

# Michigan Hemingway SOCIETY



## Fall 1999 Newsletter

<http://www.upnorth.net/hemingway>

PO Box 953

Petoskey, MI 49770-2039

### MHS Plans Fall Conference

The Michigan Hemingway Society has planned a string of interesting activities for the fall conference, scheduled for Petoskey from October 15-17, 1999.

#### Friday, October 15, 1999

Reception, Perry Hotel, 6:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jack Jobst

Topic: Ernest's 1916 Summer Camping Trip to Michigan

#### Saturday, October 16, 1999

Car Caravan to Kalkaska, site of "Light of the World." Depart Perry Hotel 9:00 a.m.

Used book sale (to be announced)

Dinner, Bay View Inn:

Keynote Speaker: Jim Plath

Topic: "Remembering Ernest Hemingway"

#### City of Petoskey Saturday Events:

\*"Run with the bulls" 1K and 5K. Begins 10 a.m., red handkerchiefs for all

\*Walking tours at 1, 2, and 3 p.m

\*Trolley tours at 1 and 2:30 with John Higgins.

\*Fly-tying and casting

\*Author's tent

#### Sunday, October 17, 1999

Breakfast: Perry Hotel

Speaker: Anne-Marie Oomen

Optional Canoe Trip

### Author of

### *Remembering Ernest Hemingway* to Speak at Fall Conference

James Plath, author of the recently published *Remembering Ernest Hemingway* (with Frank Simons), will speak to Michigan Hemingway Society members in October at the fall conference.

Plath is the editor-publisher of *Clockwatch Review* (a journal of the arts) and past-president of the Illinois College Press Association. He teaches literature, journalism, and creative writing. at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois.

*Remembering Ernest Hemingway* consists of thirteen interviews with family and friends of the famous author. The book was published this past May as a centennial tribute.

[Editor's note: *Remembering Ernest Hemingway* is available from the publisher, Ketch and Yawl Press, 513 Fleming, Key West, FL 33040. Email: KWBOOK@aol.com. ]

### Inside this issue:

- ✓ July Conference Highlights
- ✓ Nancy's True-Life Adventures
- ✓ Seney Museum's Hemingway Plans
- ✓ Fall conference schedule and registration form
- ✓ Michigan Art Park information
- ✓ Other important stuff

## MICHIGAN ART PARK & HEMINGWAY

Longtime member Art Wagner wrote to us about a sculpture installation David Barr just completed in the Michigan Legacy Art Park.

“It consists of a created dry riverbed and fragments of “Big Two Hearted River” engraved on boulders.

The park's theme is Michigan's development and history, integrating art and nature. A Native American pathway, a logging trail, a sculpture honoring the State tree, the white pine, and an amphitheater for performing arts can be found among several other features. Concerts, storytelling, and dance performances are given in July and August. Admission is free but donation boxes are available.

The park is conveniently located for those traveling to from Chicago through west Michigan and is a bit out of the way for those from southeast Michigan heading for the Michigan Hemingway Society's Oct. conference in Petoskey. The 30-acre park is adjacent to the Crystal Mt. Ski resort at Thompsonville, on M-115 (which runs through Cadillac, another setting used in Hemingway's short fiction).

It is newly installed, so it is not be on the map available at the entrance. To locate it, go to the high ridge between ‘Harbinger’ and ‘Wheels of Progress.’

More information: David Barr, 22600 Napier,  
Novi MI 48374

or: Michigan Legacy Art Park, P.O. Box 882,  
Harbor Springs MI 49740”

Thank you, muchas gracias, merci beaucoup,  
arigato gozaimas, danke schoën, mil grazie.....

Can't say it too many ways!!!!

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the **Michigan Humanities Council**. They awarded us eight Resource Grants to allow us to have so many excellent speakers at our July event without charging an enormous registration fee.

## A Note from Audrey

Hemingway's Michigan lives not only in his literature but also in the lakes, rivers, and hills he explored as a boy. Exploring for yourself is the best way to understand just how “truly” EH captured “a sense of place.”

In October, MHS will offer a canoe trip on the Bear River, which connects Walloon Lake with Little Traverse Bay. Don't miss this chance to paddle peaceful waters as part of getting to know the place Hemingway carried in his heart no matter where he went.

Check the “canoe trip” option on your conference registration form and learn why “best of all he loved the fall.....” -- Audrey McMullen

## President's Letter

HOW can it be time for our annual fall conference already? I am still tying up loose ends from July! I am, however, enormously excited about our upcoming gathering, for we have engaged some outstanding speakers for it.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our special Centennial conference such a huge success, and thanks to all of you who attended and enjoyed it with us! To those of you who couldn't make it to Petoskey in July, our condolences! You missed a fabulous experience. I have run out of superlatives to describe what a wonderful time we had.

I hope all of you will join us October 15-17 for another splendid autumn weekend in Petoskey. We have arranged to have great food, wonderful speakers, and the greatest fellowship available!

Best regards to all,

Charlotte Ponder, President, MHS

### **Conferees Tour Renovated Windemere Cottage**

On Saturday of the July conference, participants and MHS board members enjoyed a bus ride to several Petoskey area Nick Adams story sites, including the Hemingway family cottage, Windemere, on Lake Walloon, and the site of the Indian camp of the story by the same name. MHS board members George Beswick, Frank Hursley and Ken Marek conducted the tours.

At Walloon Lake, participants toured the newly restored and renovated Hemingway cottage, Windemere. "We were very fortunate," said Ken Marek, "that Ernest's nephew, Ernie Mainland, was present to guide us and describe the history of the cottage."

Mainland identified changes in the Hemingway family's summer home, offered family anecdotes, and answered questions. "This was a rare opportunity for all of us," said Marek, "since the cottage (which is Mr. Mainland's year-round home) probably will not be open for tours in the future."

The Walloon Lake portion of the tours also included a walk through the woods to the site of the actual Indian camp, which may have provided the backdrop for EH's story "Indian Camp."

From Walloon Lake, the buses proceeded to Horton Bay, where participants were able to see Hemingway memorabilia in the historic Horton Bay General Store, browse the bookstore in the adjacent Red Fox Inn, and then view the Dilworth cottages and Horton Bay itself. The cottages and the bay evoke scenes from such stories as "Up in Michigan," "Summer People," and "The End of Something."

\_K. M.

### **Michigan Writers Speak at July Conference**

Five Michigan writers spoke as a panel at the July Centennial conference. The speakers offered opinions on the influence of Ernest Hemingway on their own writings and the influence of Michigan on the Nobel Prize winner's development. Afterwards, the group autographed copies of their books, which were available in the lobby.

Conference participants heard from Tom Camey, Mike Delp, Jerry Dennis, Judith Guest and Gloria Whelan. Anne-Marie Oomen had also planned to speak, but because of a scheduling delay and an earlier commitment, she was unable to present her talk. We will have the pleasure, though, of hearing her presentation at our October conference.

From the comments heard afterwards, those attending greatly enjoyed the discussion. "A highlight of the Petoskey Conference," said one. "I greatly enjoyed the opportunity of seeing these people whom I have long admired."

The Conference theme, "Michigan in Hemingway: A Sense of Place," was the centerpiece for each talk; and the writers explained why Michigan acts as inspiration for them and for Ernest Hemingway.

Laughter was a common element during the talks, as the audience often learned personal details of the panelists' lives as writers, such as that some writers are more disciplined than others.

One audience member asked Judith Guest, author of Ordinary People, the bestseller made into a film directed by Robert Redford, if she used writing as therapy. "No," she replied. "I use therapy as therapy." The other panelists all agreed that their writing was not a tool for unraveling or solving personal problems, but for addressing issues about which they felt strongly.

Carole Underwood, who organized the panel, later commented that "Michigan can be proud of her writers, most of whom write about what they know best—the beauty of nature and the relationship between people and the natural world."—C. U.

## Nancy's True-Life Adventures

When your phone number is posted on the Internet at the Michigan Hemingway site, you can expect calls from all over the world, and sometimes meet the most fascinating people!

Because Audrey McMullen (the unofficial or "virtual" Registration Chair of the Michigan Hemingway Society) was going to be unavailable part of the winter and early spring, we needed a telephone contact for questions and early registrations for the bus trip between Oak Park and Petoskey.

"Sure," I said, "you may list my number," and then the fun began! I'd come home from work each evening to find one or two messages to return a call to California, to Alabama, to New York City, to Kansas, and even to Italy. Fortunately, the caller from Italy supplied her e-mail address. Some calls were just questions that needed clarification about events and schedules, or inquiries about when or where to send the checks.

Others were more challenging, wondering if a person could take the bus just one way to visit relatives in the vicinity, or would the return bus arrive in Chicago in time for them to catch their flight at 7 p.m. from O'Hare? Even after Audrey returned and our new website listed HER phone number, the calls kept coming.

And oh, those reporters! I heard from representatives of the *LA Times*, *USA Today*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Detroit Free Press*, and some smaller Michigan local papers. All of them had seen the earlier information on the web with my number, all of them asked me all kinds of questions about Hemingway, almost all of them got some of the facts garbled, and many of them quoted each other's misinformation. Some reporters were pleasant (but very vague about northwest Michigan's geography and Hemingway's life in Michigan), some were more harried, and at least two were so eager that they traveled to Petoskey in June for first-hand information.

One reporter, Greg Tasker from the *Baltimore Sun*, scheduled his visit to coincide with my vacation time in Petoskey. My husband Bill and I spent some delightful hours with this very nice young man. We began at the vertical files in the public library, continued at the City Grill for dinner, and finally Bill even gave him the 50-cent version of the Brad Leech city tour and an abbreviated Ken Marek Walloon Lake environs tour!

Greg actually had an interview-and lunch-with Irene Gordon. I almost had him to the point of membership in the Michigan Hemingway Society-maybe next year.

All in all it was fascinating. Most days my message light was busy blinking, and I talked with so many interested and interesting people. The Internet is a wonderful source for information, but some people still want a "real person" contact via the telephone. Just don't post my street address-I think some of those enthusiastic Hemingway callers would show up on my doorstep for dinner!

--- Nancy Nicholson, Michigan Hemingway Society Board Member    nnic@vlc.lib.mi.us

## Seney Museum to Add Hemingway Display

The citizens of Seney, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula, will be adding to their local museum this year thanks to a grant from the Michigan Council for the Humanities.

The grant will match local funds to pay for a display case highlighting Ernest Hemingway's 1919 fishing trip to the town, from which the author wrote one of his most famous stories, "Big Two-Hearted River." "I hope to include photographs of Hemingway and artifacts similar to what he mentions in his story," says Jack Jobst, of Michigan Tech University, who is in charge of the project. "I also want some discussion of the story in the display," he continued, "so visitors to Seney will know of the connection between the town and Hemingway's writing." (Continued on next page)

## Seney Museum (continued)

The current museum materials are housed in a small one-room building just north of the train tracks, but this will be expanded into the adjacent depot, which has been used for storage. The grand opening for all the improvements is set for early next summer.

## Have We Heard From You Lately?

If we haven't heard from you during the past three years, we're going to assume that you won't feel the earth quake when we stop sending you news about Michigan Hemingway Society activities.

On the other hand, if you'd still like to know about the interesting things we have planned, please let us know by sending your annual dues of \$10 to help cover the costs of keeping you informed.

Address your check (made out to Michigan Hemingway Society) to:

Audrey McMullen  
Michigan Hemingway Society  
PO Box 953  
Petoskey, MI 49770-2039

## COMPLIMENTARY BOOK BAGS

We hope you enjoyed the registration materials each full conferee received in our centennial book bag. The booklet about the Petoskey Stone was the gift of MHS board member Rosemary Horvath. Other "goodies" were contributed by Petoskey businesses which support our activities. When you have an opportunity to do business with these firms—to order jams from American Spoon Foods or books from McLean & Eakin—we'd appreciate it if you'd mention the Hemingway Society.

--A.M.

## Michigan Hemingway Society Board Board Members

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## Bus Follows Historic Oak Park to Petoskey Route

Thirty bus passengers traveled the historic route from Oak Park, IL to Petoskey, MI on Thursday, July 22. They followed the route taken by the Hemingway family during their auto journey to Walloon Lake in June of 1917.

Hemingway scholars, Morris Buske and Ken Marek, offered commentary on EH sites as the bus made its way through the Michigan countryside.

After attending the Oak Park Hemingway celebration, Michigan-bound conference people boarded the bus in the Chicago suburb and heard from Morris Buske historian and long-time leader in the Hemingway Foundation. Buske offered commentary on the route followed by the Hemingway family so many years ago.

As a bonus, bus passengers received complimentary copies of the March/April, 1999 edition of *Michigan History Magazine*, which contains Buske's article, "Dad, Are We There Yet?" a day-by-day account of the Hemingway trip. "Morris was a treasure," Marek said later. "He provided many helpful and informative comments for us all."

Buske was also able to point out the area where the Hemingways stayed in Whitehall, Michigan, on the second day of their trip, and the very house in which they stayed in Scottville on their third day.

After lunch, the bus turned east to US 131 and Ken Marek of the MHS identified key locations in the Kalkaska/Rapid River areas as they pertained to the stories "The Light of the World" and "The Battler."

-Ken Marek

## Irene Goldstein Gordon Honored at July Conference

On July 22, Conference guests helped Irene Gordon celebrate her 100th birthday, which was July 24, just three days after Ernest Hemingway's.

In Bay View during the winter of 1919-20 Ernest first met attractive, 20-year-old, Irene Goldstein, a Petoskey resident who had been teaching in Nebraska but returned home for the holidays. She joined friends at a party in Bay View, where they introduced her to the young WWI Red Cross veteran.

The two young people talked about books on their first meeting, and this became a connection that lasted to the conclusion of Hemingway's life.

During the author's stay in Petoskey, he and Miss. Goldstein often played tennis, a sport they both enjoyed.

Since her birthday is close to Hemingway's and he remained a lifelong friend, Centennial visitors and conferees helped Irene Goldstein Gordon celebrate her 100th birthday on the Historical Museum lawn.

As Mrs. Gordon departed for the evening, the group serenaded her with "Good Night Irene."

-Rosemary Horvath

