

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

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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 matters submitted to the editor shall be subject to editing for content, style, and space limitations, except when a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all". In such cases, it will include an editor's note stating it as such.

That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication. It is the editor's discretion whether to publish any submission, with the exception of mandatory items.

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.

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ON THE COVER: Hikers pause for a view of North Manitou Island after climbing the dunes at Pyramid Point in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. By Stan Cain

Northern Michigan Mensa

May 2006 Calendar

MOVIE CLUB – Saturday, 6 May 2006 at 2:00 p.m. We will meet at LaSenorita located at 2455 N. US 31 S (near Sam’s Club) for the discussion portion of our meeting. Attendance at the movie will begin on Friday, 28 April and run through Thursday, 4 May. The movie will be shown at Horizon Cinemas, 3587 Market Place Circle, Traverse City. Movies change following the last showing on Thursday night, so don’t wait until Friday the 5th as it may not be the same movie that we will be discussing. For the movie title, please check the NMM Events webpage on Friday, 28th April at www.nmm.us.mensa.org.

BRUNCH – Saturday, 13 May 2006, at 11:00 a.m. We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa’s Den which is on the right as you enter the front door.

TGIF – Friday, 19 May 2006, at 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café, located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. Coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps, and desserts are available for purchase.

BOOK CLUB (JUNE)

The Bibliomensans book club book for June 3 will be *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt.

(Ed. Note: The list of books for the rest of the year can be found on the Northern Michigan Mensa Events web site: www.nmm.us.mensa.org.)

Regional Vice Chair

RVC3 – Swan Song

The following column will be a shock or surprise to all of you. The offer I received was the same for me, but not something I could turn down. For those of you who have made requests or otherwise indicated your wishes be made known to the AMC, I will be sure to pass on your comments and concerns before I am officially done with my very very short term. I will miss all of you.

It seems like just yesterday – oops, it was – that I was elected RVC for Region 3. And now, it is with regret that I have to tell you I am stepping down.

On April 5, 2006, I was offered a significant promotion and transfer within the company I work for. On April 6, 2006, I accepted the position. The transfer is to Orlando, FL, which means I will be unable to fulfill my term as RVC3. My anticipated departure from Region 3 will be mid-May. The opportunity and position is something I have been working towards for the past 10 years. I had expected that it would come to fruition in Pittsburgh, but I cannot turn it down because it is in Florida.

I am very sad to leave Region 3 as it has been my home since I joined Mensa in 1989. I will miss my many friends and family here, but hope to see you all in the future at AGs and RGs or elsewhere. I will still be working on hospitality for the 2008 AG in Denver, and I hope to see you there, both as volunteers and as recipients of the AG hospitality. I will also continue to spearhead the bid for the 2009 AG for Pittsburgh and Western PA Mensa.

The AMC is already hard at work finding a replacement. I hope that you will all offer him/her your support as you have to me. I hope you will help him/her guide your groups and be your voice on the AMC. I hope you will welcome him/her as you have me. I hope you will all forgive me for going away and leaving you temporarily without an RVC. It all happened very quickly (within the space of 3 days) and was totally unexpected.

I will miss you Region 3 and the many friendships and family I have here. God bless.

Linda Hathaway
RVC3 – March-May 2006

American Mensa

American Mensa's Membership Committee is charged with coordinating activities relating to members, member benefits and services, retention of members, membership renewals, etc. Following this charge, AMC Membership Officer Heather Miller and her committee would like to announce the following new member benefit.

Brain, Child: The Magazine for Thinking Mothers

Two time winner of the prestigious Independent Press Award for Best Personal Life Coverage, this quarterly publication is more than a parenting magazine! It's funny, poignant, smart and advice-free. *Brain, Child* serves up top-notch reflection and analysis of modern motherhood from writers like Barbara Kingsolver, Alice Hoffman, Jane Smiley and others. Each full-color issue contains essays, features, news, reviews, humor, a debate and much more. There is a special limited time Mensa member discount - one year (4 issues) for \$16 (30% off the newsstand price.) Use code ABAM35 online at www.brainchildmag.com or call 888-304-6667 and mention *Mensa*.

Online Games Room

Continuing with a series of enhancements to the AML Web site designed to improve your Mensa experience, we're happy to announce the expansion of our online Games Room at www.us.mensa.org/games.

We hope that the addition of these new games will bring you back to our Web site again and again. Additionally, we hope that this will provide incentive for potential and non members to visit us regularly and hopefully join!

In addition to our old favorites like Malarky, Buzzword and Word Play, you'll find these new games with daily and weekly updated content:

DO YOU SUDOKU?

It's the latest craze that has that special Mensan appeal. Progress through the week with easy puzzles on Monday and Tuesday, Medium on Wednesday and Thursday, Hard on Friday and Saturday, and our special Mensan level on Sundays.

LA TIMES DAILY CROSSWORD

Play one of the nation's premiere newspaper crosswords with a ten day archive in case you miss a day.

UNIVERSAL TRIVIA

Test your knowledge in these five fun categories: General Knowledge, Sports, TV & Movies, Anything Goes and Music.

FENCE BUILDER

Beat the sheep! Play this secondary school favorite, and save your farm from the Bolsheepvik by building fence posts, capturing sections of your farm before the sheep do.

DAILY JIGSAW

Need a diversion with visual twist? Play our daily jigsaw and learn a little along the way.

HANGMAN: PARDON MY WORDS

Solve each daily phrase by guessing the letters of each word. Every correct word pardons your hangman.

WORDSENSE

Scrabble with a twist! You can only trade five tiles, and you must work quickly to build words before your letters begin to self destruct!

If you're a puzzle or game developer and would like to provide content or test your games on our site, please drop me an email to WebServices@americanmensa.org. We'll take a look at how you might enhance the Web experience for other members. If we have a good fit, you may be debuting a game on our site!

We hope you enjoy these new additions to our Web site. Please feel free to share your likes and dislikes with us at the address above, and note that we hope to expand our Games Room to include member-to-member games in the future.

Best regards,
Howard

J. Howard Prince, Director of Operations
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Colloquium 2006

The revolution is coming soon. Are you ready?

The scientific mysteries of the universe will unfold at Colloquium 2006: "Revolution in Cosmology" the weekend of Oct. 6-8 in Albany, N.Y. Speakers from an elite group of world-renowned scientists will share their knowledge of the recently discovered accelerating universe and the "dark energy" responsible for it, galaxies surrounded by invisible "dark matter," extra dimensions, string theory, loop quantum gravity and much, much more!

Participate in this stimulating mix of information, revelation and discussion as we explore this great mystery and the resulting "Revolution in Cosmology," presented by Mensa of Northeastern New York, the Mensa Education and Research Foundation and American Mensa.

Visit <http://colloquium.us.mensa.org> to see the speakers list and schedule, recommended reading list, travel hints, information on Albany, and more.

In addition, attend one of our national gatherings: Mind Games 2006 in Portland Ore. (www.mindgames.us.mensa.org), World Gathering (and the 60th anniversary of Mensa) in Orlando, Fla. (www.wg06.us.mensa.org).

We look forward to seeing you!

Jill Beckham
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April SLOGAN PUZZLE Answers:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 8. K |
| 2. I | 9. N |
| 3. G | 10. B |
| 4. L | 11. E |
| 5. A | 12. J |
| 6. H | 13. D |
| 7. F | 14. M |

Some Special Plants of Sleeping Bear Dunes

By Jack Schultz

Grand vistas, stunning beaches, beautiful forests, and picturesque farm houses – all of which are prominent features of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore – draw us back to the area time and again. Other, less easily seen features may also hold a fascination for park visitors if they know about them. For example, do you know the plant called “horsetail” or scouring rush? In the entire world there are only 15 known species of this plant, yet nine of those species are part of the plant life in Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Many of the horsetails (genus *Equisetum*) grow in dry dune locations, while others grow in moist or wetland habitats. These ancient and rather unique plants are present all year round but many park visitors never pay attention to them – or even see them. Some horsetails look like little trees (*Equisetum sylvaticum*), with many fine branches; others are a single, leafless spike. If one becomes interested in these special plants it can be fun to seek them out in their varied habitats.

Another very small and yet readily visible group of plants which are unseen by many visitors is what are called “moonworts” (genus *Botrychium*). These plants come up from the ground in the spring, then they fruit, and by mid- to late-summer are dried up and virtually disappear. They occur only in very specific habitats, but finding colonies of them can be truly exciting. In general, most moonworts are not even a foot tall and many are only a few inches high. They have a spore-bearing “branch” and a leafy branch.

We’re all familiar with ferns, but did you know that more than 45 different species of them occur in Sleeping Bear country? Some, like the bracken fern, are found nearly everywhere. Most, however, occur in moist habitats. Some, like the ostrich fern or the cinnamon fern, are rather tall (often taller than three feet) and grow as a cluster of fronds which emerge from one point at ground level. The fronds spread upward and outward so they, collectively, appear almost like a big vase. The tiny bulblet fern is found only in moist, shady places and is so delicate that many people never see it.

A final group is that of the club mosses. These trail along the ground surface and grow in distinctly visible colonies. They rarely rise more than a foot above the soil and that includes the spikes or stalks on which the spores are produced. Some club mosses look like little trees and others seem to hug the ground in an intertwining network of fine branches. They are all special in their own way.

All of these plants belong to a group called Pteridophytes. While one who is botanically inclined might say it is unfair to single out these for discussion, because all of the plant life in Sleeping Bear is interesting, I have done so

because we frequently overlook these “oddities of nature.” The park has so many different habitats, as those who hike the trails have found. Each habitat is home to different kinds of plants, and some of the truly unique species may fascinate you if you take the time to become acquainted.

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The plants referred to in this article will all be described and illustrated in a new book that is tentatively titled *Ferns and Fern Allies of the Sleeping Bear Region*. The author, Dr. Daniel Palmer, has compiled great quantities of information about these Pteridophytes and hopes to publish the book in the near future. It should become a handy guide for park visitors and others interested in the botany of Leelanau and Benzie Counties.

Jack Schultz is a member of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Sleeping Bear Dunes. He holds a Ph.D. in forest ecology and frequently leads people on nature walks in northwestern Michigan.

Jell-O Cream Squares By Stan Cain

For those of you who admired my wife Dorothy’s dessert at the August 2005 potluck, here is her recipe. Enjoy!

Crust:

½ c. butter
¼ c. brown sugar
1 c. flour
½ c. Chopped walnuts

Blend sugar & butter, add flour & nuts. Press into a 9 x 13-inch pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool.

Filling:

1 - 3oz. pkg. Jell-O (lemon)
1 c. hot water
¾ c. sugar
½ pt. (1 c.) whipping cream
1 - 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese

Dissolve Jell-O in hot water and cool. Blend sugar and cream cheese; add cooled Jell-O gradually into the Cream cheese mixture. Whip the cream and add to the mixture. Pour onto crust and chill.

Topping:

2 - 3 oz. pkg. Jell-O (Strawberry)
3 c. hot water

Dissolve Jell-O in hot water and cool. When the filling is set, pour topping over filling and chill.
