

# ChalkTalk

...from the Hessel School House, home of The Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center

May/June 2018  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## NEW Beginnings...

**...all to complement the past and the Hessel School House/Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center's mission as the centerpiece of the Les Cheneaux Islands community for the purpose of ensuring the continued vitality and prosperity of the area and its residents.**

The Board of Directors has contracted **Sarah Reding** to serve in the new position of **Executive Director of The Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center**. We are most fortunate to have her wealth of experience and deep love for nature as an inspirational force.

Her primary responsibility will be **grant seeking and development of appropriate programs**. At the forefront is a program of major importance for writers of all ages. The intent is to evolve **The Writers Program** into year-round workshops, seminars, and retreats to attract writers **locally, nationally, and internationally**. The internal programs will be designed with appeal in a variety of genres and to serve different levels of age, education, and skills. The strong emphasis will be on nature and taking advantage of the **area's remoteness, unique ecology, and intertwined cultural histories**.

As the icing on the cake, it is particularly fitting and meaningful that **a native son is heading the Advisory Board for The Avery Center's Writers Program**. **Joe Haske** not only has deep roots in Les Cheneaux but he has earned a quite impressive reputation in the literary world.

**Joe will be presenting the first workshop** in the Writers Program at the school house **the third week in June**. As this goes to press, the program is still in the planning stage but we will alert you via the web site and Facebook as soon as we have completed the registration details. [www.hesselschoolhouse.org](http://www.hesselschoolhouse.org)



*Courtesy of the Bride & Groom - Natalie Sitko & Tyrell Peterson*

**Sarah Reding** has a **master's degree in Recreation and Park Administration** with an emphasis in Biology. She worked for the **Kalamazoo Nature Center** for 28 years, one of the largest and most successful nature centers in the country. There she held various positions related to education and non-profit leadership and management. She was **Vice President of Off-site Programs** from 1998 to 2007; then **Vice President of Conservation Stewardship** until retiring this March to begin her new career here.



*Sarah Reding*

Her husband **Wil Reding** just retired as a **professor at Western Michigan University** in the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Department. Together they operate **Rent a Rambling Naturalist**, for over 24 years presenting interactive performances to involve children and adults in understanding the importance of living in harmony with the natural world. Wil performed at the Hessel School House last June for the **Aldo Leopold Festival** in his favorite role as **Yas Ennya Oyaka**, a woodsman wearing a fake bear-skin cape and a black eye patch, who shares his knowledge of Great Lakes mammals. The grown-ups loved as much



*Sarah (on left) leading a Les Cheneaux kayak retreat.*

of his delightful show as the kids did!

**Sarah and Wil love to impart their extensive knowledge of the rich ecosystem of the Midwest**





Wil Reding at Aldo Leopold Festival



Joe Haske



Joe's North Dixie Highway featured in Chicago Tribune



Joe Haske – Class of 1992

and its inhabitants, and both enjoy exceptional energy. Sarah has guided **numerous kayak retreats** around the country, including Les Cheneaux. Together, they can put a **1,000-mile hike** on their impressive list of accomplishments, as well as their recent walk of **the 500-mile El Camino to Santiago Trail** in Spain. Visit [www.rentaramblingnaturalist.ws](http://www.rentaramblingnaturalist.ws) to learn much more about their exciting adventures.

**Joe Haske**, whose Les Cheneaux family goes back at least five generations, was born in Sault Ste. Marie and grew up in Cedarville. He was active in football, track, basketball, chorus, and other activities while in high school, **earning track and field MVP honors**, and the **Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award**. After graduating from Cedarville High School in 1992, he attended one semester at Lake Superior State University before **enlisting in the U.S. Army to serve in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division**.

One of the highlights of Joe's active duty service was **the honor of being selected** to be one of only 25 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division representatives for the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day Celebration** in Normandy, France. He met the presidents of the U.S. and France, as well as the First Lady, veterans of the D-Day landings, and French resistance fighters, along with other notable dignitaries.

After his honorable discharge from military service, **he returned to LSSU** where he **graduated summa cum laude** with a B.A. in English, earning

several creative and academic distinctions, including the title of **Outstanding English Graduate**. While continuing his education, he spent time as an active Army reservist before earning his graduate degrees in English Literature, Spanish, and Fine Arts (Fiction) from Bowling Green State University, and the University of Texas – Pan American.

Former Chair of the English Department at South Texas College in McAllen, Texas, Joe currently serves as an **Assistant Chair and professor of English and Humanities**. He was awarded the **Boulevard Emerging Fiction Writer Award** in 2011, and his debut novel, **North Dixie Highway**, was released in October of 2013.

**His fiction has appeared in prestigious journals** such as *Boulevard*, *Fiction International*, *The Texas Review*, *the Four-Way Review*, *Pleiades*, and in the Chicago Tribune's literary supplement, *Printers Row*. His poetry and fiction are also featured in various anthologies as well as in French, Romanian, and Canadian publications.

Joe is a **Contributing Editor for American Book Review**, a member of the **National Book Critics Circle**, and edits various literary venues. He is currently working on two new novels, and a poetry manuscript.

He lives with his wife, Bertha, and their two children in Mission, Texas, but tries to return home as often as possible to **his beloved Les Cheneaux, where most of his family still resides**.

# A Remarkable Gift

Following the restoration of the School House, **high on the dream list** was the development and execution of a **landscape plan** that would include gardens and vistas to enhance programs and events and to **complement the facility's heritage**, while meeting a critical need for convenient access and parking.

**A**rt Prize winner, sculptor Andy Sacksteder of Gladstone, Michigan, who has a degree in landscape horticulture, **volunteered to sketch a plan** that would also incorporate the possibility of three to five (depending on funding) **life-size bronze sculptures of children at play** in a water feature to serve as a venue attraction.

Although Andy began sculpting less than 15 years ago, his natural talent was quickly recognized. **He is completely self-taught, creating all his work by eye without using measuring instruments.** He first sketches then forms an armature to begin his clay model. When his sculpture is completed, he transports it to Coopermill Bronze Works in Zanesville, Ohio, **to be cast in bronze as a timeless remembrance** for multiple generations to come.

Andy's works were discovered locally when he participated in the last three Festival of Arts at the Antique Wooden Boat Show in Hessel. **His prize-winning *Captain and the Kid*** now serves as a welcoming landmark at the Hessel Marina. Last summer, his impressive statue of **Earnest Hemingway as a young man** was unveiled with great pride in downtown Petoskey.

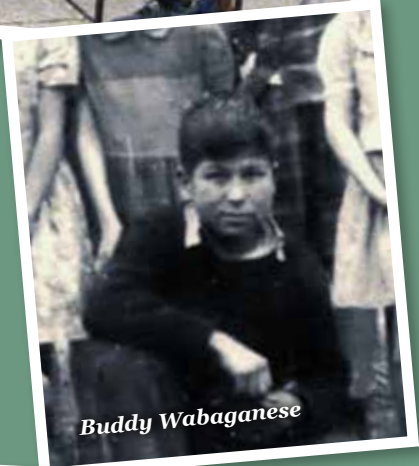
Last December, **The Broughton Fund, through the generosity of Lenore Broughton, and Camm and Stacey Broughton**, made a substantial gift that was directed toward the first stages of **creating a historic art piece to honor all the children** who attended Hessel School in its day.

Andy is using what existing class photographs there are to select his subjects and capture important facial features and the clothing of those times. **He hopes to be able to represent a child from each grade** and his or her ethnic background, as funding allows. His first sculpture is of a **5<sup>th</sup> grade Chippewa boy, Buddy Wabaganese**, holding up a turtle, a sacred symbol of his tribe. His second sculpture is in process. It is of a **4<sup>th</sup> grade girl**, sitting and kicking her feet in the water as she sits on a rock looking up at the turtle Buddy is holding.

It is hoped that enough funds will be available to have them installed on the grounds in time for several late-summer weddings. They will be **mounted on rocks, with gently streaming water**, at the northeast corner of the front lawn, creating an **aesthetic scene to enhance** for special occasions.



Andy sketching the landscape design



Buddy Wabaganese



Andy's first statue in his studio.



Second figure being sculpted.





Andrew "Bud" Mathews

# Memories of Hessel School

by Bud Mathews (in his own words)

**It's important to note here that for many of us students that attended Hessel School for the period of 1938 thru 1958, our ancestors were some of the first settlers in the Les Cheneaux Islands.**

## The Little Room

*See Dick run. See Sally run. See Puff run.*

Before I started school as a 2nd grader in 1948, my mother Ellen Nye Mathews told my sister Nancy and me our school teacher was going to be Miss Grace Windsor, who had been a classmate of hers. They had attended school on the same land but it had been located right behind my school. Their school had been heated with a large wood stove. My school was heated with a coal furnace. Mr. Elkins was the janitor.

The Christmas tree was in the gym. It was huge and we got to make decorations for it. We cut colored paper in strips, rolled them to form a ring, and made a long paper chain which we draped around the tree. The glue white paste (sic) did not taste good. I can still remember how it tasted.

I lived in Hessel and walked to school. I took a short cut through the thick cedar trees in Mrs. Abict's front yard. I could see my cousin Charlie Nye. I was so excited I ran to see him but what I didn't realize was that the Big Room guys were in the middle of a scrub baseball game. Charlie was batting. The pitcher had already released the ball. Charlie swung hard and nailed me in the head. *See Dick run. See Jane run. See Buddy run!* That's probably why I can't remember 2nd grade.

## The Big Room

The Big Room was a super promotion and now I want to do some REAL Chalk Talk! Mr. Mitchell was my 3rd grade teacher. He seemed so big and strong. To keep the classroom quiet, he would just reach back and grab a chalk eraser and fire it. I mean all fast ball. Punk Carr was sitting behind me in the last row. He said something to me. I turned around to talk to him. A chalk eraser just missed me and hit Punk in the cheek. When the dust cleared, Punk sure looked sober. Punk got me in trouble my whole school year(s) and I'm still cautious when he is around.

I still have my old report card so I know I behaved and was expecting all As in Department. He never bothered filling anything in behind Department. Why should he bother? We all got "A" for behaving thanks to Mr. Mitchell's chalk eraser.

A rumor was circulating in the classroom. The older boys were smoking in the woods. These were some of the toughest, biggest kids in the school. Mr. Mitchell was going to give them a spanking. I thought Mr. Mitchell was in trouble. But when that

day came he called them up to the front of the room, told them to bend over and gave them a couple whacks on the rear end with a yard stick. That yard stick was doing all the smoking that day.

We had nine boys and two girls in our class. The girls were Beatrice Mongene and Marie Harrison. Except for Ron Huffman, the boys all had nicknames: Jim "J.O." Huffman, his twin brothers Ron and Don "Duck" Huffman, Stanley "Stosh" or "Beetle" Brenek, Maurice Lynn "Punk" or "Punkie" Carr, George "Boy" Andrews, Glen "Columbo" Andrews, Maurice "Moie" Daniels, and myself, Andrew "Hogadee" or "Bud" or "Buddy" Mathews. There was a big difference the way Mr. Mitchell treated the girls. They sat on his lap, two at a time!

Valentine's Day was coming. We were suppose to give valentines to the whole room. There was a big box with a slot that sat in the room. On Valentine's Day the valentines were passed out and piled on our desks, then we walked around and looked at everybody's valentines. When I got to Ruth Eseltine's (now Kester) desk, her pile was huge. Also, Nancy Knoy (now Reno). I went back to my desk and looked at my little pile. I was really hurt. Over the many years when our paths crossed, I would remind them of that hurtful Valentine's Day many times.

Fifty-five years later I go to the Hessel Post Office. I have a big package. It was St. Valentine's Day. I open it up and there were all kinds of valentines. I had to go work and was running late. All day I couldn't wait to look at my valentines. That night I sat down and read my valentines. At first I thought some teacher had her class each give me a valentine because I had done a lot of work at the Hessel Beach. But then I realized that this was one person. They were so funny but who they were from was signed "Friend Forever". The last few had clues - "shortest of my siblings", "youngest of my siblings"... then the big clue, "I have black hair". Thank you Nancy Knoy Reno. I don't hurt no more. I wish you would admit it.

The fourth and fifth grades I had Miss Windsor again. Mr. Mitchell went to Cedarville. Mrs. Kanerva was the Little Room teacher. I notice something right away about Miss Windsor. She was wearing a black belt about two inches wide. It felt like about three inches wide. She wore it all the time and when she used it she had a draw as fast as Wild Bill Hickok's. She gave me an education from the top to the bottom, and of course if Mother or Dad knew I got a spanking at school I got another one as they never questioned Miss Windsor. But you know the next day Miss Windsor forgot all about that. Her goal was to educate, and she was one of the best teachers I ever had. She kept order in the classroom. She also grabbed your ear and put you anywhere she wanted to. Punk ended up in the library all semester.

*(to be continued in next issue)*



**1950 Class of 3rd/4th/5th Grades (LtoR):**

**Front Row:** Paul McDonald, Roger Gill, Dorothy Mongene, Joe Mongene, (unknown), Harold Grouch, Ray Greg, Ray Hansen, Elmer Lamoreaux; **Middle Row:** Glen Andrews, Mike Osogwin, Donald Huffman, Ronald Huffman, Joan Andrews, Ruth Eseltine, Jim (J.O.) Huffman, Marie Harrison; **Top Row:** Beatrice Mongene, Joan Poglese, Maurice Daniels, Maurice (Punk) Carr, Janet Shirosky, Mary Sue Lindberg, Nancy Knoy, Stanley Brenick, Bud Mathews **Absent:** George Andrews

#### A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" FROM BUD

No one knows what the wild goose knows but my heart knows...these are some of the people I want to thank for getting our school back...

A young summer girl who lived on Marquette Island and loved the Les Cheneaux Islands with all her heart. She wanted to help in some way. She put hundreds of hours coordinating the whole project of getting our school back. The Hessel School means so much to our town. When the V.F.W. building was sold the town of Hessel had no place to gather. When we had the Hans and Abalone Mortenson reunion we wanted it in Hessel. We had to go to Cedarville. Now we have a beautiful building to gather. At our Alumni Reunion I seen you. The majority of people didn't know you. You're still working hard improving our beloved school. Thank you, Bonnie Mickelson.

Michael and Mary Ann Van Lokeren: I worked for three years on their beautiful Hessel Point landscaping project. Mike personally reminded me of Red Skelton. He was a joy to work with. Thank you for the loan to get us rolling.

The Avery Family, namely Rogers Follansbee Avery, Lenore Follansbee Broughton, and John "Camm" Broughton: In 1886, my great grandfather Hans Mortenson's 160-acre homestead included Avery Point. My mother Ellen Nye swam with Nancy Follansbee as a girl. My Uncle Mort Mortenson lived across the bay and named his oldest daughter Lenore after Sewell Avery's wife's middle name. (Jan Nye's mother).

Nancy Follansbee loved my great grandfather's and great grandmother's home. She had my cousin Richie Nye move it to Avery Point and that's where caretaker Fred and Carrie live.



**George "Boy" Andrews, Maurice "Punk" Carr, Jim "J.O." Huffman, Andrew "Bud" Mathews – 60-some years later!**

Sewell Avery and his chauffeur Aubry (sic) would stop on Nye Road and watch Charlie Nye and me pitch a baseball across Nye Road in front of the Nye Barn. We played baseball every day. He stopped usually every year once or twice. Mike McLeod remembers Sewell pulling into Tom Raymond's dock looking for his golfing partner. Jim Mertaugh said Sewell always had his yellow cocker spaniel in his outboard. Dick Carr, Mort Mortenson's grandson, remembers Aubry (sic) pulling into his yard and Sewell giving him a set of golf clubs. Dick is still golfing and hard to beat in his mid-eighty years.

To the Avery Family - we thank you all.



**Nancy Knoy Reno's surprise valentines for Bud**

- Bud



# Happenings at The



Lake Huron Waves by Paul Rossi



"En plein air" artist Heidi Marshall

## Paul Rossi Exhibit

May 12<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>



**P**aul Rossi is a truly remarkable nature photographer. His works of the Les Cheneaux area and the Eastern Upper Peninsula are born from a passion for the wilderness, exceptional patience, a unique understanding

of bird behavior, and a gifted artist's eye for light and composition.

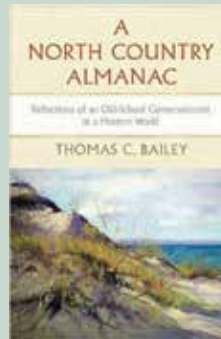
**Paul conducts photography classes for all skill levels** at The Avery Center. This exhibit was organized to accompany his recent class focusing on spring photography, "**Finding the Hidden Beauty in Nature**". Featured are superb examples of his bird photography and his breathtaking landscape



images. All pieces, framed or unframed, are available for purchase, along with his handsome book, *Beautiful Birds of Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula*. For a sneak preview, visit [paulrossibirds.wordpress.com](http://paulrossibirds.wordpress.com)

## Aldo Leopold Festival

May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>



**T**he Hessel School House has become the official location for the Aldo Leopold Festival for registration, maps, programs, and related materials year-round. Visit [www.aldoleopoldfestival.com](http://www.aldoleopoldfestival.com) for details re events and programs or email [hesselschoolhouse@gmail.com](mailto:hesselschoolhouse@gmail.com) for registration.

**Little Traverse Conservancy** is a key sponsor and organizer of the ALF. It's longtime **Executive Director, Tom**

**Bailey**, who is highly respected in his field, has just published his first book, *A North Country Almanac - Reflections of an Old-School Conservationist in a Modern World*. It features images of impressive paintings by **award-winning artist Heidi Marshall**, who exhibited at the School House last summer.

Excerpted from the Foreword: *Although a lifelong conservationist, Thomas C. Bailey has never unquestioningly accepted environmental dogma. The essays here often challenge familiar assumptions about stewardship of natural resources. The former National Park ranger, fishing guide, and conservancy director offers a rich variety of perspectives on an interesting array of topics, returning always to his fundamental belief that conservation pioneers such as John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, and Aldo Leopold had it right when they affirmed Walt Whitman's observation that "the secret of making the best person is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth."*

*A North Country Almanac* will be **available for purchase** at the School House throughout the Festival.

# Avery Learning Center



## Rihkee Strapp Exhibit

July 6<sup>th</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>



In tandem with the Native American Celebration the following week, a reception will be held to open the **Rihkee Strapp Exhibit** and meet the artist on Friday evening, July 6<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 9:00.

Ms. Strapp's vibrant prints reflect her dedication to connecting

her heritage and urban communities through her art.

**Kalvin Hartwig**, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, will provide an additional highlight with a screening of his film, **"This Is Who I Am – Preserving Indigenous Identity in a Mainstream Culture"**.

**Rihkee Strapp**, who is a Metis of the Wolverine Clan with Cree and Sioux heritage, was born in Red Lake in northwestern Ontario. She currently lives in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

She knew since very early childhood that she wanted to be an artist. Facing different types of barriers for indigenous people as she grew up, she became more determined to **use her art to effect social change** and community development, which is clearly demonstrated in the **strength of design and color** she imposes through her works to **immediately engage the viewer**.

## Native American Celebration

Tues. July 10<sup>th</sup> and Wed. July 11<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Open to the public with no fee.



Participants are **welcome to come and go throughout both days**, and to explore **working hands-on** with each of the guest instructors.

**On Tuesday:** The Celebration will open with a **drum circle and songs** led by local drumming group, **Mukwa Giizhik**,

followed by a **community welcome feast**.

Storytelling and hands-on workshops begin at 11:30 am.

**Talking and Storytelling Circle** led by **Henry Bouley** of Sault Ste. Marie, and **John Causley** of Hessel, in which local tribal heritage, culture, languages and traditions will be discussed.

### WORKSHOPS

**Tanning** with **Tony Grondin** of St. Ignace.

**Black Ash Basket Weaving** with **Marge Bekins** of St. Ignace.

**Leatherworking** with **Jackie Minton** of Raber.

**Leather and Appliqué** with **Delinda Causley** of Hessel.

**On Wednesday:** At 2:00 pm: a second **screening of Calvin Hartwig's film, "This Is Who I Am"**, followed by a discussion of its theme and production.

The day will end with closing **drum songs** by **Mukwa Giizhik** drumming group.





# Vignettes of the Les Cheneaux Farmers & Artisans Market

In *Chalk Talk's* first issue, we wrote of the **beginnings of the Market** through the efforts of Joanne Galloway of Galloway's Red Clay Ranch, and the support given her by **Zach Schroeder**, director of Les Cheneaux Culinary School, in housing the Market **through its first winter season of 2015-16**. Two winters have since passed in its new home here at the School House, and **tremendous credit for its success must go to its vendors** who, even during Mother Nature's most rigorous trials, **seldom miss a Sunday** in setting up bountiful tables of the fruits of their labors.



Joanne  
Galloway



**W**e'd like to start introducing you to our vendors, a few at a time, with brief stories of their backgrounds and what makes them special to us. Of course, we should begin with the Galloways!

## Galloway's Red Clay Ranch

In 1999, life took a turn for **Joanne and Gary Galloway**, who were then living in Central Michigan with their young family. Joanne's father's health suddenly declined, leaving him unable to tend to the daily chores on the farm where she had grown up. Gary had already been planning a career change, and they had been **wanting to find a wholesome environment** in which to rear their children. Having conquered several different specialties ranging from railroad deconstruction to hitch mechanic to small engine repair, Gary, a CNC machinist with a degree in mathematics, having never farmed a day in his life figured **why not try his hand at farming!**

**Eighteen years later**, with their three kids now just beyond college, they manage a **60-head cow-calf operation, a few pigs, and raise a few lambs**. After partnering with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service's Season Extension Program in 2013 to design and install a 30-ft. x 72-ft. **high tunnel greenhouse**, they plunged into the vegetable production business as well!

**Farming over 700 acres**, the Galloways are also known for their high quality, **cool-season grass hay**. In addition to what is needed for their own beef herds, they supply hay to southern markets. In 2013, they began to **produce their own barley** to satisfy customer interest for meat raised with a diet free of genetically modified grains. The barley has since been used as the main source of swine nutrition on the farm. The cattle are grazed in the summer and fed hay and hay silage in the winter.

Managing a small farm requires one **to be an expert at many specialties**. The Galloways perform much of their own veterinary care, fabricating and welding of equipment, mechanical repairs on tractors, equipment and vehicles, preventative maintenance, sourcing of lumber, driveway maintenance, construction, marketing, accounting, and customer relations. Whew!!

While the farm has offered beef, pork, and lamb by the side for years, Joanne's involvement in the Les Cheneaux Farmer's and Artisan's Market prompted them to offer **individual cuts of their meats**. You'll find Joanne and Galloway's meats and seasonal vegetables at the School House every Sunday, all year long.





## The Conklin Farm

**Donald and Laurie Conklin** have a fascinating background. They spent 30 years of their lives **working in carnivals** all over the country; Laurie in food concessions, Don operating rides. Of course, that's where they met each other 14 years ago.

An injury that left Laurie with serious neurological concerns prompted them to leave the carnival world and start The Conklin Farm **in August of 2016** on land in Goetzville, which had been passed down to them by Don's father **as a berry farm**. (Don's grandfather had pioneered one of the first pick-your-own strawberry farms in Hope, Michigan.) Don and Laurie expanded it, planting more berries and adding vegetables. They never use any chemical powders or sprays.

They started coming to the Market last August with **vegetables and homemade jams**. When the growing season ended, Laurie started making **baked goods and candies**. Her enrobed chocolates (we LOVE her maple-cream filling) are truly special.

The Conklins have never missed a Sunday, saying they **look forward to the camaraderie** that exists amongst the vendors as well as the customers, making even the slowest of market days a pleasure.

## Muddy Duck Ranch

Although both originally from the Muskegon area, **Ben and Lisa Hunt** had not known each other until after traveling all over the country in various government jobs....Lisa working in the Pacific Northwest with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Biological Survey, and Ben in the Southwest. She met Ben when she returned to Michigan to get her teaching certificate.

**They moved to Rudyard with their two young sons in 2008**, buying property that they could turn into a **small farming operation** upon retirement to take advantage of their mutual interests. Lisa's passion is gardening, and Ben wanted to raise animals. With a pond in the backyard, **starting with ducks** seemed to be a natural. With a high water table, things get pretty muddy in the off-seasons, so it didn't take long to come up with the name for their business. In fact, they love their ducks so much that when they go down state to visit family, **the ducks come along...all 60-some of them!**

They started selling at the Market in the **summer of 2016**, offering duck meat and eggs, seasonal vegetables, and comfrey salve; then adding turkey last year. Lisa would like to continue developing the garden **to offer more uncommon vegetables such as purslane and anise**. Ben is thinking about raising a few head of cattle and maybe some pigs.

A couple side notes: Lisa enjoys photography as a hobby and is a substitute teacher in the Rudyard Area Schools. Ben and their sons are very active in Boy Scouts. Do check out [muddyduckranch.com](http://muddyduckranch.com)



*The Hunts have a motley crew of ducks, including Pekins and mallards, each with distinctive personalities, but their favorites for egg laying are their Khaki Campbells.*



**Ben and Lisa Hunt**





# The Board of Directors and Staff

*wish to thank each and every one of you who have given of yourselves in a multitude of caring ways to sustain the legacy and fund new beginnings for the Hessel School House and Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center.*

John and Rosemary Ashworth  
James and Christine Bawks\*  
Lynn Brown  
Laura Windsor Campbell\*  
Thomas and Marilyn Collinso  
Larry and Robby Daniels\*  
Melissa H. DeWick\*  
Tim DeWick\*  
Carol Rye Duncan\*  
Bob Dunn  
David and Jane Dunn  
Glenn and Marlene Ehle\*  
Elizabeth Fels  
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Alex Iseri  
Islands Association Book Club  
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Delbert Jarvie  
Jim and Diane Keighley\*  
Roger and Carolyn Kilponen  
John "Bill" Knoy\*  
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Dan and Jan Reelitz\*  
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Paul Rossi  
Ed and Phyllis Rusk  
Bill and Susie (Nye) Rutledge\*  
Zach Schroeder  
Adrienne McLeod Smith\*  
Bob W. Smith  
Gary and Anne Tassier  
Henry and Joyce VanderWerp  
Brad and Joy Vincent  
\*contributed in 2017 & 2018

## In Memoriam

*In memory of Clyde "Don" Hessel*

Joy Curtis  
Dan Izzard  
Joann Lyon  
Jon and Frances Pennington  
Emil and Betty Selich  
Zoe Ragsdale

## Gifts & Donations In Kind

Bob Amberg (*debossed leather HSH checkbook covers*)  
Laura Campbell (*Bingo supplies*)  
Jeff Day (*architectural services*)  
John Hessel (*grading & landscaping*)  
Ron and Mary Hill (*Christmas tree & ornaments*)  
Mike and Laurel Jellison (*16 place settings of Haviland Bavarian China to be used for special events – see photo on next page*)  
Jim Krzeminski (*Bissell vacuum cleaner*)  
Bill McMillan – (*Qigong exercise classes*)  
Sandy Meyer (*art commissions*)  
Kate Otstot (*gift shop display materials*)  
Paul Rossi (*class tuitions; prints for 2017 May/June exhibit*)  
Bill Sherlund

## Foundations & Grants

The Broughton Fund - \$10,000  
(Sacksteder sculpture)  
EUP Regional Planning & Development - \$3,000 (M-134 driveway entrance & signage)  
Les Cheneaux Community Foundation - \$3,900 (north entry concrete patio)  
Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs - \$1,200 (Native American Exposition funding)  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2% Fund - \$5,000 (electrical upgrade)



## Mission Statement

The Hessel School House Corporation supports the Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center as the centerpiece of the Les Cheneaux Islands community for the purpose of ensuring the continued vitality and prosperity of the area and its residents.

### Our Volunteers

Joanne Baker, Debbie Beukema, Ashley Burger, Laura Campbell, Patti Carr, Caroline Crecelius, Missy DeWick, Tim DeWick, Carol Duncan, Jane Dunn, Jane French, Judy Hamel, Melenie Haske, Mary Hill, Amy Izzard, Fred Hofnagle, Diane Keigley, Jim Keighley, Margy Long, Kate Otstot, Jack Otstot, Robin Pendery, Andy Rutledge, Bill Rutledge, Susie Rutledge, Marty Sherlund, Robbie Simonsen, Linda Sudol, Lorie Thompson



### 2018 Membership Drive

A handsome plaque is being made to honor all former students and their families who were contributors in our initial 2017 drive. Their gifts helped make the first full year of programs for the Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center truly a success.

Your continued support is critical toward maintaining this exceptional historic landmark. We continually seek grants through all appropriate channels but many foundations choose not to support operations and maintenance. Thus, we must reach out to you annually to fund the basic costs of managing the facility and expanding our programs to benefit the community-at-large.

As in 2017, any size of gift will receive a tax deduction confirmation and membership card, along with a Hessel School House magnet.

**\$50 or more: 10% off gift shop purchases.**

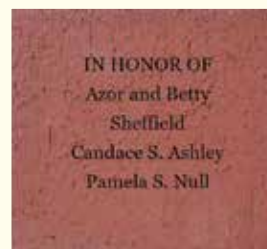
If you are a former student (or immediate family member), you may receive 15% off any event rental in your name. If you choose to waive the rental fee, you may treat it as a tax deduction, which will be recorded on your receipt.

Gifts of a \$1,000 may have a memorial plaque placed along the garden walkway; \$1500 gifts may have a memorial bench.

### Ongoing Engraved Brick Campaign... ...something fun but very meaningful and timeless!

The Board of Directors has voted to launch an ongoing, engraved-brick campaign to fund the upgrading of the landscaping and prospective gardens. They will be featured in areas such as the north entry patio, possibly a small picnic patio nearby, and brick walkways throughout the grounds and gardens.

We are in the process of setting up a secured site for one to use directly for ordering through a link on the HSH web site [www.hesselschoolhouse.org](http://www.hesselschoolhouse.org). The bricks will be offered in two sizes at \$100 (4x8) and \$250 (8x8). You can note on the enclosed envelope if you wish to purchase a brick or call the office at 906-484-1333 for more information.



## HESSSEL SCHOOL HOUSE BOARD of DIRECTORS

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### HESSSEL SCHOOL HOUSE

P.O. Box 25  
Hessel, MI 49745  
[www.hesselschoolhouse.org](http://www.hesselschoolhouse.org)

*Electronic Service Requested*

## Mark your calendars, ALUMNI!!!

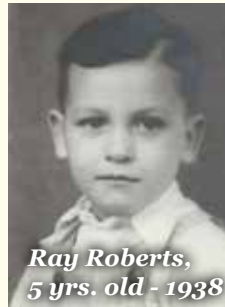
**The 3rd Hessel School Reunion will be Sunday, July 29th at 4:00! Once again, Laura Campbell has engaged Jimmy Williams to play his wonderful music, and Tim DeWick is supplying the burgers, brats, and beer. Bring a side dish, your beverages of choice, and lots of memories and stories!!!**

**A**lumnus Ray Roberts and his wife Francina attended last year's reunion. Even though he had spent less than four years at Hessel School 70-some years ago, he cared a lot about his experience and **wanted to share it with all of you.** He has also been very generous in support. **Following are excerpts from the interview** that HSH Director Caroline Crecelius had with him last December when she was preparing the filing for National Historic Landmark Recognition.

*"Starting in kindergarten, I attended the Hessel School from 1938 to 1942, leaving in mid-year of second grade when my dad, who was in the lumber business, moved to the Soo. I lived right across the road from what is now the*



*Ray and his sister Vivian.*



*Ray Roberts, 5 yrs. old - 1938*

*Runway Bar. When I was growing up it was called Taylor's Runway, and it was a gas station, bar, and restaurant, all in one. My mother Randy more or less ran the Runway for Mr. Taylor, who did all the bookkeeping."*

*"I enjoyed going to school and always looked forward to it. I really liked my teacher, Miss Hanson. She must have done a pretty good job because when I moved to the Soo I had no trouble with the curriculum in the bigger town. The teachers at the Hessel School had effective methods; I developed good reading habits and penmanship."*

*"Recess wasn't structured, it was just free time. I have good memories of playing hide-and-go-seek in the woods. I also had a slingshot but couldn't bring it to school. We had lots of freedom because nothing was organized, and of course that meant sometimes there was trouble. Once when I was in kindergarten, the*



*Jim Mertaugh, Dick Carr, Frances Lindberg Shoberg, Anne McFadden Moss & Pat Carr Lofdahl at last summer's reunion.*

*Photo courtesy of Bud Mathews.*

*neighbor's outhouse was tipped over by boys during lunchtime. All the boys were called to the teacher's desk, and there was a paddle sitting on top of it. Luckily the kindergarteners got dismissed since we were too little to have been involved."*

*"I always thought back about the Hessel School and what good experiences I had there, and I wondered what it would have been like to go through all the grades. It was a very nice building, and one of only three buildings in town with indoor plumbing. The school gave people in town, and outside, a lot of pride to have a beautiful building and a place to bring their children for an education."*