get-together will be on October 11th. Stay tuned to our new web-

site, www.lovellshistory.org and our Facebook page for details on these events and our other activities. If you would like to be involved with our events or activities or help out in the Museums, please get in touch. Our email is info@lovellshistory.org. Finally, we would like to express our thanks and gratitude for your support in the past, and we look forward to seeing you again this year in the museums and at the events.

Richard Perry



LTHS

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Website: www.lovellshistory.org

Email: info@lovellshistory.org

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. Memberships suggest an annually recurring contribution (that can be cancelled at anytime) but you are free to simply donate as well.

YES! I WANT TO BE A MEMBER!

Join On-line at www.lovellshistory.org

or mail in this form.

Contributing Member \$20

Patron \$50

Benefactor \$150

Legacy \$300