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May 20, 2026

Supplement to the Iosco County News-Herald and Oscoda Press

SUMMER GUIDE



File photo by John Morris

ARTS AND CRAFTS – Visitors returned to Tawas City's Shoreline Park last year for the 32nd annual Arts and Crafts Show. Last year's Memorial Day weekend show had nearly 200 vendors with crafts, paintings, furniture, jewelry and other attractions.

Annual Shoreline Arts and Crafts Show is set for May 23-24 in Tawas

TAWAS CITY – The 33rd annual Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce Shoreline Arts and Crafts Show is set for Memorial Day weekend.

Scheduled for Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24 in Tawas City, this year's show is expected to feature close to 200 vendors.

Show hours at Shoreline Park, across from the Iosco County Building along US-23, Tawas City, are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Like last year, the chamber's Memorial Day weekend arts and crafts show will have about 200 spaces for artists and crafters from across the state who will be set up at the park with a large selection of hand-crafted items. All work at the show must be handmade, original work by the artists.

The show will feature items for sale as diverse as leather goods, yard

art, furniture, home décor items, clothes, doll accessories, lotions, paintings, photography, jewelry, rugs and food items such as salsa, fudge, spices, nuts and kettle corn.

Parking is available at Shoreline Park and across the street from the park in the courthouse parking lot.

For more information, call 989-362-8643 or 1-800-558-2927.



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And it's home to the western reaches of the county, which host the heart of the Huron National Forest with its pristine woods, rivers, lakes and streams.

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May - October

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8 a.m.-1 p.m. Shoreline Park, US-23 at the River
May 16th - Sept. 27th



May 22nd
Wurtsmith Air Museum
Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.





May 22nd - 25th
Friday Night Food Truck Rally
Family Fun Games, Live Entertainment,
AuSable Trailhead, US-23



Memorial Weekend
5K Road Race
May 25th
Memorial Day Ceremony & Program
Oscoda Veterans Memorial Park





June 5th, 6th, 7th
28th Annual Villages of Oscoda
Homeowners Yard Sale 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



June - August
Rotary of Oscoda "Summer Concert Series"
Thursdays 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Oscoda Beach Park



June 3rd - Sept. 2nd
Dwight Street Live Street Dance
Wednesdays 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Live Music & Dancing



June - August
"Movies by the Pier" Series Begins
Wednesdays at the Oscoda Beach Park





June 26th - 27th
Lakewood Shores Property Owners Association
9th Annual Subdivision Wide Garage Sale



June 27th - 28th
42nd Annual "Art on the Beach"
Oscoda Beach Park





July 4th
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SUMMER GUIDE



File photo by Kaitlyn Campbell

ART ON THE BEACH – Art on the Beach returned to Oscoda for its 41st rendition last year at Oscoda Beach Park. More than 70 vendors participated in the event, and many shoppers came out to purchase a variety of art pieces.

Art & Antiques on the Beach set for June 27-28

OSCODA – Now in its 42nd year, Art & Antiques on the Beach returns to Oscoda June 27-28.

The popular annual show, held at Oscoda Beach Park, will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 27 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 28. Admission is free to the public to browse and shop.

Last year more than 70 artisans displayed and sold their handmade arts, crafts and hobbies on the shoreline of beautiful Lake Huron. The park is located at the end of River Road in downtown Oscoda.

According to the chamber's website, Art & Antiques on the Beach brings together local artists, makers, and antique dealers in a relaxed, open-air setting right along the water. Whether you're searching for something specific or just browsing, this event offers a little bit of every-



File photo by Kaitlyn Campbell

HART'S ART – Nico Hart, East Jordan, was a vendor for the first time at Art on the Beach last year. She specializes in painting, sculpting and jewelry, and says that her biggest inspirations are nature and spirituality.

Featured artwork during past years have included watercolor paintings, metal garden art, flat board intarsia, decorative cement leaves, cedar birdhouses, doll furniture, epoxied wood laser-engraved products, original photography, T-shirts and sweat-

shirts, jewelry, fudge, dips, seasonings, handmade pet jacket harnesses, sun-catchers, stained glass, rock and peddle art, crocheted and knitted items, hats and more.

The Oscoda Garden Club traditionally holds its annual auction at the event.

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SUMMER GUIDE

Wurtsmith Air Museum opens for season

OSCODA – Wurtsmith Air Museum, located at 4071 E. Van Ettan St. on the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, opened for the season on Saturday, May 16.

The museum's reopening coincides annually with Armed Forces Day. The museum will be open

on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., until the end of September.

Single admission tickets to the museum are available at a cost of \$7 for adults and \$3 for children ages under 12, while individuals who are actively serving in the military and

children under five can visit for free.

Annual and lifetime memberships are also available to the museum. The museum recently added three new lifetime members.

The museum originally started out in one little room more than 30 years ago and has grown consistently since. Fly-ins were held even before there was a museum. The museum started as a place for the founders to work on airplanes. Today the museum spreads across three hangars.

Additional information can be found on the website at wurtsmithairmuseum.net, on the museum's Facebook page or by calling 989-739-7555. Volunteers are always needed to help run the museum.



Courtesy photo

2,000TH VISITOR – Wurtsmith Air Museum welcomed its 2,000th visitor on Sept. 21, 2025. Charlene Tompkins of Belmont was presented with a 100th Anniversary Commemorative coin and an honorary membership. She especially enjoyed the Wurtsmith Room displays and hoped to return when the new room is completed.

2026 Summer Tourist Guide

Editor - John Morris

A publication of the Iosco County News-Herald and Oscoda Press

Editor's note: This is the first of three summer publications. The remaining two will be published prior to Independence Day and Labor Day.

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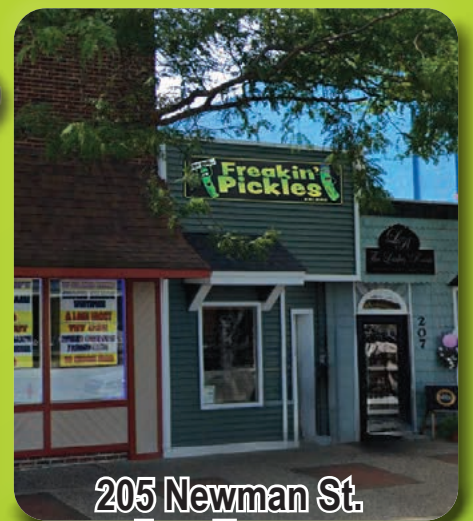
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SUMMER GUIDE

Oscoda Township, Huron Pines host celebration for scenic preserve

by Kaitlyn Campbell

OSCODA – The Huron Pines conservation non-profit, in conjunction with Oscoda Township, recently hosted an event to celebrate the transfer of the AuSable River Scenic Preserve property to the township.

The public was invited to the 42-acre riverfront nature preserve for a family-friendly afternoon of exploring the property. Community members in attendance were joined by Huron Pines staff and board members, as well as township officials – Clerk Heather Tait, Treasurer Jaimie McGuire, Board Trustee Tim Cummings and Township Engineer Rick Freeman.

The event began with a short spoken program, in which a few people took the microphone and talked about the preserve.

Following an introduction and welcome from Huron Pines Community Project Manager Amanda Vanaman, Freeman spoke about completing the process of Oscoda obtaining the property, as well as what the future looks like for it.

“We have short-term and long-term plans as far as maintaining the property,” he said. “And there will be plenty of opportunity for public input as we move



File photo by Kaitlyn Campbell RIVER VIEWS – Pictured here is a view of the AuSable River at the ending point of the guided tour along one of the trails of the AuSable River Scenic Preserve. The river was noticeably higher due to the recent rainfall.

into the future with projects down the road.”

Next was Huron Pines Executive Director Brad Jensen, who recalled the first time he visited the property, as well as how early experiences of nature are harder to have.

“In a world that is changing pretty quickly, being able to hold on to natural areas and get out and enjoy them is so important,” he stated. “That’s what we wanted to do here as part of this project.”

The final speaker was Samantha Davis, recreation grant coordinator for the Eastern Region for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. She talked

about what the trust fund does, and thanked those that were involved with the transfer process.

“This acquisition here is a prime example of what the trust fund was created to do,” she explained. “I just really want to commend and thank Oscoda Township and Huron Pines, Rick Freeman, all the other partners and advocates that have the vision to conserve a piece of property like this so that it can be available for all of us to enjoy and

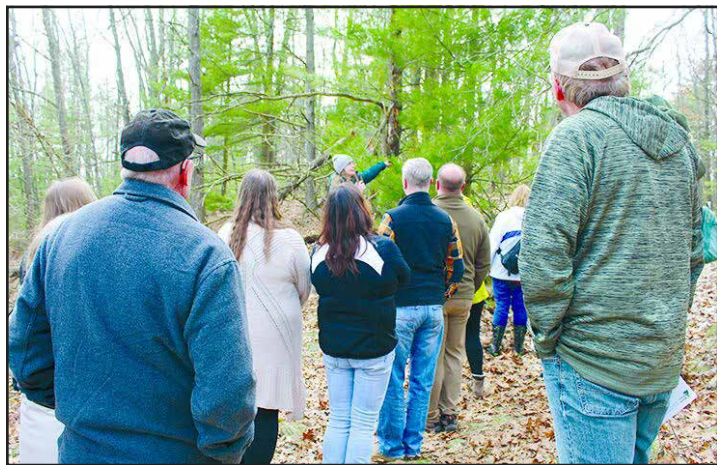
for people to bring their kids out and connect with nature.”

After the speeches concluded and the opening ribbon was cut, attendees were able to take a guided tour along one of the trails

on some of the newly protected preserve, led by Huron Pines Stewardship Project Manager Amber Hubbard.

Stops were made during

See Preserve, Page 6A



File photo by Kaitlyn Campbell A TOUR OF NATURE – During the celebration event, attendees had the opportunity to go on a guided tour along one of the trails on some of the AuSable River Scenic Preserve, led by Huron Pines Stewardship Project Manager Amber Hubbard. Stops were made along the way so Hubbard could teach everyone about the various nature surrounding them, such as leaves, trees and other plants.

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SUMMER GUIDE



File photo by Kaitlyn Campbell

TRANSFER COMPLETE – A ribbon cutting was held during the celebration of the transfer of the AuSable River Scenic Preserve to Oscoda Township on April 14. Included here among community members who attended the event are Huron Pines staff and board members, as well as township officials, who are Clerk Heather Tait, Treasurer Jaimie McGuire, Board Trustee Tim Cummings and Township Engineer Rick Freeman.

PRESERVE

Continued from Page 5A

the tour for Hubbard to educate everyone on the surrounding nature, including leaves, trees and other plants. The tour wrapped up once it reached a spot overlooking the AuSable River, and guests were then free to look around the property at their own pace.

Light refreshments were also available for people to enjoy, and children in attendance could take part in a scavenger hunt, in which they would look for natural features provided to them on a piece of paper, such as grass and water.

The AuSable River Scenic Preserve, former-

ly named Hull Island, which is located close to a neighborhood west of downtown Oscoda, featured is a 42-acre home to mixed hardwood and pine forests, 3,300 feet of river frontage, hiking trails and scenic views of the AuSable River.

According to the Huron Pines website, along with having high conservation value for wildlife habitat and water quality protection, the site holds great potential for recreation.

Huron Pines closed on the property in December 2023 and transferred it to Oscoda in October 2025.

The partnership between the conservation nonprofit and the municipality through the transfer ensured that the land will be permanently protected and available for the community to enjoy.

The partnership will continue as Huron Pines and Oscoda Township will team up on tasks such as ongoing maintenance at the preserve.

For more information on the AuSable River Scenic Preserve, visit huronpines.org/ausable-river-scenic-preserve.



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SUMMER GUIDE



Courtesy photo

SHORELINE PRESERVE – Approximately 145 acres with 4,000 feet of Lake Huron shoreline is open to the public in Alabaster Township.

Lake Huron Coastal Preserve open to public

ALABASTER Twp. – The Lake Huron Coastal Preserve now belongs to the people of Alabaster Township, and is open to all who reside or explore in Northern Michigan.

Huron Pines transferred ownership of the preserve to the township on Dec. 16, 2022, bringing a two-year effort to permanently protect 145 acres and 4,000 feet of shoreline to a triumphant end.

Situated at the southern end of Iosco County, the preserve is home to mature hardwoods, forested wetlands and cobble beach, all of which provide important wildlife habitat and opportunities for low-impact recreation.

Alabaster Township was awarded a \$1.7 million grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to acquire the preserve from Huron Pines, which had bought the property from USG.

Huron Pines raised an additional \$1 million toward the purchase and to establish an endowment with the support of numerous foundations, private funders and more than 120 individual donors who gave during a public fundraising campaign in 2021.

Alabaster Township will continue working closely with Huron Pines to finalize longer-term goals to expand trails and improve access to Lake Huron, while also accounting for

the unique ecological significance of the preserve.

As previously reported, Huron Pines bought the property in December 2020 as a temporary measure, to take it off the real estate market for commercial sale, and the purchase was made via a short-term loan from The Conservation Fund. The intent was for Alabaster Township to then acquire the property from Huron Pines, in order to create a lakeshore township nature park.

Huron Pines went on to work closely with the township throughout the following year to establish land management processes, raise funds for the property, secure public support and submit the grant proposal to the MNRTF.

According to Huron Pines, the MNRTF funds come from royalties on the sale and lease of state-owned minerals (primarily oil and gas).

When the MNRTF recommended fully funding the proposed \$1.7 million grant request on Dec. 1, 2021, then Alabaster Township Supervisor Stephanie Wentworth stated that the township is deeply committed to the creation of a destination-quality preserve showcasing the unique Lake Huron shoreline and the beautiful, nearly 100-year-old second-growth forest.

Following approval of

the grant, the next step was for funds to be appropriated by the Michigan Legislature in the spring of 2022. The goal was to transfer ownership of the property from Huron Pines to Alabaster Township by the end of 2022, and this goal has since been achieved.

Along with the Lake Huron frontage, this tract of land features a variety of plant and wildlife species, undisturbed forests and a wetland ecosystem which is rare in Michigan.

Further, the trailhead and parking area for the Alabaster Township Bike Path and Arboretum are located on the property's south side, and there is potential for future walking trails and public access to Lake Huron.



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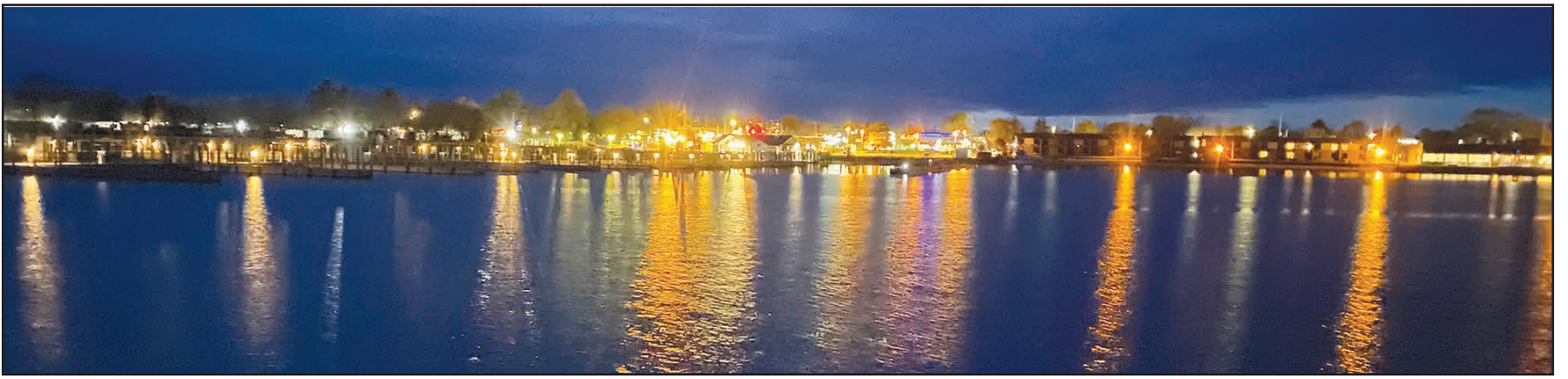
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SUMMER GUIDE



File photo by John Morris

TAWAS BAY SKYLINE – A slow night of fishing offered this view of East Tawas taken from the East Tawas State Dock. Captured in this view are the East Tawas Harbor, white lights from the East Tawas City Campground to the left, lights from the City of East Tawas in the center and the Tawas Bay Beach Resort to the right.



Pictured:
Left - Kerry Willett, Right - Tracy Stevelinck
Bolt - Our Store Dog and Official GREETER

We Make Outdoor Gardening Fun at Tawas Hardware

Muck Crocs
Adirondack Chairs
Outdoor Gardening Essentials

(989) 362-3821 • tawas.doitbest.com
108 Lake Street (US-23), Tawas City

Summertime in
TAWAS

June & July Schedule of Events

For a complete list of Summer Events please visit www.Tawas.com



All Summer Long

Saturdays

Farm Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Gateway Park, Tawas City

Book Sale, 9 a.m.-Noon

Second Saturday of the month
Tawas City Library (June-Sept.)

Vintage Market 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Second Saturday of the month
(May-Sept.)

Brugger's Plaza, Tawas City

Mondays:

Tawas Community Concert Band 7 p.m.

East Tawas City Park
begins June 15th

Tuesdays:

Tuesdays at the Lighthouse
Tawas Point State Park

Live Street Dance, 7 p.m.

Newman St., East Tawas
starts June 16th

Thursdays:

TWW Free Family 5k, 5:30 p.m.

The Collective, East Tawas

Fridays

Shoreline Summer Series, 7 p.m.

Shoreline Park, Tawas City
starts July 10th

Sat. - Sun., May 23 - 24

33rd Annual Memorial Day Art & Craft Show, Shoreline Park, Tawas City
Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mon., June 1

MyMichigan Medical Center of Tawas Charity Golf Classic

Tues., June 9

Back to the Bricks Car Show, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Thurs., June 11

Develop Iosco Community Meeting

Fri. - Sun., June 12- 14

Nor-East'r Music & Art Festival

Sat., June 20

Art Stroll, Hosted by Tawas Bay Art Gallery

Sat., July 4

Independence Day Parade, 11 a.m., Theme - "Party Like It's 1776"
"Light Up the Bay" Fireworks, 10:15 p.m.

Fri. - Sun., July 10 - 12

Summerfest, TawasSummerfest.com

Fri., July 10

Summerfest Kick-off Party and Bounce Houses in Shoreline Park

Sat., July 11

Summerfest 5K Run & Walk & 10K, Register at RunSignUp.com

Fri. - Sun., July 10- 12 & Thurs. - Sun., July 23 - 26

Tawas Bay Players Present: "Decades of Delights"

Mon. - Sat., July 27 - Aug. 1

Iosco County Fair

