

Thumb Land Conservancy NEWS

November 17, 2020

Late Fall Harvest Edition – It's time to gather provisions and fatten up. Winter is almost here.

McCallum's Orchard and Cider Mill **5697 Harris Road, Grant Township, Saint Clair County**

They say, "A friend in need is a friend indeed". Well, we have a friend indeed in Ray Peltier, owner of McCallum's Orchard and Cider Mill near Jeddo. Ray has been very short-handed on apple picking this season and can use all the help he can get. If you want apples, he will give you half of what you pick at no charge. If you want to pick for a charitable cause, he will give you all you pick, within reason. Ray says he has a lot of Red Delicious, Ida Red, and Jonagold apples still on the trees. He has several other varieties in addition. Of course, as a gesture of gratitude, we hope that you will stop in the orchard store to buy some fresh doughnuts, apple cider, and even McCallum's Wine. Let us know that you picked and if you are not already a TLC member, we'll put you on our e-mail news list.



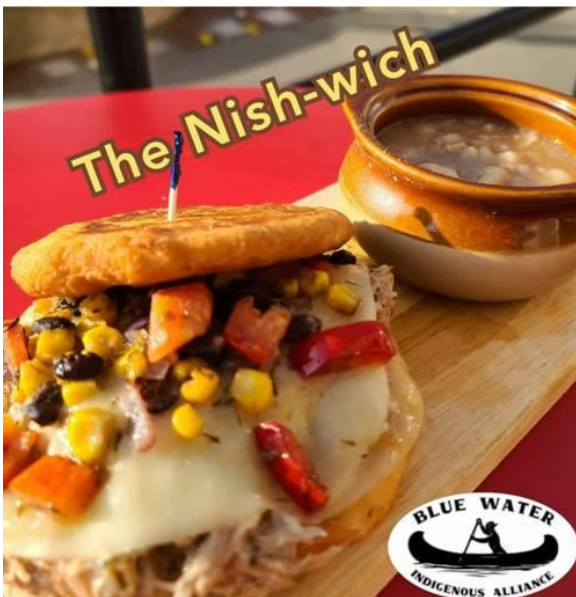
McCallum's Orchard and Cider Mill is located at 5697 Harris Road, about ½ mile east of Wildcat Road, about halfway between Jeddo and Blaine. They are open daily from 9 to 5. For more information, call the orchard at 810-327-6394, or Ray at 810-334-1872, or see their web site at McCallumsOrchard.Com.



Back in 2010, Ray Peltier donated the 11.5-acre Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary in Fort Gratiot to the TLC. Over 6.3 acres of wetlands on the property were preserved under a State conservation easement as mitigation for 0.63 acre of wetland impact permitted by the State for an expansion of the Hamzavi Dermatology office in Fort Gratiot. In accepting ownership of the mitigation property, the TLC agreed to write a management plan, conduct annual monitoring, submit annual monitoring reports, and conduct long-term stewardship, all required by the State. Our thanks again to Ray Peltier and Dr. Syed Hamzavi.

Moe's Corner Deli **902 Military Street, Port Huron**

Before or after picking apples at McCallum's, maybe you'll be looking for a good meal in the area. For Native American Month, through November, Moe's Corner Deli at 902 Military Street in Port Huron is featuring a native menu, including the "Nish-Wich" sandwich with slow-cooked pulled pork, Muenster cheese, scratch succotash, and frog jam marmalade between two layers of Native American fry bread, along with authentic corn soup served hot. Moe's will donate a portion of their sales to the Blue Water Indigenous Alliance.



As you may recall from our last newsletter, Moe's Corner Deli provided lunch at the indigenous naming ceremony for our TLC preserves back on October 3 at Ode Zibi in Burtchville. Like the TLC, they are partners with the Blue Water Indigenous Alliance and want to promote awareness of the Native American history and culture of our region. Realizing that their building is located on land that was once a center for local tribes along the banks of the Black River, Moe's features the stories of local Native Americans placed in their front windows. These include the stories of Ottissippi, the Black River tribal people, the Swan Creek tribal people, Machonce or Little Bear, Mother Rodd or Windy Woman, and John Riley or Black Cloud



Moe's Corner Deli is open from 10:30 to 4, but closed on Sunday. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, Moe's is set-up for orders at the deli through a new protective alcove at the entrance. You can order there at the deli, or better yet, call or order on-line for curbside service or delivery. For more information, call Moe's at 810-294-5109 or visit their web site at MoesOnline.Com. Thank you and Miigwech to Moe's manager Brandon Lordy for information and photos.

Deer Hunting Opportunities Saint Clair County

Some of us have mixed feelings about hunting, particularly our deer friends. However, there have been far too many deer in our region for the past 4 or 5 decades. They have caused incredible damage to our native plant communities by grazing out native forest wildflowers like trillium, and are a big reason why the few remaining populations of Arbor Vitae or Northern White-cedar in our area are unable to regenerate. The number of deer-vehicle collisions has increased significantly in recent years also. Weighing all of the negatives and positives, increased deer hunting makes sense. Not only does venison provide a mostly wild source of lean meat, but hunting promotes outdoor activity and camaraderie. Another thing to keep in mind is that most wild animals don't have very nice endings in nature.

This season, the TLC had the opportunity to lease our 38.5-acre Gerrits Sanctuary in Ira Township and our 42-acre Bidwell Sanctuary in Burtchville Township to a few deer hunters through Big Buck Leasing. This would have generated about \$4,000 in much needed income for the conservancy. The problem is that there are already hunters out on these properties without our permission, so our potential leasers backed out. They really wanted to be out on opening day of rifle season. The lack of consideration of the trespassing hunters not only cost us significant income, but now requires us to track them down and evict them, or to at least require them to lease.

Considering that we are already 3 days into the 15-day rifle season, it's unlikely that we will be able to lease this year. If we are able to evict the current hunters on our preserves soon, we may be able to offer short hunting lease opportunities for the remainder of rifle season in November plus the later December seasons. If you are interested or know of anyone that might be, please contact us. Terms of leases are negotiable. Big Buck Leasing requires each hunter to carry \$1 million in liability insurance and the TLC is likely to require the same.

TLC Membership

With your membership, the TLC is better enabled to protect important natural areas in our region. We offer three membership levels as shown below: Individual \$25, Family \$30, and Business \$100. Members will receive our e-mail news. Some of you are members based on your previous donations, volunteer efforts, or other help. You can also make donations in honor or memory of someone or something. For donations of \$100 or more, your name will be listed on our web site. For larger donations, please contact us for details. You may print and complete the form below. Make checks payable to "Thumb Land Conservancy". Mail checks and forms to: Thumb Land Conservancy, 4975 Maple Valley Road, Marlette, Michigan 48453

To download and print the membership form, click [HERE](#).

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