

# Les Cheneaux

By Helen Shoberg

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The Antique Wooden Boat Show is over for another year, and after that great event, it always seems that summer is winding down. This year, however, the weather has stayed warm, with more of the same predicted. Many families are leaving because of school starting, along with football practice, but those of us who are fortunate enough to stay will enjoy the fine weather.

Martin and Chris Tuckett of St. Ledger's Island in Hessel are happy to have Chris's daughter, Sarah Pizzedaz, and her friend, Jason Thomas, visiting from Columbus, Ohio. Sarah and Jason are planning a September wedding in Columbus, and we wish them well.

A bit of Les Cheneaux history came to me from Bruce Patrick that many may find interesting. As Bruce tells it:

"Mr. Buttolph was a bachelor who came to the Les Cheneaux area through Richards. Richards bought a piece of land on Rief's Point near the southeast end of Rief's Point. He was between the tip of this point and Jack Andrews. Jack was the captain on Rief's cruiser. He had a house just inside of Rief's big cottage on the end of the point.

"Just northwest of Jack Andrews' house was the Richards' cottage. Richards' was built 'inside out,' that is, it was all framed up and all the tongue and groove siding was put on the inside, so it was called the 'inside out house,' a very strange way to build.

"Mr. Buttolph was invited to stay with the Richards the first summer that he came to Les Cheneaux. Mr. Buttolph fell in love with the shoreline on the south side of Middle Entrance. So he was able to buy all the point from the meridian line to the end of the point. This point had Peck's Bay on the south side and Middle Entrance on the northwest side. It was about a mile long and quite a chunk of land with water on both sides. Peck's Bay had very poor water, but he wanted to build on the north end of what is now Muskalunge Channel.

"First, he had Dad build a triple boathouse. Dad built a three-slip boat house with the possibility of making living quarters over the boat slips, which they never did. In a couple of years, they had Pat Merbaugh come and deepen the water in the entrance to the boat wells, so this

helped when a southeast wind came into Middle Entrance.

"Mr. Buttolph had three motor boats. The main one was a 26-foot runabout that Mr. Buttolph called *Tired of Indianapolis*; he was from Indianapolis. The next was a Dodge 26-footer with a six-cycle Chrysler, and a third boat was a Dodge 18-footer. This smaller boat was for the cook to use. The cook would go in the boat to visit the help at the Les Cheneaux Club in the evening.

One of these trips during the night, he ran on a rock that was in the Club Cut. He tore the whole propeller shaft right out of the boat. He did not know how much damage he had done to the hull, but he knew it was leaking. He drifted over to the shore where the water was four feet deep, and sank to the bottom there. He put a wicker chair on deck and just sat until daylight, when the first boat came by and rescued him. Mr. Buttolph came up here for years."

There is more to this story, and I shall continue it next week.

In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful weather.

**Ensign B Fleet Series Continues**  
Sheelagh Knapp reports that after a disappointing cancellation of the first race in the post-season B Fleet Series due to a complete lack of wind, the second day of racing was a rousing success. Eight boats participated in almost perfect conditions, and although the wind was light, everyone agreed that it was a delightful break from the strong blows that we've had most of this summer.

In third place was *Sunrunner* with Fred Moore at the helm, after taking a third in the first race and a fifth in the second. In second place, *LilM*, skippered by LeRoy Pieri, tied with *Katogi*, skippered by Chuck Letts; each came in second and fourth in the two races of the day.

The father and daughter team of Andy and Heather Bohn, who took turns at the helm of *Chether*, won both races.

"The victory was just in time for Heather's 11th birthday, and she gave herself a nice present by crossing the finish line far ahead of the other boats. The Birkmeiers and the LaBelles had better watch out in the future, because Heather has quite a talent for racing," said Ms. Knapp.

The final race of this series will be in Government Bay Wednesday, August 20.

# Brevort

We've met some new people over the summer, some from the Brevort Lake Association meeting a couple of weeks ago. The Caroffino family, Bill and Marty and Dave and Jami, shared a picnic table with us, and were great dinner companions. Bill is an Evangelical Free minister and Marty is a retired registered nurse doing medical transcription from their home. Their son, Dave, has an extensive knowledge of the fisheries, game, and environment, having a doctorate in that field, and he will be working in Charlevoix at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He will specifically be working with Great Lakes Tribal Treaties and sports fishermen, as he is a fish biologist. Jami, their daughter-in-law, is associated with Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey. The family has a cottage on Brevort Lake.

Dave Movalson Jr. celebrated his birthday at home with his parents and Joe Stewart, Lorie Quigley, Charlie Movalson, and Andy Movalson Saturday, August 9.

On a walk on Shore Road, I met Gordon Knight and his daughter, Kathryn, of Clarkston. She is visiting her parents, Gordon and Pat Knight of Wildwood Lane.

Sue and Bill Kanour were Friday morning callers, as were Joe Matelski and Mort Becker.

The Gustafson family has been enjoying their annual summer gatherings with cookouts and rides in the woods for picking blueberries. Pastor Tari and Hannah Stage-Harvey joined Joyce Gustafson and Sharon Smith Thursday for picking berries.

I observed Joe Chalmers doing his part to conserve gas as he biked up to the Rogers farm for eggs, and it was starting to sprinkle. Way to go, Joe.

Gordon Knight is downstate attending an Episcopal Church camp this week, where he is a lay leader.

Jamica Diamond shared some of her hollyhock plants with Anne Anderson and me. They are all planted and doing well.

Anne Andersen and Lynne and Roger VanDok have left for their homes; Anne to Bemidji, Minnesota, and the VanDoks to Denver, Colorado, with truck and car filled to the brim with frozen and canned

blueberries.

Horst and Ingrid Daemmrlich entertained Lorie Quigley, Joe Stewart, and Dave and me for dinner Wednesday evening.

Pega and John Kennedy's grandchildren, Allen and Danielle, spent a few days this week with them on Wildwood Lane. Their mother, Chrissy Becker, and brother, Jacob, are preparing the family for a move back to Cheboygan.

Owen and Barb Jorgensen sailed to Mackinac Island this week with Mike and Melanie Jorgensen and family. Mike has the boat at the St. Ignace Marina.

Minnie Gustafson will be celebrating her 90th birthday Tuesday, August 26. This would be an opportunity to send a card to her at Gulf Coast Village, 1331 Santa Barbara Boulevard, #149, Cape Coral, Florida 33991.

Happy birthday to Bing Binger August 26, and Belinda Lamb August 28.

The local businesses have been relatively busy, despite the price of gas.

Get well wishes to Mary Weiss as she deals with health issues. Rebecca Weiss will be coming home from Wyoming, where she has been working this summer and will be attending college at Black Hills University. Jake will be back at Alma College this year after a busy summer at the marina.

Bob Flora's family arrived for Bob's memorial, which was Saturday, August 16. They include Mike and Judy Flora and family from Homer, Alaska, Maria and Hank Boots and family of Denver, Colorado, Kot and Larry Granahan and family of Iowa City, Iowa, Margie Flora of California, Sue and Bill Kanour and family of Hawaii, and Anne Flora Ryan and John Ryan of Tecumseh. Some of the grandchildren live in other parts of the country.

More than 80 friends, neighbors, and family gathered at the fellowship hall at Trinity Lutheran Church in the village of Brevort Saturday to bid a fond and bittersweet farewell to the late Bob Flora. A montage of old and new pictures of Bob and Margaret's life, and their family, was continuously shown. Many memories were shared, and stories told. Faces lit up with smiles and some tears were shed.

By Lois Movalson  
292-5581



After the gathering broke up, some of the family went upstairs to the church sanctuary. Mike Flora sat in a pew with his arm around the urn of Bob's ashes. Nothing much was said as we sat in quiet contemplation.

The family has a book of letters from many acquaintances recounting his many acts of generosity, helpfulness, and concern of others.

Sunday was family time for all of the Flora kids, their spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren – one being fourth generation, Rocco Luigi Flora, who is 14 months old. The Alaskan grandsons secured a sailboat from Lorie Quigley, and sailed it from Brevort proper to the Flora home mile and a half away. The boat has been a great source of recreation for these Alaskan fishermen and their cousins. As the weather cooperated, swimming and sunbathing were the order of the day.

Sunday was reserved for the traditional Italian spaghetti and meatball dinner using the old family recipe. Tracy, Dave, Jr., Dave and I, along with Gio, Betty, and Crystal Giordani, friends from Iowa, joined the family for dinner and more stories. Later, Bob's ashes were scattered in Lake Michigan by his family and friends. As the sun went down, a luminary was lighted and protected from the wind by a cylinder of parchment paper signed by all present, placed on a small water craft designed by Mr. Flora's son-in-law, Bill Kanour, and set afloat in Lake Michigan by eight hardy swimmers. We watched as it floated east and then disappeared from sight. A bonfire burned as we gathered around, toasting Bob with Gio's wine. We watched the fireworks set off by the grandchildren.

One has to wonder if this wonderful family will ever again congregate in the late summer on the shores of Lake Michigan to think of their lives with Margaret and Bob Flora, two extraordinary people who passed through our lives here in the village. It was a great privilege to have known them.

# Snowmobile Club Will Celebrate 41st Anniversary

The Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Club will celebrate its 41st anniversary with an open house and swap meet Saturday, October 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Snowmobile Clubhouse in Cedarville. Movies and slides will be shown of the club's activities for the past 41 years. Jane Hicks, Dale Dunn, and the Clark Township Winter Rescue team will attend.

The Mackinac County Sheriff's Office will be offering a free snowmobile safety course for students ages 12 to 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the same day at the Les Cheneaux Community Schools. Students must turn 12 by April 1, 2009, to attend the course.

Students can pre-register by October 1 by contacting Frank Harness at fharness@lighthouse.net. The course is available to the first 60 students to register. After that, students will be put on a waiting list. Participants will receive a Department of Natural Resources patch and a safety certificate.

For more information, contact Jeri Griffin at 484-3945.

# Cedarville Veterans Park Dedication Will Be August 31

A dedication ceremony for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Veterans Memorial Park, created at the Cedarville RV Resort to honor veterans of the military services, including the Coast Guard, will be Sunday, August 31, at 1 p.m.

The public, Coast Guard, military service members, and veterans are invited to this dedication ceremony. Veterans of World War II are invited in particular.

All military services and the Coast Guard are represented by owners of lots in the resort, and it is they who have created this small park in memory of those who have served and are serving.

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Gem and Diamond Specialist of Lapeer County, one of Michigan's largest buyers of gold and silver since 1983, will be visiting Mackinaw City to purchase the following for top dollar: old wedding bands, class rings, broken gold chains and bracelets, silver coins, dental crowns, diamonds and platinum. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 23 at the Holiday Inn Express in Mackinaw City, 364 Louvigny. Free appraisal while you wait, instant payment, no appointment is necessary. Gold is at a recent high so this is a good time to sell broken or unwanted items. For more information, call (800) 522-7829, (810) 724-7829 or cell# (313) 510-0928.  
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# Karen E. DenBesten, MD

## Infectious Diseases

Join us in welcoming Karen E. DenBesten, MD, to the Northern Michigan Regional Hospital medical staff.

Dr. DenBesten received her fellowship training in Infectious Diseases from Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center/Cook County Hospital in Chicago. She is board certified in both Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine and specializes in general Infectious Diseases, HIV/AIDS, Travel Medicine, and Hepatitis C.

Dr. DenBesten is proud to join the specialists of Northern Michigan Regional Hospital, where your health is her specialty.

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