

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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September 2010

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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Mensa:

Mensa's constitution lists three purposes: to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Mensa accepts individuals who score at or above the 98th percentile on certain standardized IQ tests, such as the Stanford-Binet.

Borealis is published by Northern Michigan Mensa (3/496) once each month under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

After mandatory items, priority in the newsletter is given to matters appealing to members of the group which relate to their membership in Mensa. The content of the newsletter shall appeal to the general membership of Northern Michigan Mensa.

The newsletter shall not include matters which are indecent, scandalous, libelous, or invade someone's privacy, nor shall copyrighted material be used without the permission of the owner. Ethnic, racist, sexist, or religious slurs shall not be printed. Northern Michigan Mensa recognizes that the newsletter is addressed to both minors and adults; material printed will be appropriate for distribution to minors.

All submissions are welcome and encouraged. They may be sent via email or snail mail.

They may be sent as attachments or in the body of the email.

Submissions requiring major editing are also welcome. If requested, the author may approve the editing before the article is published.

Photographs are also welcome. Please include a brief description of the photo and the name of the photographer. You may also include an entire article to accompany the photo.

Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month before the month of publication.

Submissions received after that time may be considered if time and space permit.

Advertising:

At this time, Borealis does not accept advertising from either members or non-members.

Email submissions to:

Stan Cain
nmmmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nmm.us.mensa.org

ON THE COVER: Walkers checking out the wildflowers at the Treat Farm in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Photo by Stan Cain.

September Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 11 September 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. Our monthly gathering will be graced by the presence of poet, Fleda Brown, Professor Emeritus of the University of Delaware and presently instructing at Interlochen.

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 24 September 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. We will meet at the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available. Join us!

Member News

Happy September Birthday

1	Susan Lynne Pitzer	18	Richard J Warden
2	Jim McDermott	20	Rufus S Teesdale
11	J S Miner	22	Carola 'Penny' Pollard Novarro
12	Stephen H Quick	22	John D Schultz
17	J Porter		

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

25 Years	Delberta Ruth Windiate	7 Years	Harold A Kranick
7 Years	D A Bean	1 Year	Janet A Nerone

July 2010 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	51262	98
New and reinstating membership	444	2
Offers of membership	226	0
New members since April 2010	987	3
Reinstating members since April 2010	1192	7

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 7/31/2010. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER BOOK SALE

Bobbi Walker, our Program Co-Chair and Publicity Chair, reports that the book sale in August yielded a total of \$45.00 for the Scholarship Fund. This will be added to the funds to be provided by NMM for the 2011 scholarship awards. The fund can also be supported by contributions from individuals. If you would like to make your own (tax deductible) contribution to this fund, please contact our Scholarship Chair, Margaret Scott, at mjscott@localnet.com for details.

The LocSec's Login

By Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

Hello, Mensans.

It seems to me a truism that while one thing that we enjoy may fade, if we look ahead rather than behind at our loss, we can find something else to appreciate.

Since the days are growing shorter and I've even noticed a chill in the night, it's impossible for me to deny that autumn is soon to arrive.

I might feel disoriented to walk into many stores and see "Hurry! It's not too late for 'Back to School' supplies!" while inside I'm thinking that no, it can't be so fast, I'm not ready for it yet! Don't leave yet, Summer!

But does it stop fading for me? Surely not, and sad maybe, especially when it has gone by almost without a notice or a chance to enjoy it to its fullest, but... how can one complain too hard when autumn is such a glorious time, especially where we are in such an area of trees that will soon explode into color?

Long warm days may be cooling and shortening, but the tang of fall will be quick to replace it in brisk fashion. And the beauty will be of a different sort.

It's all very ephemeral, but maybe that can be a comfort too, for while often it seems to me that the good passes too fast, by taking that idea and turning it around, much of the sadness too is fleeting; so as joy passes, so, often, can the tears.

Autumn thoughts for you this month.

For those of you able to attend the awards banquet, it was wonderful to see the winners that were present and hear their ideas of future direction, helped by you and Northern Michigan Mensa.

Betsy Mark, Regional Vice Chair, was also in attendance, and was very interesting to talk to, especially as her travels take her quite a ways around our region and also because of her involvement with the national issues. I think that we have good representation with her.

So whether you miss summer as much as I will, or whether you anticipate winter and don't understand what I'm going on about, my parting thought for you is that I hope the future brings you more moments of Joy than Sadness. Be well and take care until the next time.

West Bay Cruise on the Nauticat?

How many members would be interested in a late afternoon or early evening cruise on the catamaran "Nauticat?" If there is enough interest, the \$25-\$35 fee could be reduced by group funds. This would have to be decided upon by the Ex-Comm. (We have donated funds that the donor had expressed intent that we should "have fun.") I would appreciate input from members for a September cruise (or perhaps next Spring or Summer.) This planning takes time (and a vote).

Please respond to Program Co-Chair, Pete Turkus at:
petencheri@chartermi.net

Testing Battle Creek By Sherry McNamara

The importance of wading in a stream for a couple hours may, at first, seem obscure. However, a group of us was inclined to spend a couple Saturday afternoons to find out more about its importance. Training was held at the Grand Traverse Conservation District Nature Center and while only the team leader was required to attend, in typical Mensan fashion, I was joined by five members of my team who wanted to learn all they could before we did the actual testing. Dorothy and Stan Cain, Patty Paternel, Jim McDermott, Priscilla Walmsley and I spent about three hours learning about stream macroinvertebrates.

Todd Kalish, from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, was the instructor. He explained that the main reason for the evaluation and determination of the types and numbers of macroinvertebrates in the stream is to determine the water quality. Like the canary in the coal mine, macroinvertebrates are good indicators of the health of our waterways. Evaluation of these insects is informative in this process because they spend much of their life cycle in the wetlands, therefore the effects of pollution and unnatural interference with their habitat is readily apparent. We were given charts on macroinvertebrate identification and clues on how to differentiate a Caddisfly larva from a Horsefly larva, from a Mayfly larva, or a Water Penny. We learned that some snails have openings on the left and others on the right and that very difference tells you the type of snail. While that may not seem exciting on paper, when you get out into the field it becomes fascinating!

On the Saturday following our training session, the spring testing team members (Patty, Priscilla, Jim and I) met at McDonald's in Acme to car pool to our testing location. We would be testing one stream that makes up a small portion of the roughly 1000 square miles of Grand Traverse Bay Watershed. Our stream was Battle Creek, which is located near the Turtle Creek Casino and flows into Elk Lake. Because there are so many tributaries in the watershed and not enough volunteers to do testing, this was the first time this creek had ever been tested. That made the group even more excited about this project.

Each stream is tested at two locations. When we arrived at our first testing location, the adjacent landowner came outside in the guise of smoking a cigarette, while he readily gave us "the eye." However, once

we explained our mission and the reason for our testing, he became genuinely interested and pleased that we were there.

Our first step in the process was to walk several hundred feet of the stream banks and make a visual inspection. Like any program that involves government bureaucracy, there were forms to complete, not in triplicate, but close! Priscilla and Jim recorded temperature, substrate data, in-stream vegetation and plant information, river morphology, adjacent land use and the potential sources of stream degradation onto our datasheets. This took about forty-five minutes to do. GPS location points were handled by Patty with her iPhone.

After the habitat assessment was completed, Priscilla and I began wading in the stream. We had to take collections from areas in the stream with riffles, cobbles, aquatic plants, submerged wood, and undercut banks, etc. Each area must be done for a length of time with lots of “river dancing” by us to dislodge aquatic life. This involves standing in a location upstream from our “D net” while dancing, scrubbing, and doing the two-step all in an effort to move our feet enough to get a good sample.

Jim was smart and thought to bring a folding table to use as our in-field laboratory. He and Patty were waiting there with a deep tray in which Priscilla and I would deposit our booty after each collection. Patty and Jim worked on the identification and assessments of the creepy, crawly things we were catching. They had particular fun identifying Caddisfly larva. The Caddisfly makes little houses out of very tiny grains of sand or small sticks and the larvae live in them. Once captured, we had to wait patiently until the larvae emerged from their houses in order to confirm that these were something more than simply a small stick or gravel pack. We were quite excited to see this happen, since the house looked like nothing more than debris. We also found aquatic worms that are about ¼ to ½ inch long and only slightly wider than a strand of hair.

Some of the other insects were harder to identify. Distinctions were often made by seeing three small tails rather than one or two on many of the larvae, but we had to look closely to make sure that one of the tails had not been broken off making misidentification a real possibility. Other differences were in the form of leathery wings versus hard wings on the beetles. Once we figured out what we had, we would place each type of insect into ice cube trays and then they were counted. Each count was logged onto our datasheet, which was divided into groups of insects based on their sensitivity to adapt to less than ideal conditions. In all we

collected more than 100 insects, which were saved in a solution for the Watershed staff to inspect and confirm our identification decisions. The numbers were tallied and we found that Battle Creek was only in fair condition. This was very surprising to me because the visual aspect of the stream looked pretty good. While we did find some debris, shoes, cans, etc. on the second part of the stream, there was not an overabundance of it and the location was not such that many people would be hanging out and using the stream for recreational purposes.

We brought along a picnic lunch, so we had a small tailgate party. While eating we talked about our project and what we were learning, before we headed off to repeat this whole process at our second testing location on Battle Creek.

In the big scheme of things you may be wondering why we were doing this and what impact a wade in a stream might have on our area. Once we finished our assessment and completed all our paperwork, I returned that information as well as our macroinvertebrate samples to The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay. They will go over our findings and enter the data into the Watershed Center database (<http://www.gtbay.org/adoptastream.asp>) and into the MCorps database (<http://www.micorps.net/>). However, as of this writing, the data have not yet been entered.

If a stream receives a poor rating, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment will work with the local and Federal governments, non-profit groups, and landowners to restore the stream to a healthy condition. The data we collected also go to the national level, but that is strictly for funding purposes to fix the problem with the streams in order to bring the watershed back to a healthier condition. I asked Todd Kalish more about this and his response was “The Clean Water Act requires Michigan to prepare a report on the quality of its water resources (http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3686_3728-12711--00.html) Therefore, there is a specific set of criteria that we evaluate a streams [sic] health on, and the invertebrate community is one criteria [sic]. If we find that a stream doesn't meet certain criteria then it will be placed onto a ‘degraded water body list (303(d) sites).’ If a site is placed on this list, typically Federal restoration funding is more available than for a site that is not on this list.”

All in all, there was unanimous agreement among the team members that a couple of hours wading in a stream provided us with an afternoon filled with fun, new information, was exciting, and was also a very good

cause for our community! However, knowing that our assignment on Battle Creek was the first time it had been tested, and that there are many, many other streams in our community without volunteers to test them, the need is apparent. The more volunteers and stream testers we have, the better The Watershed, the DNRE, and other organizations can operate to keep our waterways healthy. Therefore, if anyone else in NMM is interested in participating in stream testing, please let me know and we can possibly get you assigned to a stream and set up for testing during the fall session in mid October.



Preceding page photos (except as noted) by Patti Paternal. (Clock wise from top left): Priscilla Walmsley records stream condition information, Sherry McNamara and Priscilla collect stream samples, Dobsonfly Larva (Photo by Kate Jaquish) and Jim McDermott adds a sample to a collection box.

Puzzle Page

CRYPTOGRAM Submitted by Ruth Minshull

The cryptogram consists of a simple substitution code. Each letter has been replaced by another. No letter represents itself, and substitutions remain consistent throughout the puzzle. For example:

ORAB AB ZK WLZSXHW GU Z YGIW.
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CODE.

TGPL ZPVZOP BVQZOYXL VE OXEP, XA XN YOQVNA

YOTYCN HPBYJNP AGPC GYDP YNFPK XQZVNNXHOP

AGXLIN VE XA.—PMLPNA MPLYL

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg? Four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg.—Abraham Lincoln

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

We are a fabulous region!

Congratulations to the Region 3 award winners announced at the 2010 AG:

A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to **Rose Lee B. Crutcher** of Kentuckiana Mensa

The National Service Award was given to **Dr. Jean Becker** of Southeast Michigan Mensa

The Prolific Owl for Outstanding Membership Growth was won by **Western Pennsylvania Mensa** for achieving a 14.5% increase

CultureQuest awards:

3rd place, \$220.00: Cincinnati's team MECCA, **Tiffany Everett**, captain

4th place, \$192.50: Western Pennsylvania's team The Original

Standard Deviants, **Marty Flowers**, captain

5th place, \$137.50: East Central Ohio Mensa's team Uncle Churd, **Barbara McIntyre**, captain

11th place, \$110.00: Cleveland Area Mensa's team CAMarilla, **Robert Villarreal**, captain

PRP (Publications Recognition Program) awards:

Contribution: POETRY - "A Contest," by **Sally Yocum** of Columbus Area Mensa, *Col-M*, April 2009;

Contribution: NON-FICTION (ESSAY) "Blowing Up Our History" by **Lori Tarkany Balster** of Dayton Area Mensa, *MPULSE*, August 2009;

Contribution: PUZZLES AND GAMES "The Year 2009 Quiz" by **Dick Nuenke** of Columbus Area Mensa, *Col-M*, February 2010

PRP Website: "MEMBERS ONLY" SECTION: Cleveland Area Mensa www.cleveland.us.mensa.org Bobbie **Rooney**, Webmaster;

LDW Name the Event Contest Winner: Region 3: Rochester Area Mensa, **Nipun Pratap Singh**, Let the LOT (Leaders of Tomorrow)

Lead the Lot

A very special thank you to **Shirley Klass** who was so kind as to gift me with a lid and straw for my 2009 AG mug - the very one that allowed me to take beverages from hospitality without incurring the wrath of the hotel or AG Security. House sitters threw mine away! I'm still trying to figure out why they threw the lid and straw away, but kept the mug. Neither qualified for Mensa membership, for sure!

Dave Cahn of Metropolitan Washington Mensa has been elected National Ombudsman. His term of office began August 1. Dave replaced Eldon Romney who held that office for the past ten years. I posted results of the election on both the Yahoo and Facebook group sites. Join! Join! Join!

At the AMC (American Mensa Committee) meeting on Thursday, July 1, a number of somewhat controversial issues were on the agenda. They included restructuring the Hearings Committee, removing the Past and Past Chairs from voting membership on the AMC, and another revision of how the National Ombudsman would be elected. None passed. All motions presented at the Annual Business Meeting were defeated. Watch the Yahoo and Facebook groups for posting of the official minutes when they are available for me to do so.

My meetings with Region 3 members at dinners, brunches, picnics, RGs, monthly gatherings and parties have been wonderful. Thank you all for welcoming me so warmly.

Hope to see you at Western Pennsylvania Area Mensa's* and Cleveland Area Mensa's** RGs this month.

*(http://www.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Calendar1&Template=/Calendar/Calendar_EventDetail.cfm&EventID=1866)

**(http://www.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Calendar1&Template=/Calendar/Calendar_EventDetail.cfm&EventID=1783)

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy Yvonne Mark

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Yahoo gp. - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>

Facebook gp. - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

Scholarship Brunch



A good crowd was on hand to honor the NMM scholarship winners and meet with our visiting Regional Vice Chair (RVC), Betsy Mark. The top picture shows the group including Betsy Mark (front right) while below, LocSec, Richard Hopfner, presents the awards to **Lydia L. Bellanger** (L) of Traverse City Central H.S. and **Zoe Allen-Wickler** from Suttons Bay H.S. The other winner, **Catherine Gammon** of Petosky H.S. was unable to attend the presentation. All of us here at NMM wish these students the best of luck in their continuing education. Photos by Stan Cain and Jack Schultz.

Annual Picnic Photo Roundup



The annual picnic, held at the end of July at the Elmwood Twp. Park, was well attended, with plenty of good food and drink and fun and games and, of course, lots of stimulating conversation. Photos by Stan Cain.

