



Newcomers News

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

April
2010

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VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

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Join us for the April Program:

Doug Stanton An Evening with a Local Author

Tuesday, April 27, 2010
6:30 PM

Traverse Area District Library
610 Woodmere Avenue
Traverse City

Did you miss the chance to hear Traverse City's own Doug Stanton speak at the sold out author presentation at the Opera House last year? Here's your second chance!

The author's best selling book *The Horse Soldier* is the riveting story of the first large American unconventional warfare operation since WWII. Doug will detail how, following 9/11, Special Forces rode to war on horses to fight the Taliban in Afghanistan. With unprecedented direct access to the military, his telling of the making of this book will captivate you. In addition, he will discuss his book *In Harm's Way*, about the USS Indianapolis sunk in WWII, and the National Writers Series, a year-round book festival in downtown Traverse City, now in its second season.

A former contributing editor at *Esquire*, *Sports Afield*, *Outside*, and a current contributing editor at *Men's Journal*, Doug's experiences and style make for a special evening. Doug will take questions following his talk. Space is limited so come early!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse is a social and civic organization whose purpose is to extend a welcoming hand to people living in the Grand Traverse area. The Newcomers Club also provides opportunities to meet and to socialize with other relocated people, sharing common interests.

Visit us on the web
at
gtnewcomers.org

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PRESIDENTS' NOTE

April 2010



Bob Pelto & Susanne Bonner

April is a time of rebirth or emergence; the receding winter snow cover supplanted by ever expanding patches of bare ground and the first fingers of green pointing at the welcoming sun are only a morning's coffee away. The bird's winter dirge recomposed for welcoming ears to spring's merry tunes.

April is also the start of a period of metamorphosis in the Newcomers Club. Next year's club leaders will be accepting the helm and the exiting board members will be disembarking. Meet the new leadership at the **Ranch Rudolf Hootenanny** and consider joining the leadership next year.

Club activities are changing with the season. Skiing, snowshoeing, and indoor games are put in layaway, with golf, boating, gardening, and those guests from downstate the new priority.

Jim Neibauer and **Marshall Persky**, our co-vice presidents, have arranged impressive monthly programs all year and to finish out the Newcomer season the following are the icing on the cake:

- The April program in the library features author **Doug Stanton**.
- May will find us at **Chateau Chantal** tasting wine.
- Early June is the **Ranch Rudolf hootenanny**.
- The end of June will be the picnic at **Bowers Harbor Park**.

And for something different, **Del Johnson** proposed an outing to watch the mating habits of the **American Woodcock**. For those under 18, you must have a note from your mother to attend : -) Details elsewhere in this newsletter and on the website.

Susanne and Bob



Mark your calendars for upcoming events:

Tuesday, May 11: Wine-Tasting event at Chateau Chantal. We are trying to get an estimate of the number of attendees. **Please call or send an email message to Karen Spencer if you are planning to attend this event.** Karen can be reached at 946-3365 or at kspencerc@charter.net.

Saturday, June 5: Ranch Rudolf "Hootenanny". This event has been scheduled a few weeks later than usual with the hope of warmer weather than in past years. Many activities will be available, and we will reprise the line-dancing event from last year. Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

Field Trip to Observe the Mating Ritual of the American Woodcock

It's April and the stage is set. The curtain goes up at dusk, and although the stage show is rated X, general audiences are admitted. Put on your boots and grubby clothes. Come out and join **Mike Hanson**, a retired Conservation Officer, and **Del Johnson** to observe the mating ritual of the American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*).

Upon returning to Michigan in the spring the male woodcock begins its mating ritual in the evenings as the sun sets. He performs his ritual in a small opening or along the edge of abandon fields that are succeeding back to forests. He is first heard by the 'Peent' sound as he struts and dances on the ground. A minute or two later he leaps into the air to perform a spiraling flight around the opening, generating a twittering sound as air moves through his wing feathers. It is during his flight that it is possible for the observers to reposition closer to where the male will began his dance. When the male descends back to his original dancing area the overhead sound changes to a 'Twitch'...'Twitch'...'Twitch' pattern as his flight takes a zigzag course. This is the signal to the observers to 'drop down close to the ground and NOT MOVE'. If you're fortunate enough to locate close to the dancing site you might hear a hiccup sound that precedes the 'Peent' sound as the male continues his ritual.

When I observed my first woodcock mating ritual, under the direction of a Forestry Professor, one of the students had the returning woodcock land on his back. The student began to laugh as the hiccup sound made the bird sound like it was intoxicated. Failure to remain quiet and still while the bird was on the ground cause the woodcock to exit the scene and for the curtain to fall.

Mike and I will look for a nearby breeding area when the Woodcock return to the area in April. An email notice will be sent to the Newcomer members when a date, time and place have been picked. There probably will only be a two- or three-day notice, so have your waterproof boots and field clothes ready to join us when the mating begins.

This year the mating season appears to be starting almost 2 weeks early, probably due to a mild winter. The returning Woodcocks have already been spotted in southern Michigan.

We try to limit the group size to 20 persons; if there is a large response we may have more than one group. E-mail or call Del Johnson to be put on the alert listing.

Think Spring!

Del Johnson

E-mail djohnson@north-point-solutions.com
Ph 668-9633



ACTIVITY GROUPS

BIKING GROUP

Saturday, April 17, 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 for 5-7 miles turn around and come back.

If you are interested in joining please contact Don Eastway at cadillac2154@yahoo.com or phone 231-884-1106.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 6, 10:00 AM

Our April selection is *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* by Bich Minh Nguyen, a coming of age memoir written by a Vietnamese refugee who grew up in Western Michigan in the 1980's. Susanne Bonner will lead the discussion.

Our May selection is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

We meet the first Tuesday of the month in the lower level of Horizon Books at 10:00 am. We go to lunch following the discussion. For information, call Letha Cairns at 231-271-6831 or gcairns@chartermi.net.

BRIDGE

TEAM BRIDGE:

First Friday of each month (except June-Aug.), 7:00 PM at Cedar Creek Commons. Bring a snack to share. New members are always welcome (bring a partner). Call Georgia Stoeber, 938-5846.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE:

2nd Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM, at Scott's Harbor Grille.
Call Judy Owen, 922-9619.

4th Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM, at G's, 1500 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City.
Call Judy Owen, 922-9619.

NOTE: Both men and women are welcome to play in these afternoon bridge groups.

MIXED PARTY BRIDGE:

3rd Friday of the month, 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 25, 5:30 PM

What better way to *celebrate* the start of Spring than a lovely drive to the charming, rustic, award winning *Trattoria Funistrada*. The restaurant is located in a beautiful rural setting — 4566 MacFarlane, Burdickville, (Glen Arbor, 231-334-3900). One needs only to follow the captivating aroma of garlic to find their way!

"GARLIC" (gar'lik) garlek garleac = *allium sativum* member of the lily family, strong smelling bulb made up of small sections called cloves; used as a seasoning. Has been exploited as an aphrodisiac.....and now that I have your attention!

Cocktails and conversation at 5:30 PM, followed by a complimentary antipasto plate. We will order from the menu and drinks are on your own.

Due to the small size of the restaurant it will be necessary to RSVP by April 18th to Michele Richard at 944-5844 or marichard43@yahoo.com only if you are attending. Join in the fun, food and friends and bring someone new along.

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 also involved.

The groups are more social rather than serious, so don't be hesitant to join if you haven't played in a while or are a newer player. If you have a rudimentary understanding of the game and want to join in the fun, contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net or call 231-668-6490.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, April 8

The Film Group is a casual fun group made up of people 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 website for specifics.

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Judy Peltó at jpeltó1@charter.net or 231-668-6490.

FISHING

Ice fishing season is mostly finished but spring steelhead have moved into the rivers. Trout season usually begins the last Saturday of April. I remind everyone that your 2009 fishing license expires at the end of March 2010; don't forget to renew it.

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

GOLF

Keep thinkin' spring and pretty soon we will be on the golf course swinging away. We are looking forward to new as well as returning golfers this year. The group is open to men and women at all skill levels. This is one more opportunity for Newcomers to get together and have fun.

We play each Monday. Most players opt for 18 holes but feel free to stop at 9. I will need to know if you are playing by the Friday before Monday's round. Just call Ralph Brickman at 231-223-4584 or email brickmanbus@yahoo.com. Once everyone has arrived at the course we will use a draw to determine foursomes.

The schedule is shaping up quite well and the dates are listed below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Course#</u>
May 3	Crown	10:00	231-946-2975
May 10	Leelanau Club	10:00	231-271-2020
May 17	A-Ga-Ming Torch	10:00	888-678-0126
May 24	Sugar Loaf Old Course	10:00	231-228-2040
June 7	Briar North	9:30	231-885-1220
June 14	Pinecroft	9:30	231-882-9100
June 21	Crown	9:30	231-946-2975
June 28	Timberwolf	9:30	231-258-5685
July 12	Emerald Vale	9:30	231-824-3631
July 19	Dunes	9:30	231-326-5390
July 26	Briar North	9:30	231-885-1220
Aug 2	Elmbrook	9:30	231-946-9180
Aug 9	Crown	9:30	231-946-2975
Aug 16	Champion Hills	9:30	231-882-9200
Aug 23	Grandview	9:30	231-258-3244
Aug 30	Twin Birch	9:30	231-258-9691
Sept 13	Mistwood	10:00	231-275-5500
Sept 20	Crystal Mountain	10:00	800-968-7686
Sept 27	Emerald Vale	10:00	231-824-3631
Oct 4	Leelanau Club	10:00	231-271-2020
Oct 11	Crown	10:00	231-946-2975

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, April 26, 10:00 AM

The book selection for April is *Sea of Glory* by Nathaniel Philbrick. This is an account of the U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842 which explored and mapped the coast of Antarctica and the Pacific Ocean. As an information gathering effort sponsored by the U.S. Government, it rivals (perhaps exceeds) the Lewis and Clark expedition. The collections of artifacts ultimately became the basis for the creation of the Smithsonian Institution.

The club meets in the lower level of Horizon Books the fourth Monday of each month at 10:00 AM. New members are welcome whether you have read the book or not. We sometimes go to lunch at a local restaurant following the meeting.

Contact Pete Albers for questions and information, phalbers99@gmail.com or 922-7289.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, April 14, 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.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, April 14, 1:00 PM

We will have lunch at Season's Buffet, which is located in the Turtle Creek Casino. The website says that Season's Buffet "has something for everyone". Its menu is "loaded with regional and ethnic favorites such as American, Asian, Italian, and Spanish cuisines". Turtle Creek Casino is located 4 miles east of Traverse City on M-72 in Williamsburg.

Contact Sis Leake at 929-7036 by **Monday, April 12**, for reservations. We will meet at Tom's East Bay Plaza near Dunham's and we will carpool to the restaurant.

POKER

Tuesday, April 6, 1:30 PM

The poker group usually meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1:30 PM—4:30 PM and summer hours of 6:30 PM—9:30 PM. The group meets on a rotating basis at each member's home. The game is small stakes,

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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(5¢, 10¢, 25¢), 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 held on Tuesday, April 6, from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. The host for the April meeting will be Jim Neibauer. Please contact Jim by phone or e-mail or the group coordinator if you plan to attend. Jim's e-mail is jeneibauer2@charter.net.

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

QUILTING

Tuesday, April 13, 1:00 PM

The Newcomer Quilt Group will meet at Beth Hoover's home (8541 N. Gills Pier Rd., Northport) on Tuesday, April 13. Beth will show us all of her quilts and Japanese fabrics. Bring a show and tell to share with the group.

RSVP to Beth and Pauline -- (CasaHoover@aol.com, 231-386-5639 or jwatt1107@charter.net, 231-929-1107).

SOLOS

Wednesday, April 21

On April 21 (with a rain date of the 28th) the Solos Group (and anyone else who would like to attend) will be heading south at 10:00 AM -- but only to Saginaw. We will be going to lunch at a Japanese restaurant that I'm told is good and then going to the Japanese Cultural center for a walk through their gardens before or after we attend the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Cost of the ceremony will be between \$8 to \$16 plus a share of the gas and cost of your lunch. Call Judy at 922-9619 if you would like to join us.

Sunday, April 25, 11:00 AM

We will be attending the Empty Bowls Fundraiser at the Haggerty Center at 11:00 AM. We will meet there and grab a table. So look for us. Cost for the lunch and bowl is \$15 (we think). It runs from 11 to 2 if you can't make it early.

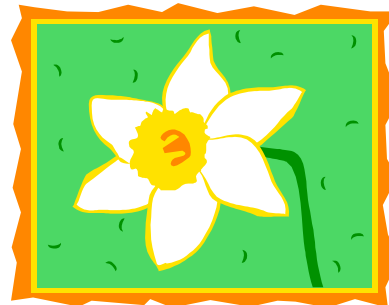
VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

Thursday, April 15, 2:30 PM

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 usually slow. It is designed to introduce you to the State and help you determine whether you'd like to move to a busier time on your own. You are more than welcome to remain at this less active level too. Sometimes we have more volunteers than theater-goers.

We work on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2:30 PM to 5:15 PM. Join us for dinner after if you have time.

Contact Jody Bennett if you would like to be added to the list of potential volunteers, bennettjj@charter.net, 932-9249.



Activity Group Leaders Needed

Leaders (or co-leaders) are needed for the following Activity Group for the 2010-11 club year:

- **Solos:** This group gets together a few times each month, generally to attend community activities together.

If you are interested in helping out the club by leading this group, please contact Pauline Watt at 231-360-3216 or email her at jwatt1107@charter.net.



From left to right:
Volunteer Kim Mays, homeowner Jackie Spears, Ralph Brickman, volunteer Bob Walker, Lori Brickman, Tom Custance and Patti Custance.



“I Ain’t Helpless, I Just Need Help”

These words were spoken several years ago in Gulfport, MS following the devastation of Katrina. Unfortunately, they are still true today.

Recently, Newcomers Tom and Patti Custance accompanied fellow Newcomers Ralph and Lori Brickman for a third and final relief mission to that area. There they spent a week with nine others representing the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City to help in the rebuilding process. Even after nearly five years there is much to do and a dwindling work force to do it.

The volunteers spent their time attacking a variety of projects. This included interior painting of the whole house (two coats including inside the closets), attaching kitchen cabinets, laying sub floor in three rooms, tiling those three rooms, putting up closet shelving and poles, building a stand for the air conditioner, finishing porch building and railings, as well as hanging siding and soffit covering. A second site required electrical hookups and drywall work. All in all a good week, but there were some muscles that screamed their protests. Late night TV was not much of an option for the exhausted workers.

A striking memory is the fact that much of the area remains untouched except for the cleanup. Many lots are still vacant with just steps leading to nowhere or a cement slab where a home/business once stood. Along the coast our estimate is that only about 15-20% of the buildings have been rebuilt.

The healing continues, but the scars still show.

Editor’s note: the article and accompanying photos were submitted by Tom Custance, Past-President of the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse.

Patronize our sponsors

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946-9644

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130 South Union St., TC
231-922-1422
231-357-5577 (cell)

BATA- Public Transportation

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947-2080

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225 E. 14th St., TC
947-6820

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www.dgncpa.com

Dennos Museum Center

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Grand Traverse Children's Clinic

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935-8822

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Dr. Kim Anderson
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946-5816

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4000 S. M-137 Hwy.
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231-276-7200

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935-0555

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Pat Westbrook 929-1830

Merrill Lynch

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

New store: Hammond Rd./3 Mi.
3850 N. Long Lake Rd. TC
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

Precision Plumbing & Heating

2829 Cass Rd., T.C.
231-947-0100 or
231-275-5273

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Recycle Hotline 941-5555

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947-6347

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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

Traverse Magazine

148 E. Front St., TC
941-8174



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