



Digital Newsletter



MCDP MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Membership meetings are every 3rd Thursday of each month

Join the Manistee Dems at the Monthly Membership Meeting Westshore Community College, 401 River St. or via Zoom | April 20 at 7pm
Zoom link available on the calendar which can be found on the website: <https://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/>

APRIL MEETING DISCUSSION TOPIC: *An update on the Great Lakes Environmental Festival*



COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR John Helge

Celebrate Earth Day at the 2023 GLEF in Manistee!

We will be celebrating Earth Day later this month. This is a day when we all can come together to celebrate the work being done to protect our environment and those groups, individuals, organizations, and businesses that are working to create a more sustainable future for us all here on planet earth. We have a great opportunity to join in a community celebration as we are proud to be hosting the 2023 Great Lakes Environmental Festival on Friday April 21st and Saturday April 22nd right here in Manistee!

We have a lot to celebrate as we are most fortunate to be surrounded by nature's bounty of fresh water, clean air, and extensive carbon-sequestering forests all right outside our door and easily accessible to all of us who call this home. We must be forever vigilant to protect these resources so they are available for the greater good of everyone in our society. This means we need to be continuously educating ourselves and others so each of us can implement the science-based best practices that will protect and heal the damage done to our global environment.

The 2023 Great Lakes Environmental Festival (aka: GLEF) will provide attendees with just that kind of information! The GLEF organizers have recruited a group of subject matter experts who will be delivering engaging informative lectures hourly from 12 noon to 5 pm on Friday April 21st and Saturday April 22nd at the West Shore Community College Building on River Street in Manistee. Interspersed with the lectures will be short videos that have been produced by local high school students and student artwork that will demonstrate to adults that our children understand the challenges caused by climate change and their effect on the future of this planet.

On Saturday April 22nd from 10am to 3pm there will be an Environmental Expo at the Wagoner Senior Center on St Mary's Parkway in Manistee that will feature information tables and booths from local and regional environmental activist organizations and businesses. There will also be a display of electric vehicles in the parking lot. Shuttle bus service will be provided between the Expo and the WSCC building to enable folks to park their cars at the Senior Center and do their part to reduce their carbon footprint while enjoying the 2023 GLEF.

We will be honoring organizations that have proven to be consistent guardians of the Great Lakes and our regional environment during this year's GLEF. The US Coast Guard will be conducting a water rescue demonstration in the Manistee River between the Maple Street and US 31 bridges. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians will be presenting a lecture on their research work on reviving wild rice habitat in our waterways. Both organizations will be honored by the 2023 GLEF for their work as Environmental Guardians of the Great Lakes!

Young children will also be able to engage in the 2023 GLEF activities as they will have the opportunity to collect beads from the Expo exhibitors, downtown merchants, and the lecture speakers. The beads will then be able to be assembled into bracelets or bookmarks as reminders of the fun they had and what they learned at the 2023 GLEF.

Now, many of you may be wondering what all this environmental festival stuff has to do with what it means to be a Democrat in Manistee County. I hope you can agree with the scientists who study climate change and a large majority of people who believe in science that it is being hastened by human activity. Protecting the environment is a key issue for the Democratic Party both nationally and here in Manistee County. Supporting the 2023 Great Lakes Environmental Festival is one way that Democrats in Manistee County can help get the word out to more of our neighbors that they too can take action to slow the damage being done by climate change.

I have no doubt that some who read this will be among the minority who do not believe we are currently experiencing climate change or its' adverse effects. To those doubters I say that it is not normal for our winters here in NW Michigan to be mild as they have been over the past few years. The lack of significant snow cover hurts our local winter tourist-based economy. There was no significant ice formation on any of the Great Lakes this past winter meaning a large amount of water was lost to evaporation. That evaporated water will eventually fall on areas that may already be saturated with heavy rains and damaging floods. Our summer storms coming off the warmer waters of Lake Michigan are more intense and damaging. Toxic algae blooms caused by runoff from big corporate farms and inhumane confined animal feeding operations entering the warmer waters of all the Great Lakes have threatened the safe drinking water of many large population centers. Climate change doubters must also be aware that as the temperatures rise, and fresh water supplies dwindle that we are living in the region that has the potential to become the primary global climate change refuge. Millions of climate change refugees displaced by rising sea levels, lack of fresh water, high temperatures, and toxic air will be clamoring to live right here in Manistee County. We must demand that our elected officials take the action necessary to enable them to stay in their current homes and not have to leave just to find dry land, clean water, clean air, and a safe environment.

We look forward to providing a fun and educational Earth Day experience for you, your family, and your friends at the 2023 Great Lakes Environmental Festival on April 21st and 22nd in Manistee on beautiful Lake Michigan!

Join us Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22 for the
2nd Annual Great Lakes Environmental Festival
in Downtown Manistee

Friday, April 21 West Shore Community College Speakers

12pm Movie *"A to Z: Drought and Deluge"*
1pm Julia Chambers – Climate Change Activist
2pm Marc Miller – Sustainable Tourism
3pm Frank Beaver – LRBOI Wild Rice Restoration Project
4pm Lara Treemore Spears – Microplastics in the Great Lakes
5pm Environmental Film

Saturday Events
Environmental Expo

Service and Product Displays
Wagoner Center 10am to 3pm

Dial-A-Ride shuttle available between venues
Saturday 10am-5pm

25 cent Children's Movie
10am at the Vogue Theater on River St.



Saturday, April 22 West Shore Community College Speakers

12pm Movie *"Great Lakes: One Water for Life"*
1pm Ellen Vial – MI Environmental Council
2pm Allen O'Shea – Renewable Energy
3pm Jim MacInnes – A Sustainable/Reliable Energy Grid
4pm Denise Keele – MI Climate Action Network
5pm Environmental Film

Sunday, April 23 10am Environmental Worship Service

First Congregational United Church of Christ at 412 4th Street

Volunteers welcomed

For more information www.glef.us



YPANM MARCH EVENT RECAP

A Brief History of Race Relations in Michigan

The Young Progressive Activists of Northwest Michigan (YPANM) welcomed Professor Mike Nagle on zoom to discuss the history of race relations in Michigan on March 9, 2023. Professor Nagle teaches History and Political Science at West Shore Community College in Scottville, and has two published works on Michigan history. Nagle spoke to a group of Manistee Democrats on 3 distinct eras of race relations, focusing his discussion on the history of Detroit.

Nagle's discussion followed three important eras to Michigan's history: the Civil War, World War Two, and the 1967 Rebellion, key in race relations for the entire nation. YPANM's central goal is to bring education and awareness to voters and citizens of Northwest Michigan. We believe that events like this are important ways for community members to get involved and learn more about Michigan's history and how it remains relevant in our future.

LET US WORK TOGETHER IN
TAKING BETTER CARE OF OUR HOME

Beach Clean Up

1st Street Beach
Saturday, April 8, 2023 | 11 AM
Supplies will be provided



RSVP: youngprogressiveactivistsnm@gmail.com

Join **The Young Progressive Activists of North-West Michigan** and the Manistee Dems on Saturday, April 8 at 11am at the First St. Beach in Manistee for a community beach clean up. All supplies will be provided and all ages are

welcome. Please RSVP to youngprogress...@gmail.com
or <https://signup.com/go/ymoTTRQ>

The Young Progressive Activists of North-West Michigan's mission is to bring young people (young at heart included) together who want to create change and educate our community. More information can be found on the Young Progressive Activists of North-West Michigan Facebook page www.facebook.com/YPANM.



LET'S BUILD A DEMOCRATIC RURAL MOVEMENT TOGETHER

Join the MDP Rural Caucus to learn, share, and create a new Rural Michigan Alliance.

The Purpose of the Summit is to bring together all Stakeholders who are working to turn rural Michigan blue/bluer to coordinate and collaborate their work for the 2023-24 cycle and beyond.

WHEN

APRIL 14-15, 2023

WHERE

**KEWADIN CASINO HOTEL
2186 SHUNK RD
SAULT STE. MARIE**

COST

\$25

Includes four meals and snacks during the Summit

Invited to participate are the DNC, Michigan Democratic Party, Project 83, and State Central Members, the Governor's Office, US Senators' and Representatives' Offices, State Legislators, County, and District Party leaders, Presidential Primary Planners, National Rural Organizers, Labor, Tribal Communities, and more

The Rural MI Alliance will then continue to work together with strategies discussed at the Summit.



REGISTER NOW



SUMMIT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

4 PM Begin Registration and Hotel Check-In
6-8 PM Reception for Attendees

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

8-8:30 Breakfast and Registration
8:30-9:15 Welcome and Summit Launch
9:30-11:15 Break Out Work Session
11:30-12:15 Large Group Share Out
12:15-1:00 Lunch
1:15-1:45 Afternoon Keynote
2:00-3:45 Break Out Work Session
4:00-4:45 Large Group Share Out
6:00-7:30 Dinner and Keynote

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

8:00-8:30 Breakfast
8:30-9:30 Building Bridges...a Conversation
with Our Legislators
9:45-11:00 Creating Our New Rural MI
Alliance and Next Steps
11:00-11:45 Keynote and Adjourn



**SAULT
STE.
MARIE
MICHIGAN**

WORK SESSION BREAKOUTS

- Communication and Messaging
- Support of County Parties
- Policy, Issues and Legislation
- Fundraising
- Recruitment and Support of Rural Candidates
- Liaison and Collaboration- Building with Aligned Organizations
- Community-Building
- 2024 Ballot Proposal Possibilities



Need help with car pooling, financial support for hotel and registration fees, or other questions, don't hesitate to contact MIRURALDEMS@gmail.com

REGISTER NOW :
Fill out our Google Form

REGISTER HERE



We have a new Membership Program on our [website](#). Most previous members have already been entered, but a password has not been assigned. To access the system,

1. Click on *Join the MCDP* and then *Member Sign-In*.
2. Enter your email address. It will prompt you for a password.
3. Since you have not signed in before, you will have to *Request Password*.
4. Check your email for the new password.
5. Return to the *Member Sign-in* Screen and enter the password.

You are now a signed in member of the MCDP and can explore the options that are available. Remember to note your password and save it in a secure location.

In the event section, you will see that we have a number of upcoming events that you can attend. Some of those have specific *Volunteer Opportunities*. To see the dates and times click on the *Volunteer Sign-Ups* option.

In the *Join A Committee* option, you can volunteer to help in specific areas. Remember, we are a totally volunteer organization and depend on you to make things work. The more people involved, the less the burden is on individuals. Many hands make light work.

This is new program for us so please let us know about any problems that you encounter or any comments that you think might be helpful.

Note that for your protection, certain areas are only available to registered members of the local party so that the ability to stalk or to troll is minimized.

MCDP Leadership Team

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