

May 2022 FFWM Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Sun 5/1/2022 9:24 PM

To: Marcia Ann Ellis <marcia.ellis@wmich.edu>

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friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

<https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/>

May 2022 FFWM Newsletter

President's note

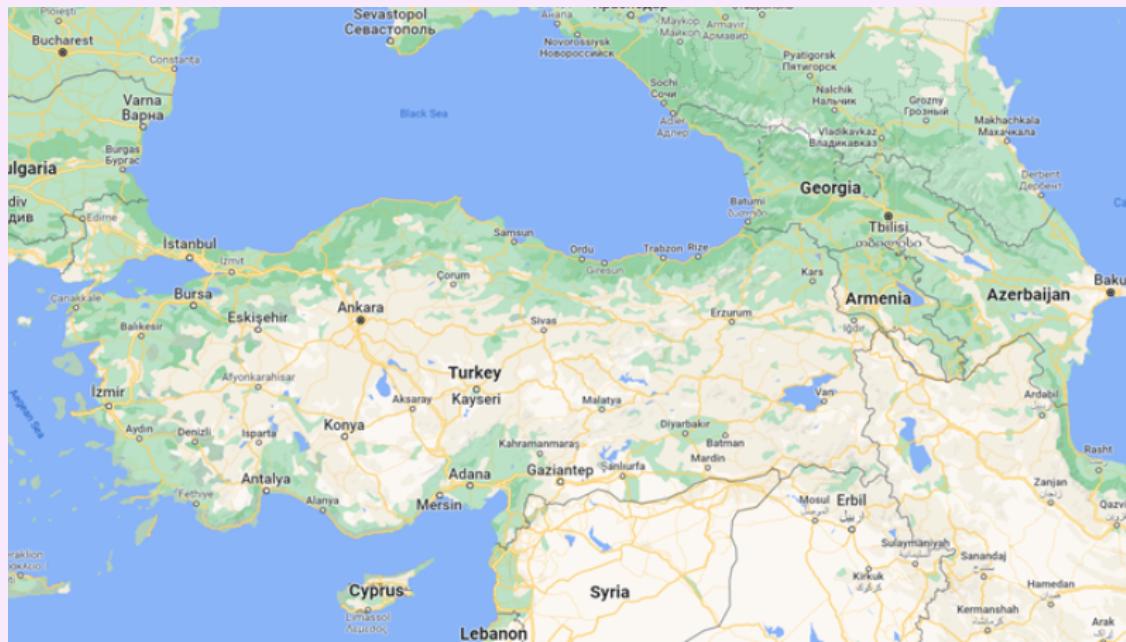
The weather is improving. Most snow-birds have returned from their southern nests... I'm talking club members now, not actual Avifauna (as in animal kingdom taxonomy)! We look forward to getting together as a club now that opportunities are beginning to present themselves.

We are going to have a LEO on, Friday, May 6th at 6:00pm, in Grand Rapids, we are planning to enjoy the Tulip Time Festival, in Holland, on Saturday, May 14th, and we are planning a Game Night for Sunday, June 26th! See the articles below for more information and JOIN US for what should be some very fun outings!

I am particularly looking forward to summertime. The last few summers, I have refrained from many of the local festivals out of covid concerns. This summer, I am hoping to be a little more active in taking advantage of what Western Michigan has to offer. In the article below, I am asking you to share with me some of your favorite summer activities and festivals. I'm looking forward to your feedback!

We have received some disappointing news. I heard from the Kern County FF Club that they will not be visiting us this summer. They are interested in journeying our way, but not at this time. We still have Lubeck, Germany, coming to see us this fall and we can look forward to their trip! In addition, we have our outbound journey to Azerbaijan and Turkey in September/October.

Journeys



INBOUND

1. California - cancelled
2. Lubeck, Germany Sept 14-20 Journey Coordinators are Jerry Potratz and John Richmond

OUTBOUND

Turkey and Azerbaijan will depart September 22 and return October 23. We have 17 ambassadors (12 from FFWM, 4 from FFSWFL, and 1 from FF Dayton). There will be a home stay with FF Baku, Azerbaijan

and one with FF Bursa, Turkey. There will be touring in Azerbaijan and Turkey.

LEO

*This is the month that we switch to **the 6th at 6pm.***



Above: April 12 LEO at OI Asian Bistro in Holland
Next LEO is May 6 at 6pm at Bosna Express, 128 28th St. SW, in
Grand Rapids
RSVP to Lynhargreave@gmail.com

Tulip Time Festival

JOIN US FOR TULIP TIME!

One of southwest Michigan's iconic festivals is Tulip Time in Holland. Held every mid-May since 1929, this festival combines Holland's deep Dutch traditions with the natural beauty of tulips blooming everywhere! We will watch the annual Tulip Time parade, music,

traditional street-sweeping, and clogging, and enjoy various other activities that the day has to offer! Bring your own drink and snack lunch and come to Holland **on Saturday, May 14th** for the festivities. Details concerning exact gathering time and our meeting spot will follow in later email. Let's gather and enjoy, as a club, what our Holland members have appreciated as a way of life!

Game Day

CIRCLE THE DATE FOR POTLUCK GAME DAY!

Fire up and get ready to have some fun! We are going to have a Game Day on **Sunday, June 26th, starting at 2:00pm at Walden Woods Clubhouse (Dunns Ridge, Kalmazoo)**. We will begin with a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to pass and your own beverages. We will enjoy outdoor lawn games and indoor games (cards and board games). If you feel adventurous, you can teach us your own favorite game!

Please RSVP to Louise Potratz by cell, 269-569-4423, or by email, LPL4@hotmail.com, to let us know that you are coming and what food you might bring to the potluck. Game Day will give us a chance to get together in a relaxed atmosphere (the games will not be stressful) and get to know everyone a little better. We hope to see you on June 26th!

Facebook

Facebook Users!

If you have a Facebook account you may want to take a look at the Friendship Force International Members' Group.
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1419216651619189>)

This private group has 884 members and is growing all the time. Posts require Administrative approval to assure that the content is posted only by members. Sometimes I see familiar faces while checking out what other clubs around the world are doing. You'll see pics from our January and April LEOs as well as time spent with The SW Florida club in 2022. Look for more photos and stories of our club's activities

in the future.

Stan Sackett

Experiencing Our Favorite Activities

What's Going on Friends?

Summer in Michigan brings a variety of festivals and weekend activities that appeal to almost everyone. We have music festivals, beer and wine festivals, food festivals, art shows, antique car shows, community celebrations and much more! We will be gathering in Holland, on May 14th, to enjoy one of these classic traditions. What are your favorite near-home festivals? When are they scheduled for 2022?

FFWM would like to inventory what is going on in Western Michigan so that we can get together as a club to enjoy these activities as well as possibly invite nearby clubs, and other FFI members, to join us on mini-journeys. Please call Jerry Potratz at 269-569-3259, or send an email to jerrypotratz@hotmail.com and let Jerry know about those things that you really enjoy and would like others to experience. Maybe we can participate in these festivals with you, and you can show us what makes Western Michigan such a special place to live!

Photocluster

The topic was photos of action and motion.



Travels

Wonder where your friends are traveling recently?
If you have taken a trip--even a weekender--please share your story
with us! Include pictures, too!!
Send your story and pictures to ellism@wmich.edu.



United Arab Emirates and the 2020 World Expo

In January I went to UAE with two friends from FF Southwest Florida club. We visited Dubai (most populous), Abu Dhabi (the capitol), and Al Ain (camel country). UAE has dates (many varieties), camels and oil. Everything else is imported. They don't appear to have any supply chain issues. There were no empty grocery store shelves there. Most impressive is their architecture. It is incredible! We were transported in a high-speed elevator in 59 seconds to the 124th floor of al Barj, the tallest building in the world. The cities were exceptionally clean.

The World Expo, delayed a year due to the Covid pandemic, hosted 192 countries from around the world. This was a huge undertaking for the United Arab Emirates, a small country with seven states. I spent 4 days and evenings there and saw only part of it. The theme was "Connecting Minds and Creating the Future". Al Wasl was the hub of the Expo where there was nightly entertainment. Everything was impressive and on a grand scheme. It was a wonderful experience to visit this incredible event. They had their closing ceremony on March 31.



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RSVP for events to the person in charge of the event.

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