



# IOSCO COUNTY GAZETTE

(a publication of the Iosco County Historical Society)

Dear Friends of the Museum –

As the Iosco County Historical Society’s Board President, I am proud to present to the public a first class, all volunteer, non-profit organization. As the Society enters into its 58<sup>th</sup> year of operation there is a lot to report. Within the past twelve months, the Society has added two individuals to the staff who have provided fresh ideas and unstoppable energy. Since joining the Museum, Jeff and Pat oversee our website, [www.ioscomuseum.com](http://www.ioscomuseum.com) and our Facebook page. Check out the timely updates of events and news. Next, our entire computer system is in the third and final stage of upgrade. Voila, the Internet and telephone are delivered via fiber optic, and there is Wi-Fi throughout the building. So essentially, we are now in the 21st Century! The visitor’s experience will improve exponentially with the rapid, easy access to our Ard Emery Glass Negative Collection. This collection consists of thousands of negatives and will be viewable at the Museum and also online. In the near future, prints of the negatives will be available for purchase at the Museum and online. Another Tech Upgrade includes the use of Venmo and PayPal and the upcoming use of QR codes to enhance the self-guided tour experience.

The Museum’s future will be as successful and exciting as its past, that I promise you. The Historical Society’s foundation was built by dozens of committed volunteers. I want to publicly and posthumously thank several instrumental friends who have recently passed away. Without their decades long dedication to this organization, this Museum, likely would not be here. I apologize if I exclude anyone. Sandy Oesterling and Neil Thorton are two individuals who are deeply missed. Their contributions are displayed on every wall, in every nook-and-cranney and forever in our memory. We have been blessed.

As important as history is, your Board would like to share what’s in store. The 2025 Season will again include the Lugene Daniels’s Lecture Series, a new Office Manager/Program Director, Wi-Fi, fresh landscaping, better access to the glass negative collection, and the addition of several artifacts to the permanent collection! All of this is done while focusing on our mission, our financially supportive members (thank you to a very generous donation by an anonymous member), and the hundreds of guests that walk through the front door every year. Your patronage and generosity ensure our longevity.

Thank you and may God bless you and keep you safe. ... James Miner

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## Iosco County Historical Society and Museum

405 W. Bay Street  
East Tawas, MI 48730  
989-362-8911

Email:

[iosco.history@gmail.com](mailto:iosco.history@gmail.com)

Website:

[ioscomuseum.com](http://ioscomuseum.com)

Find us on Facebook!

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- James Miner  
President
- Jeff Schlagel  
Vice President
- Denise Pinkerton  
Secretary
- Robin Gray  
Treasurer
- Michael Jordan

### Honorary Trustees

Jerry McManus

### OFFICE MANAGER/ PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Patricia Oates

### MAINTENANCE

Tim Checks

### WINTER HOURS

Special Events  
*and by Appointment*  
*call or email requests*

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**Music Provided by:**

**The Fusion Trio**

*We've Decked the  
halls with boughs of  
Holly,  
Now it's time for Fun  
and Folly.*

***Holiday Open House***

**Saturday, December 14, 2024**

**4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Iosco County Museum**

You are invited to our **Holiday Open House** in honor of our members, volunteers, and community supporters. Enjoy an evening of music and song, sample scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and sparkling punch. Go back in time as you meander from room to room, many showcasing decorations for the holiday season courtesy of our special friends and benefactors – Dave & Tim.

**Please RSVP 362.8911 or [iosco.history@gmail.com](mailto:iosco.history@gmail.com)**

## *Holiday Open House Wish List:*

*Be a Volunteer on Saturday, December 14, 2024*

*Put on your holiday best . . .*

*become a Host or Hostess*

*Sign up to bring a Refreshment . . .*

*Cupcakes Candy Hors d'oeuvres  
Veggies & Dip Deli Tray*

*Whatever You Do, please Join Us!*

Let us know if you can help by leaving a message at 1 (989) 362-8911  
or email [iosco.history@gmail.com](mailto:iosco.history@gmail.com)



*Thank you for your support of our Museum*

## **Tech Notes from Jeff...**

I am pleased to announce that we have completed our network update to the Museum computer system. A new pc, new Wi-Fi, and a new system to archive our historically important documents, glass negatives, and pictures. These upgrades ensure all data stays safe and is backed up into the cloud. Our archives will be available to the public on a dedicated pc, then everyone enjoys and can access our history, either at the Museum or online.

Another modernization project is the addition of Venmo and PayPal Apps. You can make a donation, pay your Membership dues, or purchase a book or other merchandize. You can find our account using either payment app by searching "Iosco County Historical Society" to send payments or donations. Eventually we will accept credit card payments as well. Watch this space.

What else is new at the Museum? Find out by visiting us at our Facebook page under the Iosco County Historical Society. Or, visit our webpage at <http://www.ioscomuseum.com>

These major updates and changes were possible with your donations, along with our members, volunteers and staff's hard work, and several grants.



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<http://www.ioscomuseum.com>

## 2025 Membership Application

Renewal  New Member (Referred by \_\_\_\_\_)

Membership Category (Please mark one. Checks payable to ICHS)  Youth - \$5 (Request Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Yes)

Individual - \$20  Senior (65+) - \$15  Family - \$35  Business - \$50  Benefactor - \$100

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (Business only) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preference for Newsletter and Announcement of Events/Programs: Email \_\_\_\_\_ Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on additional support opportunities: (check all that apply)

- Docents (Visitor Guides)  Collections Care
- Special Events (Education and Exhibits)
- Computer Research
- Memorial/Honorary Giving  Planned Giving (Estate gifts)
- Save Our Museum* (Iosco County Museum Endowment Fund)

### PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW

■ Use a Payment App

**PAYPAL or VENMO**



venmo

### MEMBER BENEFITS

- Free museum admission
- Special notification of all special events and exhibits
- ICHS membership newsletters
- Invitation to annual membership meeting
- 10% discount on merchandise

## Notes from Pat...

I started at the Museum as a volunteer, which was a great opportunity to learn about the history of Iosco County and to meet and interact with a variety of interesting visitors that tour the Museum. Our visitors include people that have experienced our history firsthand and the kids, who are amazed at how we used to do things. Talking to our visitors is always an enriching experience. Volunteering at the Museum is fun, and I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a way to give back to our community.

I recently transitioned to the role of Office Manager/Program Director, and we have had an exciting year. Improvements to our website and social media pages helped increase visits to those sites, as well as the number of people visiting the Museum. We increased the frequency of our social media posts, shared our posts with many groups, and added features like the *History Item of the Week*, photos of our visitors, and of course we had help from *Hop the History Dog*, who provided his unique view on history. These efforts increased views to our Facebook page to over three thousand on several posts. Visits to the Museum also increased to over 100 visits per month during our summer season.

The Museum hosted four events this fall. We started in September with our annual Garage Sale, which is a fundraiser for the Museum. People were generous with their donations of sale items and with their donations for the items they purchased. We also hosted the *Motor City Rockets Car Club* in September, with a display of their vintage cars in the parking lot for the public to view. This group of twenty-five club members toured our Museum and were very engaged with their questions and discussions about our history. They shared very positive feedback about the Museum.

October kicked off our *Eugene Daniels Lecture Series* with *Ric Mixter*, a Great Lakes explorer who spoke on "*Offshore Outposts: The Remote Lighthouses of the Great Lakes.*" Ric gave an excellent presentation that was well received by the audience. The November speaker was *Barbara Barton*, author of "*Manoomin the Story of Wild Rice in Michigan.*" This was a highly informative talk on the location of past and current rice beds in Michigan, plus information about the harvesting and processing of wild rice. This talk was interactive, as Barb passed around the tools used in the production of wild rice and had an example of processed wild rice on display. There was a lively question and answer period that lasted for thirty minutes. Our *co-sponsor* for all of our lectures is the *Iosco Arenac District Library*. With this support our series is Free and Open to the Public.

We hope to continue to serve the community by bringing more programs to our county Museum and by preserving the history of Iosco County. Please consider volunteering or becoming a member. *We hope to see you at the Museum soon!*

Iosco County Historical Society  
405 West Bay Street  
East Tawas MI 48730

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