

# LOVELLS TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Presidential Points

October, 2009

Greetings Members,

2009 has been another banner year of activities and events for your historical society. Although other board members are reporting in detail on specific aspects of the year in this newsletter, the following are my personal favorites

+We began the year with a bang on the April 26 Trout Opener with three different exhibits in the fishing museum, our most ambitious effort so far. The featured exhibit, **The Founding of Trout Unlimited, 1959**, honored the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TU. Gary Neumann, son of Art Neumann, one of its key founders discussed his father's efforts to get the organization off and running in its early years. Brian Burroughs, Michigan TU's Executive Director spoke on TU in 2009 as did TU local chapter leaders Robert Andrus of Grayling and John Walters of Gaylord. The second exhibit celebrated the centennial of the **Sunrise Club** on the Au Sable River Main Branch. And the third focused on the current projects of the **Au Sable North Branch Watershed Restoration Committee**.

Additionally, the Lone Pine School House featured an expanded exhibit of early log cabins built by the legendary **Ed Kellogg**.

+Throughout the day Master Fly Tier **Dennis Potter**, Trout Fishing Artist **Cheryl Stephan Lowes** and Bamboo Fly Rod Builder **Richard Perry** delighted attendees with their artistic skills in the Lovells Township Hall.

A new outdoor events this year was the first "Leaky Wader 1K Run," the brain-child of **Glen Eberly**, our Board Secretary, which proved to be a great hit with participants and spectators alike despite the stormy weather.

+Under the leadership of Building and Grounds Chairperson **Larry Hulka** the ancient (1907) cedar roof on the Lone Pine School House Museum was replaced with a new metal roof.

+Our annual "Beer, Beaver and Banjo" fundraiser on Saturday, July 18, at the Lovells Riverside Tavern was once again a big success.

+It is with great sadness that I report the death of long-term board member **Darrell Fuller** in late summer. Darrell was a stalwart on the board, sharing his artistic talents in designing our exhibit furniture as well as our annual exhibit pins as well as other contributions. He is greatly missed.

Best Wishes,

Roger Fechner, President

## LTHS 2009 Trout Opener



Rick Lindner and Dr. Wendy Frye, the men's and women's 1<sup>st</sup> place winners, near the finish line.

The Lovells Township Historical Society's seventh Annual Trout Opener was held on Saturday, April 25th – the traditional opening of the trout season. This year's theme was **The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trout Unlimited**. An exhibit tracking the early years of TU focused on George Mason's vision of TU in 1954, George Griffith's "call to the faithful" in July of 1959, the formal organization of TU in September of 1959 and the many years that Art Neumann spent as Executive Director spreading the word and gaining national recognition. Pictures, letters and stories detailed the formative years of this international conservation organization.

Additional exhibits featured the centennial of a classic fishing lodge, The Sunrise Club, on the Au Sable Main Stream which was built by John Stephan in 1909. More James E. Kellogg cabins were also featured in the Lone Pine School Museum.

This year's Program in the Township Hall was the reading of Art Neumann's history of the early years of TU by Art's son, Gary Neumann. A crowd of over 70 people attended the program and all enjoyed the trip back to the early years. Following Gary's talk, we were honored to have Brian Borroughs, Exec. Director of Michigan TU, bring us up to date regarding the state TU activities. Brian was followed by Bob Andrus, representing the Mason Griffith (Founding) TU Chapter and John Walters, President of the Heradwaters TU Chapter, who both gave us the state chapter perspective, the ground roots of TU!

In the Township Hall, Dennis Potter tied flies, Cheryl Stephan Lowes demonstrated her burning wood work and Rich Perry presented the varied steps to building a bamboo fly rod.

On the Township grounds, Roger Fechner gave all interested an opportunity to cast vintage fly rods. A surprise to most to learn how far our equipment has evolved.

The Guide Tent served a delicious free beef barley stew