



MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY

SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

No Fall Meeting This Year

MHS has been studying the options for a one-day-only fall meeting this year. Normally we have a weekend conference in October. Because we hosted the week-long conference of the international Hemingway Society here in Bay View/Petoskey this past June, MHS had debated the question of what type of additional meeting - if any - that we would host this fall. Many of our longtime MHS members attended the June conference, and the consensus among many of them was that they would not be able to attend any further conference here this year.

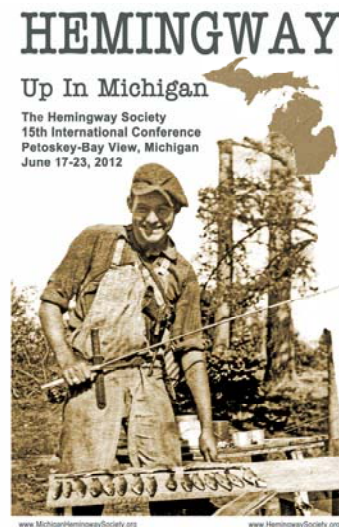


We explored several different one-day or special type meetings that we might hold - or that the local community college might co-host with us, that would appeal to those interested "EH groupies" who were within a more local or one-day driving area. Unfortunately, those alternate options have not materialized into anything that we could make work. So we will **not** be holding any fall meeting this year. Check our website from time to time for any updates and for eventual plans for the fall 2013 weekend.

(www.michiganhemingwaysociety.org)

June Conference was Fantastic!

I think we can all say – without a doubt - that 2012 was a memorable year for Hemingway followers. The conference that was held in June was such a fantastic meeting for all who attended. We have included a few first-person accounts by our MHS members and a few photos in this newsletter. Charlotte Ponder wrote an excellent comprehensive article for the international Hemingway Society, and rather than include excerpts here, I think you would all enjoy her complete article and the photos that are included with it. Go to the MHS website: www.michiganhemingwaysociety.org and click on [2012 "UP IN MICHIGAN" Hemingway Society Conference Recap](#), then click on [Hemingway Newsletter](#) in the text of the second paragraph.



Staying in Bay View by Fred Svoboda

A big part of the appeal of the 2012 International Hemingway Conference was its setting in northern Michigan and, especially, its site on the campus of the Bay View Association, a community of summer cottages founded in the 1870s by Michigan Methodists. Bay View is a part of the Chautauqua movement (named after the first site in Chautauqua, New York) and intended to provide education and moral uplift to those who during most of the year are consumed with the business of everyday life. Music is a big part of the program, including a student music camp and weekly Sunday "Vespers" concerts that marry hymns, opera, virtuoso instrumentals, Broadway show tunes and an organ worthy of the Phantom of the Opera. The music is probably why the Hemingway family had a close link to Bay View, even though its genteel image did not fit the northern Michigan that Hemingway created in his stories.

Bay View is on a hillside overlooking Little Traverse Bay, and roughly a mile east of downtown Petoskey. Most of the cottages and meeting rooms date to the 19th Century.

A number of conference attendees rented cottages for the week, thus finding themselves within easy walking distance of conference sessions. Jerri and I, Charlotte and Cecil Ponder, and Susan Lightcap and Diane Fox rented "Seven Sundays," a two story "cottage" with four bedrooms, three baths, an eat-in kitchen and a roofed deck that held about twenty people for an impromptu meeting of the

Michigan Hemingway Society board, spouses and hangers-on. (Yes, the cottage had been added to over the years.) The decor was up-North eclectic or, as I said to Jerri, "so cute that if it had been any cuter it would have been in bad taste." But it wasn't in bad taste, rather a nice combination of cushy sofas, 19th century wooden furniture and lots of artwork on the white painted, exposed-stud walls. We felt right at home and enjoyed ourselves a lot and stayed cool under ceiling fans in the shade even on the hottest day of the conference.



The Papers by Audrey McMullen

The Hemingway Society's biennial international conferences are all about "the papers". The papers are all about exploring ideas and research that illuminate the life and work of Our Favorite Writer. Anyone -- housewives to college professors to career professionals-- is welcome to submit a proposal to share ideas at the conference. Most papers come from students who are presenting advanced degree work. Papers are limited to 20 minutes each, and are selected by a member of the Hemingway Society Board of Directors.

"Hemingway: Up in Michigan" offered a collection of 120 papers, many of them grouped together by area of interest. Some, for example, dealt with "Hemingway's Family Values" or aspects of a specific Hemingway work such as "The Garden of Eden." We heard everything from theories such as, "It was really Uncle George who killed the Indian in the top bunk," to actual CIA records of the Hemingway family's participation in WWII intelligence gathering. Papers are usually grouped in threes, with three groups being presented simultaneously in different locations. Conferees reported the quality of the

papers was excellent, the range of topics held “something for everyone”, and the only difficulty was in selecting which papers to attend from competing time slots.

In addition to individual papers, many programs were put together by the Michigan Hemingway Society and presented to the public as part of the conference. These included “The Odawa Tribe in Hemingway’s Time”, “Hemingway’s Michigan, My Michigan”, “Five Hemingway Women: Biographical Portrayals”, “Hemingway and the Local Area”, “A Michigan Writers Roundtable”, “Picturing Hemingway’s Michigan”, and “Hemingway and Northern Michigan.”



A “Teaching Hemingway Series” roundtable, and a “Reading Hemingway Series” roundtable were also included in the selection of presentations and were of special interest to educators.



Conference Opening Reception by Carole Underwood

The Perry Hotel is to be congratulated for their very successful Opening Reception on Sunday night. There were several tables of canapés in the lobby, the Reycraft room, and the dining room; and wait staff with trays of delicious hors d'oeuvres circulated among the guests. The bars provided wine and other beverages. Nancy Nicholson and her assistants greeted our conference participants inside the lobby if the guests had not already registered at the



Campus Club on the Bay View oval. New friends were bid welcome, and old friends were hailed enthusiastically. Conversations were lively everywhere, and a truly good time was had by all. Every Opening Reception of the International holds the promise of the week to come when EH enthusiasts gather once again to share their admiration for the writer and their knowledge of him with others.

Windemere Reception and Tours by Janice Byrne

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mainland, owners of the Hemingway summer cottage on Walloon Lake, graciously opened their doors to participants of the Hemingway Foundation and Society International conference held in Bay View the week of June 17. The first event was a preconference reception on Sunday, June

16, as a fundraiser for North Central Michigan College. Guests were treated with an open bar and a wide variety of finger foods while viewing the interior of the cottage. Visitors saw the fireplace in front of which Ernest and Hadley are said to have slept on their honeymoon, the bedroom where Ernest's youngest sister was born, the modern annex and even the outhouse. Most impressive were the original paintings by Grace Hemingway and her mother her mother, Caroline Hancock Hall. The Mainlands presented a poster-sized signed copy of Grace's portrait of Ernest to each of Sunday's guests. Opportunity to purchase other items was provided for both Sunday and weekday guests. During the week, tours to Windemere were offered. These were fundraisers for the Little Traverse Historical Society. Both the international Hemingway Society and the Michigan Hemingway Society express gratitude to Ernest and Judy Mainland for providing this unique opportunity to conference participants.

Five Hemingway Women: Biographical Portrayals by Charlie Knapp

This was a truly unique panel in that it was not a panel per se, but rather five members of the Michigan Hemingway Society engaging in living history portrayals of Ernest's mother and each of his wives. Each participant delivered a monologue detailing her remembrances, impressions and opinions of Ernest, in a very well done and believable manner, composed by each participant independently of the others. This session, if not **the** best attended of the Conference, was certainly in the top three, and justifiably so. The questions and comments following the presentations were animated and pointed, to say the least, and the audience was larger and the applause louder and longer than any other panel session which I, at least, attended. Woe to those who did not attend. It was a stellar contribution to the Conference.



The ladies spoke in chronological order so Grace (marvelously portrayed by Charlotte Ponder, MHS Board member, who, with her husband Cecil, was deeply involved in bringing this Conference to Petoskey) was first. Looking perfect in a late-Victorian skirt, blouse and huge hat, she returned none of the bitterness shown her by her elder son. Rather, she seemed puzzled by it and commented that she couldn't have been all that bad since he looked out for her financially after the suicide of her husband. She pointed out that no one other than Ernest seemed to have any rancor towards her and that she was well-liked and respected in the community. She clearly was unhappy with her son's libertine subject matter and language but his father was none too impressed with these things either so that would hardly seem to justify Ernest's attitude toward her. Lastly, as only a mother can, she blew the whistle on her self-promoting offspring by noting that not everything Ernest said can necessarily be taken at face

value (we can all come up with examples) so, as usual, Mother got the last word-“Ernie lied a lot”-to be exact.



Hadley (wonderfully done by Carole Underwood, MHS Board member) was next. Still wearing her wedding dress and veil, as if she could recapture it all, which she largely did, she ably recounted her courtship, marriage and heartbreak with Ernest, showing more class through it all than he had, especially the breakup. From her initial attraction to his youthful exuberance, through the years in Paris and Pamplona, to what would become a lifelong guilt over losing his manuscripts, to the divorce, she remained the good person and wife.

Even when asked about her feelings towards her successors she was gracious towards them and even towards Ernest, showing more compassion for him than he had shown for her. So, without saying it, she got the last word too. Pauline (ably depicted by Susan Lightcap, MHS Board member) was the picture of Twenties' fashion, the in vogue (pun intended) marriage sinker. She barely addressed the fact that she stole Ernest from her friend Hadley and instead concentrated on her problems with childbearing and her belief that these problems were a major factor in the failure of her marriage. She also blamed Martha and struggled, far more than her predecessor had done, to save her marriage. In the end, however, she admitted that she just could not compete with the glamorous, worldly, blonde bombshell and settled for retaining the house.

Speaking of bombshells, at this point Martha (perfectly played by Audrey McMullen, MHS Board member) charged the stage, fresh from the front and throwing her backpack ahead of her as, in khakis and cap, she veritably seized the lectern. Waving her ever-present cigarette throughout (where was the Famous Grouse?), she described, in no uncertain terms, how she was her own woman while Ernest wanted her to be the quintessential “little woman”, and the conflict this brought. When asked by an audience member why she had married him when she had to have known what he was like, she said it was more a matter of something along the lines of hero-worship than it was love. Describing her desire to report on wars and his lack of such desire as a major block in their relationship, she told of his stealing her position at Collier's and his general resentment of her independent success. Especially pointed was her telling of his fury when she, although soon discovered, got ashore at Normandy while he was stuck on a correspondents' boat offshore. That was the last straw. At this point she had to leave the stage because, as she said, people were still shooting at each other and she had work to do.

Now it was Mary's turn and she (skillfully resurrected by Diane Fox, MHS Board member) took up where Martha had left off, in wartime London, and carried us to the end of Ernest's life. From her ectopic pregnancy to the Finca to Africa to Idaho she stayed with him through it all, a fact which she emphasized without shame or hesitation. She didn't exactly say it, but his almost certainly saving her from death from the ectopic pregnancy probably had something to do with it; but still she stayed, when he gave her ample and repeated reason to leave. Of course, she left out the fact that his first three wives didn't leave him either. He dumped them. But the fact is that she neither left nor was dumped. She saw more in him than others had seen, or maybe what she saw had developed later, but whatever it was, it was enough to carry her through the years to the end.

The Sun Also Sets: The Straits of Mackinac Cruise by Art Wagner

Remarks about the unpredictable Michigan weather abounded at the opening session of the conference. On cue, the weather for Thursday's Sunset Cruise: sun, wind, rain, hard rain, wind, spectacular sunset—in that order—all between 6 and 10 p.m. Gathering on one of the classic older Mackinac Island ferries of the Arnold Line (since replaced with sleek catamarans), over 150 people huddled on the semi-enclosed lower deck or braved the open upper deck to enjoy the views of the straits and the five mile long Mackinac Bridge, which connects the peninsulas. The boat sailed under the bridge and turned back. With the bridge in the foreground, guests could enjoy and



photograph the sunset. Plenty of clouds remained to reflect the magenta sun at the horizon. Observant folks could spot a partial rainbow over the Lower Peninsula once underway. Peculiar for a literary gathering, the line for the abundant hors d'oeuvres was longer than the line for the bar. Lee Murdock entertained with songs of the Great Lakes, while guests enjoyed conversations amid peeks at the scenery. Three cheers to the sponsors, the people at Central Michigan University Broadcasting!

MHS Seney/Tahquamenon Bus Trip: an International Success by Janice Byrne

On Saturday June 23 clear sunny weather greeted the fifty-three passengers traveling to Seney and Tahquamenon Falls on the Michigan Hemingway Society post-conference bus trip. The riders included participants from six nations, all of whom were delighted with the view from the Mackinac Bridge. At the first rest stop they loaded up with literature about the Upper Peninsula. Traveling along US 2, the same highway Ernest Hemingway and Toby Bruce followed in 1947, the travelers marveled at the variety of landforms, ranging from dunes to



wetlands to hardwood forests. Guides Jim and Janice Byrne provided commentary on the ecology and the railroad route of Hemingway's 1919 trip. At the once famous resort town of Blaney Park the bus turned northward on Michigan highway 77. Skirting the Seney National Wildlife Refuge the bus passed through the quaint town of Germfask, where the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps were housed while building the refuge. The project provided work in an extremely depressed economy and restored land ravished by human greed, the Byrnes pointed out. Soon the bus arrived at Seney. Everyone disembarked at the now famous railroad bridge over the Fox River. To their delight, two youngsters floated by fishing for trout like apparitions from a twenty-first century reincarnation of Hemingway's "The Big Two Hearted River." After a traditional Yooper lunch of pasties, scholars toured the museum to see Jack Jobst's exhibit on that story.

En route to Tahquamenon Falls on Michigan 123, Jim Byrne explained how the railroads helped open the area to logging and how logging gave birth to other industries such as charcoal making and wood alcohol distillation. Once the forests were gone, he added, those industries also died. At Newberry the bus stopped at the same railroad station through which Hemingway passed in 1919. Everyone took the opportunity to shoot a few pictures before moving north-east to Tahquamenon Falls. The sky darkened.

As riders stepped off the bus at Upper Tahquamenon Falls light sprinkles fell. Soon they turned to a steady soaking rain. "Lake Superior has its own weather patterns," the ranger said. "They can change without much notice." The stalwart travelers listened patiently to his narration on the biology, zoology, geology and history of the park as they trekked toward the thundering falls. Later, wet but happy, one traveler commented, "This was worth getting wet!" After a stop at the park concessions everyone returned to the bus. The return route took them through Paradise along Lake Superior's southern shore; to Trout Lake, still an important railroad junction; to the Mackinac Bridge, now sheathed in silvery rain; and to Bay View. Hugs and farewells ended the memorable day.



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As you can tell from this little tease, the conference sessions themselves were so interesting that one hated to have to make just one choice realizing that attending one usually meant missing two others in that same time slot! And aside from the daily sessions, there were all those "extras." Ask someone who was there about the fantastic food, the tours to Horton Bay, the PEN/Hemingway fundraiser at Shangri-La (and the pontoon boat rides on Walloon that those folks enjoyed), the "fun" school bus rides, the friendly and helpful Bay View residents and staff, the wonderful music floating over the campus, and the excellent closing reception at the posh Bay Harbor Yacht Club.

***Please send in your dues for 2013 –
See our webpage at www.MichiganHemingwaySociety.org***

MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



MHS membership benefits include the newsletter and eligibility for the base fee at our annual conference.

The membership year is January through December. Fees paid anytime in the year will apply to that calendar year.

A membership form is included in the Fall/Winter newsletter each year and is also available online at

www.MichiganHemingwaySociety.org

I am applying for following membership level:

- \$10 – Student
- \$20 – Individual
- \$30 – Family (2 adults)
- \$50 – Patron

Name(s) _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Mail completed form with check or money order made out to the Michigan Hemingway Society to:

Nancy A. Nicholson, Membership Chair
Michigan Hemingway Society
PO Box 922
Petoskey, MI 49770