

A Picture is Worth. . .



2013 Winner: Pat Pilarski



I'm sure I just saw a fish down there!

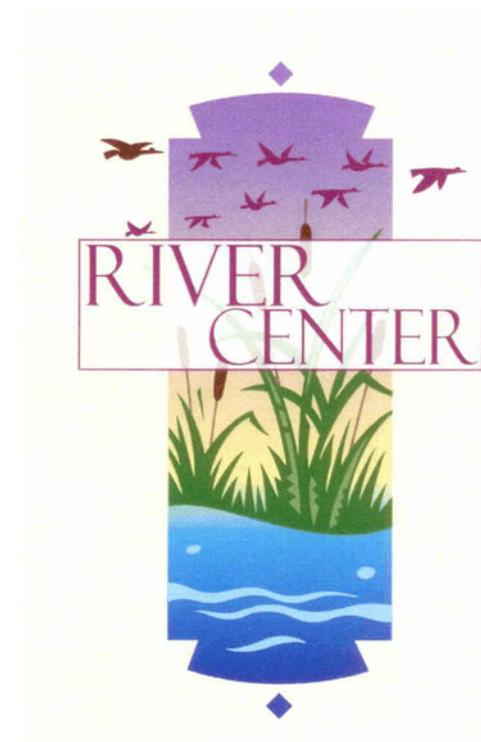


I got one!

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board
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Alpena, MI 49707

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Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Newsletter



*Conservation
through Education and
Exploration*

A publication of the
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board

January, 2014

From the Chairman. . .

By Roger Witherbee

The board would like to thank all the sponsors and vendors who have helped the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament become a success over the past five years. We are anticipating a fun-filled sixth year and have some great prizes for all the hardy folks entering the tournament.

As you may know, we are in the process of creating a temporary home for the River Center at the Marine Sanctuary (NOAA). The displays are scheduled to be completed by late March or early April. You will be able to discover the unexpected at our temporary home. A place depicting quiet recreation, encounters with wildlife and natural beauty.

The Wildlife Sanctuary is a microcosm of the Thunder Bay Watershed and the display will help all of us understand the essential role of wetlands in the health of the river as well as the impacts on the system by natural and human causes.

Plans have been made to build our first stage of the River Center to be called the River Center Field Lab, to be located on the Corner of Long Rapids road and US 23. If things go as planned we hope to be breaking ground this coming spring.

The REEL FUN Ice Fishing Tournament is our only fundraising effort and we hope that you will consider participating in it. You don't have to be interested in fishing as by purchasing a ticket you have a chance to win a 42-inch TV. We are also hosting a gala event for couples and friends on the evening of the 14th. Music and prizes and fun await all who attend.

Plant News. . .

By Elizabeth Littler

The Thunder Bay Audubon Society and the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary (AWS) have had a close relationship for many years in many ways. The society has supported and contributed to the efforts of the AWS board many times. Most recently, was the gift of \$1000 for the River Center received this fall. This is the third payment of a total pledge of \$5000. The board is very grateful for this donation.



And the swallows filled all of them!

Besides this generous donation, individual members have helped. When Kali Smith's Cub Scouts wanted to put birdhouses on Island Park, AWS called Thunder Bay Audubon Society member, Bill Grigg, who helped the scouts pick the right kind of birdhouse (swallow). Eight birdhouses were built and put in place with Bill's guidance in April. By June, all of the birdhouses were occupied. The scouts will maintain the birdhouses and hopefully grow in their interest and appreciation of birds, nature – and Island Park.

Newsy Notes. . .

When I lived in Alpena I was actively involved with the Thunder Bay Wildlife Sanctuary for about 12 years, and I continue to care about and appreciate this natural area and the flora and fauna found there. It's a great 'showcase' for the subtle beauty of the Thunder Bay River wetlands.

I often walk the island when I return to the area and it is exciting to see the many improvements and learn of the successful educational and recreational activities taking place there. When I visited in June, I overheard a family walking on a nearby trail using the Kid's Guide/brochure I wrote for the island as they explored.

It's exciting to read about the many ways the board and volunteers are preserving and promoting the sanctuary.
Tammy Spangler-Timm
Principal, Livonia Public Schools



Our place of beauty and quiet recreation for all

Reel Fun Tournament. . .



Tickets only \$25

Available at Alpena Chamber of Commerce
Clems Bait and Tackle
Buck's Bait

Only **1000** tickets will be sold with prizes for the top 30 fish!

Each ticket is also entered in to win a 42" TV and you need not be present to win!!

You say you don't ice fish, but you'd like to be supportive of this once a year fundraising effort for the River Center? There are a couple of ways to help:

Come to **Festivus!** It's the night before the tournament. It's Valentine's Day! Bring your significant other, a group of significant friends and yourself. Tickets can be purchased at the door as well as before the event at the Chamber of Commerce and Neiman's. If you have a ticket for the Reel Fun Tournament, you will receive 5 free tickets for the Chinese Raffle. Here are some of the evening's activities:

♥ Wine tasting by Thunder Bay Winery

- ♥ Photo booth—old time fishing theme.
- ♥ Cocktails 6:00—cash bar
- ♥ Dinner 7:00—pasta bar
- ♥ Chinese raffles—outdoor gear, gift certificates, many more items
- ♥ Dancing: really awkward, enthusiastic dancing begins at 9:00-12:00 a.m.



Let's come together for fun and while we're at it, support our beautiful Wildlife Sanctuary and the River Center.



Look really, really closely; see anyone you know from 2013 tournament?