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Editor's Pencil

DITCH THE LIST. Spring is here and there is something in the warm sun and slight breeze calling. "Come out and be relaxed with me. Can you hear the peepers and sandhills? I promise you, even the bee buzzing close to your head won't bother you."

With Mother Nature's call and my husband's wisdom to "seize the day," we left the chores and took a drive to Houghton Lake, Old 27, and the wildlife platform that is home to the local osprey.

What we found was a great wildlife viewing area and visitors among us—all on their own spring adventures. A group of three women from downstate had stopped for a geocaching expedition. A local bird enthusiast let us know, "The osprey just got here a week ago and that would be a little quick to have their chicks, don't ya think?" Another local stopped because he thought we were fishing. He wanted us to know, "we wouldn't get anything here, but right down the road next to Coyle's, people were lined on the shore and reeling in blue gill."

Really—would you stop for 15 minutes anywhere but northern Michigan and get this kind of story to tell?

The local birder told us about the heron hatchery that was just down the road. We took a wrong turn, or a right one, depending on how you look at it. We followed the DNR signs that took us on a dirt road to another wetland full of wonders. The frogs and birds were harder to find, but by the end of the walk, we could see them through their camouflage.

OK, one more stop since we were so close to Reedsburg Dam. We had never been there and couldn't we justify this since it's a campground?

Rustic sites were home to a few campers enjoying the day. As we crossed the "damn bridge" to a more secluded marsh, a dozen turtles were on top of a log. It was like the first sunny happy hour of the season, the turtles finally able to get out of their shell after a long winter in the muck.

As we worked our way back, we passed a family hiking back to the marsh. We were excited to tell the kids about the turtles. Their mom smiled as we told them they'll need to be quiet so they don't scare them away. Now we were part of someone else's 15 minute story!

Getting back in the truck to head home was a little disheartening, except the last "one more, one more stop" for ice cream. Even when we got home and realized we still had a list, we also realized we had something else: a new place close by for a great road trip and another story to tell.

And ditching the list is how we get our stories. Go outside and get yours. ✦

~ Kathy Salvatore

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Take a Hike ~ North Country Trail

by Susan Lovelace



*"In every walk with nature
one receives far more than he seeks."*

~ John Muir

From Crown Point in eastern New York

on the shore of Lake Champlain to Lake Sakakawea in western North Dakota, a reservoir on the Missouri River and the third largest man-made lake in the United States, the North Country Trail (NCT) meanders over hill and dale for more than 4,600 miles, inviting hikers of all ages and abilities to enjoy the great outdoors.

Established by a Congressional act in 1980, the North Country Trail passes through portions of seven states: North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. Michigan boasts a significant portion of those many trail miles, with the trail spanning Michigan's Upper Peninsula from stem to stern, continuing south over the Mackinac Bridge and continuing to our border with Ohio.

The NCT passes through ten National Forest areas, including Michigan's Manistee, Hiawatha, and Ottawa. Additionally, the Trail passes through a portion of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness in the Upper Peninsula.

From one end to the other, hikers can expect to find that most of the developed portions of the Trail are uniformly well-marked with blue blazes and signs depicting the North Country Trail logo. This reflects what former National Park Service Manager of the NCT Bill Menke once de-



scribed as a "thread of continuity", offering Trail users a consistent and reliable means of way-finding.

While the NCT is administered by the National Park Service, the responsibility to build and maintain sections of the trail falls primarily on volunteers from local organizations who are passionate about the Trail and the recreational opportunities that it offers.

The Grand Traverse Hiking Club

Members of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club (GTHC) Chapter of the North Country Trail Association develop and maintain 100 miles of the Trail in Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Wexford, and Manistee Counties, including a portion in the Pere Marquette State Forest. The group has created a 100 Mile Challenge to encourage hikers to partake of all of the sections of the Trail within its area, rather than habitually gravitating to those sections which are closest to home or with which they are most familiar and comfortable. Those who complete the Challenge have their names added to a plaque that is displayed at the Grand Traverse Conservation District Nature Center.

Jill Ciszewski, the new President of the GTHC, reflects the group's deep commitment to the NCT. "We are very fortunate to have such a pristine 100 miles of NCT to hike in our own backyard."

Marilyn Hoogstraten, who has hiked about 600 miles of the Trail in the Lower Peninsula and 100 miles in the Upper Peninsula, added this: "I like the variety of

(continued on page 6)

North Country Trail *(continued from pg. 5)*

our trail, the hardwoods with wildflowers abounding, crossing sandy and rocky rivers and streams, walking rural roads, pine plantations, and areas without blazes and where trail crews have had to build and maintain the trail with hand tools.”

Through their hard work and shared passion, these volunteers build life-long friendships. When asked about why she is an enthusiastic and active member of the GTHC, Marilyn shared, “Maybe what I enjoy most is working with the friends I’ve made on the Club’s trail crew as we develop new trail, fix wet spots, build bridges, and clear downed trees and branches.”

In addition to holding regular meetings throughout the fall, winter, and spring, the GTHC also hosts various programs and informational hikes. If you’d like more information or you are interested in joining group members for a hike, a work session, or a learning experience, check out their website at northcountrytrail.org/gtr.

Spirit of the Woods

Members of the Spirit of the Woods Chapter of the North Country Trail Association maintain a roughly 80-mile section of the Trail that extends from Hodenpyl Dam near Mesick to the Lake County line south of the city of Baldwin.

- Spirit of the Woods Vice President Loren Bach and
- husband Dave Martus are active Chapter members who
- share the same enthusiasm for the Trail. Generally they
- enjoy shorter hikes and day hikes, and they participate
- in trail building and maintenance as well.
- “Over the last three years our Chapter work crews
- have completed over a half mile of boardwalk through
- the Sterling Marsh area south of Baldwin. This has
- been a major project for us, but we completed it two
- years ahead of what we had planned,” Loren shared.
- This boardwalk section was named for Trail Coordinator Ed Chappel because, as Loren told me, “He
- was the major impetus to completing the boardwalk.”
- The boardwalk spans more than half a mile, requiring
- nearly 1300 man-hours in 2011 alone.
- A hike on this section of the trail offers beautiful
- scenery and opportunities for viewing wildlife. “We
- think that this area is a wonderful area: so much forest
- with beautiful sand bottom creeks and rivers, as well as
- high overlooks that are very scenic,” said Loren.
- Interestingly, the Spirit of the Woods Chapter boasts
- a member, Joan Young, who is purported to be the
- only woman to have completed hiking the entire North
- Country Trail, a process that took 13 years. At the time
- of this writing, Joan was in New York State hiking the
- Finger Lakes Trail.
- The Spirit of the Woods Chapter also hosts guided
- hikes and other activities. For more information, visit
- their website at northcountrytrail.org/spw/.

Area Campgrounds ~ North Country Trail

GUERNSEY LAKE STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND
Kalkaska County near Grand Traverse County line on Guernsey Lake Road; 36 sites.

SCHECK’S PLACE STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND
Central Grand Traverse County on Brown Bridge Road; 30 sites.

OLD US-131 STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND
NE Wexford County on North 41 Road; 25 sites.

BAXTER BRIDGE STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND
Northern Wexford County near Grand Traverse County Line on Baxter Bridge Road (North 31 Road); 25 sites.

FLETCHER PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND
Wexford County just west of Mesick on North Hodenpyl Dam Road; 42 sites.

NORTHERN EXPOSURE CAMPGROUND
285 Manistee River Drive, Mesick; over 200 sites; full-service waterfront campground.



MULTIPLE DESIGNATED SITES
Along trail between Marilla Trailhead & High Bridge Access.

BLACKSMITH BAYOU
Manistee County just west of High Bridge and County Road 669.

BEAR TRACK NATIONAL FOREST CAMPGROUND
Northwest Lake County near the Manistee and Mason County lines and north off of Riverside drive near the junction with 11 Mile Road; 20 sites.

Flying Solo

For 22-year-old Matt Brettschneider, who splits his residency between Manton and Hancock, hiking and backpacking are simply a way of life. He first tent-camped with his parents as a six-week-old infant, and the great outdoors has been in his blood ever since.



Matt has enjoyed everything from day trips to week-long backpacking trips on both local sections of the trail and also in the Upper Peninsula. One of his most memorable North Country Trail adventures was as a camp counselor, charged with the task of leading a group of inexperienced 13- to 15-year-old boys on a one-week hike through the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness. He jokes: "My primary responsibility was the supervision of these boys in a manner which ensured, among other things, their harmonic coexistence," that being a much greater task than it might seem.

- Matt told me that he gets out on the NCT whenever possible. It's a place where he can forget about the cares of the day and simply enjoy all that Mother Nature has to offer. He enjoys hiking with friends but will often head out on his own for a day hike or overnighter.

Why Take a Hike?

- Jill from the GTHC shared her thoughts with me about why she loves to hike on the North Country Trail with this excerpt from a piece that she wrote for the GTHC's newsletter:

"I began hiking/backpacking in 2009. Not until then, did I realize what it meant to walk in the woods and 'get lost'. For me, it means having all your worries melt away while enjoying the beauty that surrounds you. It means simplifying, getting back to the basics, opening up all your senses, and appreciating Mother Nature. The feeling to have complete solitude, watching animals in their natural habitat, climbing the highest peak and being able to see for miles is cleansing and rewarding. It's never too late to 'get lost'."

- Whether part of a group or as an individual seeking solitude, why not consider a hike on the North Country Trail as part of your next outdoor adventure? ✦

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Barryton – TNC11036278 – \$41,000
Lot with small cement slab, electricity, well & shed; ready for new home, camping, on channel leading into Tubbs Lake. Fishing, swimming and motor sports.

Treasures For All

by
Susan Lovelace

While it may seem cliché to portray an event as having something for everyone, there is no better way to describe the Michigan Antique and Collectible Festivals, the largest event of its type in Michigan. Held on multiple weekends throughout the summer on the beautiful Midland fairgrounds, the Festivals include something that will pique your interest or spark a fond memory.

With infectious enthusiasm, Promoter Lori Oberlin stated, “[The festival] is a jewel in the state. There’s a treasure there for everyone.” Oberlin grabbed the reins in 2005 and never looked back, breathing new life into what is now a 44-year-old Midland County tradition. The event is packed with activities and displays, providing a real value at only \$6 per person.

Dealers from far and wide gather to sell their wares—vintage items from furniture to jewelry and every imaginable item in between. “We take a horse barn and transform it into a gallery,” shares Oberlin.

A classic car show is also part of the festivities, with hundreds of vehicles on display. Part and parcel to the car show is a swap meet, where seekers “can find elusive parts for their own vintage cars,” according to Oberlin.



“A Fresh New Look at Decorating with Antiques” is a

Festival highlight. This contest features teams of Interior Design students from Central Michigan University and Michigan State University, who compete for prize money by creating beautifully decorated rooms using items that they find throughout the grounds. Students also have the opportunity to individually submit their creative works in a Repurposing Display, which will highlight their talents in finding new uses for old items.

Oberlin added that Festival-goers will want to check out the Taste of Michigan and Shop Michigan building, where visitors can sample “some of



- Michigan’s finest agriculture products and purchase other unique products created in Michigan”.
- In honor of our military veterans lost in the Vietnam War, the Michigan Veteran Traveling Memorial will be on display at the fairgrounds as part of the first weekend. Military vehicles will also be on display.
- Local pride is evident at the Festivals, with area groups providing volunteers and participating in various ways. The Midland County Historical Society hosts an ice cream social, while local Boy Scouts and 4H members help with parking and other tasks.
- What, you might ask, does all of this have to do with camping? The answer is the icing on the cake. The Midland County Fairgrounds boasts hundreds of campsites, where Festival-goers can set up their rigs and enjoy the on-site festivities just steps away for a mere \$40 for the entire weekend. The grounds even have hot showers available for those campers who are not self-contained.
- So why not gather up the family and head on over to the Midland County Fairgrounds to enjoy a fun-filled weekend? With 80 acres of treasures and memories, there certainly is something for everyone. ✦





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- $\frac{3}{4}$ c. instant potatoes
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c. instant stuffing mix
- Dried cranberries
- Dehydrated turkey
- Powdered gravy mix
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			5		9		2	
5		3				9		
1			3	2			5	4
	5		1		4	3		2
	4	9	8	5	2	1	6	
2		1	6		3		9	
9	1			4	5			8
		2				5		6
	3		2		6			

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GRILLED BREAD STICKS

- One loaf French bread
- 1¼ C. margarine or butter melted
- 1 t. dried dill weed
- 1 t. dried rosemary crushed

Cut bread into slices or sticks about 1½" thick. Place butter & spices into pan, melt & mix. Dip bread to coat all sides & place on grill; cook to light brown & turn. Use above spices or what you like.

~ Submitted by Bobby Hempel, Manton

EASY STRAWBERRY CAKE

- White or yellow cake made as directed
- Strawberry Jello mix
- Strawberries
- Cool Whip

Poke holes in cake about 1" apart with end of wooden spoon or straw. Mix 1 box of jello with hot water that is called for; pour over cake. Let cool. Spread with cool whip & top with cut up strawberries.

~ Submitted by JoAnn Treiber, Manton

CHEESE SOUP (with Asparagus?)

- 3 Tbs Flour
- 3 Tbs Butter
- 2 Cups Milk
- 1 lb Mild Cheddar Cheese (shredded)
- 1 small bag of baby carrots (diced)
- 5 stalks of celery (diced)
- 15-20 baby redskin potatoes (diced)
- 1 medium Vidalia onion (diced)
- 1 lb of bacon (fried & crumbled)
- 6 cups chicken broth
- Morton's Nature Seasons Salts
- Asparagus (Editor's suggestion!)

Brown flour with butter over med-high heat. Once you have nice paste, whisk in milk, stirring constantly until thick. Stir in cheese until it is thoroughly melted. In stock pot combine broth with diced veggies and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer until veggies are soft. Cut bacon into small pieces then fry to a crisp (do not burn). Add bacon to broth and veggies and don't be afraid to let a little grease fall in. Add cheese sauce to soup and stir until mixed well. Season to taste.

~ Submitted by Dave Kingma, Cadillac

GRILLED BALSAMIC ASPARAGUS

- Asparagus
- Balsamic Vinegar

Put fresh asparagus in Zip-loc bag. Add enough vinegar to cover asparagus when bag is laid flat. Marinate for 30 minutes to 1 hour. Place stalks directly onto grill and roll for about a minute until stalks are heated and slightly scored from grill rack.

~ Submitted by Amy Barta, Appleton, WI

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GREEK FETA CHEESEBURGER

- 6 oz. nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 C. cucumbers, unpeeled, grated
- 1/2 clove garlic, crushed to paste
- 1 t. lemon juice
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 4 oz. zucchini, finely diced
- 1/2 C. crumbled feta
- 1/3 C. red onion, finely diced
- 1/2 t. dried marjoram
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 7 oz. jar of roasted red peppers, drained

Mix above ingredients, make patties and grill 'er up!

~ Submitted by Josh Sabin, Cadillac

STRAWBERRIES IN THE SNOW

- 4 C. of Strawberries
- 1/2 C. sugar

Mix together and stir often to create syrup room temp for at least 30 min.

- 8 oz. angel food cake, sliced 1" thick
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 C. sugar
- 16 oz. whipping cream
- 2 t. vanilla

Lay cake in 9 X 13 pan. Using mixer, beat cream cheese and sugar till creamy; add un-whipped cream and vanilla. Continue to beat until stiff peaks. Spoon half of berries and most of juice over cake, top with all of whipped cream mixture and remaining berries. Wrap in plastic and chill for 3-4 hours. Best served the day made.

~ Submitted by Darren McQueen, Manton

RHUBARB BARS

- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1/4 C. water
- 3 C. chopped rhubarb
- 1 1/2 C. sugar
- 1 T. butter
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 1/2 C. uncooked oatmeal (quick oats)
- 1 C. margarine
- 1 1/2 C. flour
- 1 C. brown sugar
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 1/2 C. chopped nuts

Dissolve cornstarch in water, add rhubarb & sugar; cook until thickened. Add butter, vanilla & mix well. Cool slightly. Combine oats, margarine, flour, brown sugar, baking soda, & nuts; blend until crumbly. Reserve 1/4 of mixture. Press remaining mixture into lightly greased 9x13 pan. Pour in rhubarb mixture. Sprinkle top with reserved crumbs. Bake at 375° for 30-35 minutes.

Submitted by Cathy Gardner, Mesick

Tuesdays & Fridays
8 a.m ~ 1 p.m. (June Hours)



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l u p u s s u i r a u q a c y g n u s u n a d i r e
y e h t e l e s c o p i u m o h y d r u s e t o o b
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r l e t u c a n a r d y h m s n a t c o l u m b a u
u g r o n i m s i n a c o r o n a b o r e a l i s m

Andromeda	• Canis Major	• Corona Borealis	• Hercules	• Mensa	• Pisces	• Telescopium
Antlia	• Canis Minor	• Corvus	• Horologium	• Microscopium	• Piscis Austrinus	• Triangulum
Apus	• Capricornus	• Crater	• Hydra	• Monoceros	• Puppis	• Triangulum
Aquarius	• Carina	• Crux	• Hydrus	• Musca	• Pyxis	• Australe
Aquila	• Cassiopeia	• Cygnus	• Indus	• Norma	• Reticulum	• Tucana
Ara	• Centaurus	• Delphinus	• Lacerta	• Octans	• Sagitta	• Ursa Major
Aries	• Cepheus	• Dorado	• Leo	• Ophiuchus	• Sagittarius	• Ursa Minor
Auriga	• Cetus	• Draco	• Leo Minor	• Orion	• Scorpius	• Vela
Bootes	• Chamaeleon	• Equuleus	• Lepus	• Pavo	• Sculptor	• Virgo
Caelum	• Circinus	• Eridanus	• Libra	• Pegasus	• Scutum	• Volans
Camelopardalis	• Columba	• Fornax	• Lupus	• Perseus	• Serpens	• Vulpecula
Cancer	• Coma Berenices	• Gemini	• Lynx	• Phoenix	• Sextans	• .
Canes Venatici	• Corona Austrina	• Grus	• Lyra	• Pictor	• Taurus	• .

PUZZLED?

ACROSS

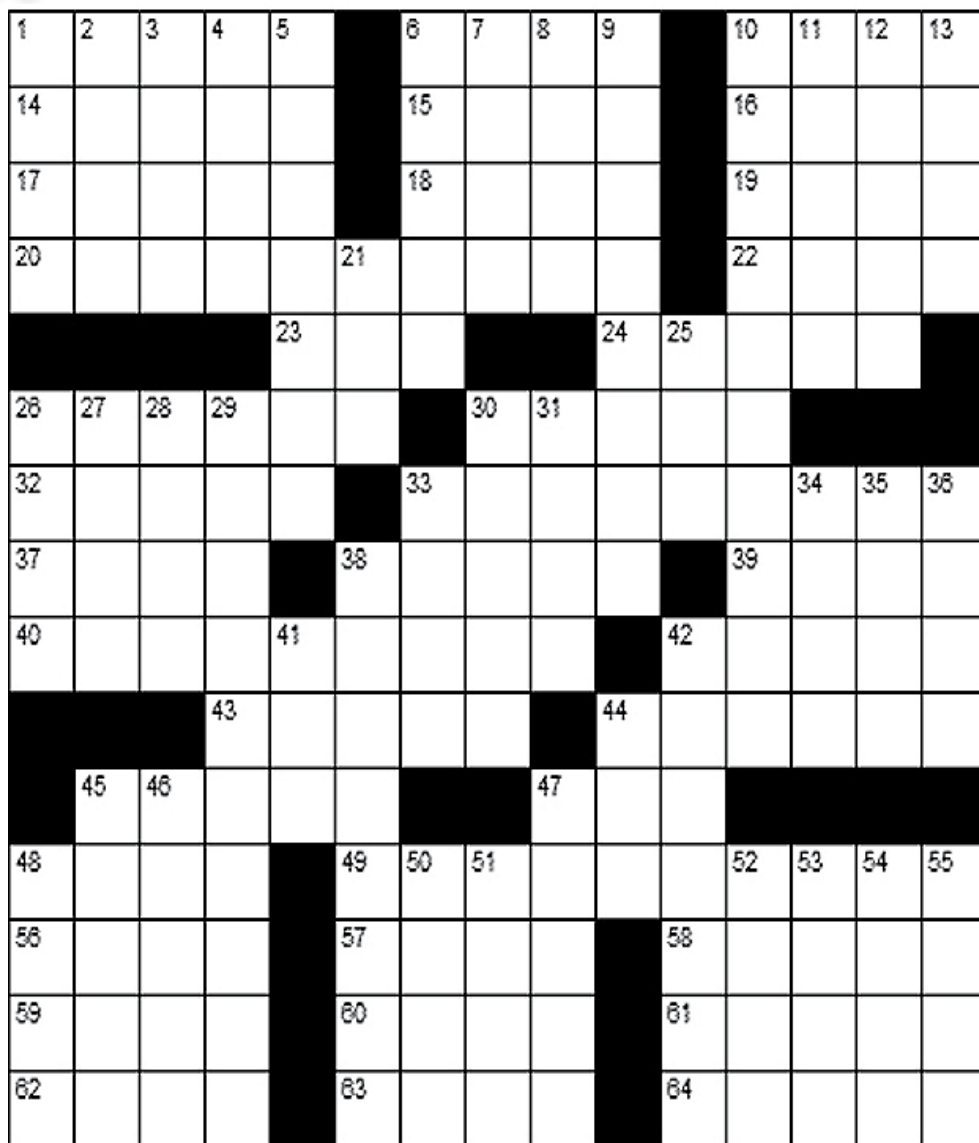
1. Quickly
6. Charity
10. Border
14. Unwind
15. Rhythm
16. Den
17. Vagabond
18. A single time
19. Makes a mistake
20. Folding portable ladder
22. Glove
23. Is indebted to
24. Bloodsucker
26. Farm fecal matter
30. Scottish for "Child"
32. Redress
33. Autograph
37. Mats of grass
38. Remove errors from
39. Dwarf buffalo
40. A remarkable display
42. Operatic solos
43. Way to go
44. No particular person
45. Jargon
47. Veto
48. Bit of gossip
49. Inherited
56. Fourth sign of zodiac
57. Tall woody plant
58. Lofty nest
59. Nobleman
60. Quaint outburst
61. Quaver
62. Unit of force
63. Fishing poles
64. Alpine call

DOWN

1. Products of human creativity
2. Flippant
3. Wings
4. Temporary living quarters
5. Travel to
6. Domicile
7. Extend credit
8. A ceremonial staff
9. Highest in quality
10. Primary
11. A gold coin of ancient Persia

12. Circumference
13. At one time (archaic)
21. Reverence
25. Historic period
26. Catholic church service
27. At the peak of
28. Connecting point
29. Make intelligible
30. Christian holy book
31. Chills and fever
33. Religious offshoot
34. Pearly-shelled mussel
35. A soft sheepskin leather
36. Leisure

38. Female child
41. 2,000 pounds
42. Disquietude
44. Assist
45. Roam
46. Gain knowledge
47. Requires
48. Chilled
50. Therefore
51. Absorb written material
52. Apprentice
53. Dry
54. Anger
55. Scream



EVERYWHERE!

Free Fishing Weekend • June 9-10

Everyone can enjoy free fishing this weekend • michigan.gov/dnr

CADILLAC

Art Walk Meet the Artist • May 26

Downtown Cadillac • 10am-4pm • downtowncadillac.com

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies • May 28

9:30 City Dock, 10am parade, Service after parade

Cadillac Farmer's Market • June 15 Opening Day, 8 am - 1 pm

Tuesdays & Fridays, Lake St. north of library, 231-775-6310

Poppalooza Fathe's Day • June 17, 11-2

Victory Outreach Fellowship Church, 1800 E. M-55

Back to the Bricks Tour • June 18

Classic Car Tour • www.backtothebricks.org

Day on the Canal • June 23 • Johnson Center • 231-779-1321

Pancakes, Craft Show, Cardboard Boat Race, Chicken BBQ

EASTPORT

Antrim County Petoskey Stone Festival • May 26, 10 am - 4 pm

Barnes Park • petoskeystonefestival.com (See pg. 27)

EMPIRE

Empire Asparagus Festival • May 19-20 • empirechamber.com

Saturdays at the Lakeshore • Thru June 9 • Sleeping Bear Dunes

EVART

Memorial Weekend • May 25-26 • Flea Market, 9-4

Evart Farmers Market • May 26 • Every Saturday • 9am-1pm

ELBERTA

Solstice Festival • June 23 • 12 pm - 11:59 pm

FRANKFORT

Antique Vehicle & Muscle Car Show • June 16 • 8am-4pm

Frankfort Craft Show • June 16 • 10am-4pm

4th of July Carnival • June 29 - July 8 • 10 am - 10 pm

GLEN ARBOR

Glen Arbor Solstice Half Marathon • June 16 • 231-715-1406

Glen Arbor BBQ/Brew Fest • June 16 • 12-6pm

Greatest Fourth In the North

June 28 ~ July 4

Raffle Tickets For Sale (#R16257)

2012 CHEVROLET CAMARO

Drawing July 4, 10:15 pm



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HIGGINS LAKE

Ride across MI for Hospitalized Veterans • May 26, 27, 28

269-278-2655 or dlaammott@aol.com

3rd Annual Higgins Lake Sunrise Run • June 15-16 • active.com

INTERLOCHEN

Interlochen Summer Arts Festival (See below)

IRONS

Flea Roast and Ox Market • June 21-24 • ironsarea.com

LAKE CITY

Good Morning Lake City • Third Friday each month, 7-8 am

EMS Bldg., Margo.Jacobs@chartercom.com

Missaukee Conservation District • 231.839.7193 • missaukeecd.org

Household Hazardous Waste Collection • June 2, 9 am - 1 pm

Natural Shoreline Workshop • June 2, 10 am - Noon

Pollinator Celebration • June 19, 10 am - 3 pm

Music in the Park Thursdays

June 14, Steven Dee N the Keys

June 21, Wyatt Howey

Greatest Forth in the North • June 28-July 4 (See below)

Parade, Entertainment, Midway, Ox Roast, Battle of the Bands,

Arts and Crafts, Fire Works and more • lakecitymich.com

Missaukee Humane Society Novelty Dog Show • June 30

Noon registration; Pure Fur, 231.839.3884 (See pg. 25)

Michigan Antique & Collectible Festivals

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989-687-9001 MiAntiqueFestival.com

FESTIVITIES

LEELANAU PENINSULA

Fiber Frenzy • May 25-26 • oldartbuilding.com
 Leelanau BirdFest • May 31-June 3 • mibirdfest.com
 Leland Wine & Food Festival • June 9 • info@lelandmi.com
 Lake Leelanau RV Father's Day Breakfast • June 17, 8:30-11 am
 Summer Solstice Art Walk • June 22 • Suttons Bay • 5-9
 Wild Cherry Resort • Great American Race • June 23 • greatrace.com
 Friends of Fishtown 5K • June 28 • info@leelanauchamber.com

MANISTEE

13th Annual Little River Casino Charity Golf Outing • July 13
 Registration 9 am, 231.398.3821, chade@lrcr.com
 InstaLaunch Campground Father's Day Breakfast • June 17, 9 am

MARION

Marion Fair • June 17-23 (See pg. 22)
marionfair.com; Midway, Heavy Weigh Horse Pulls, Tractor Pulls,
 Rodeo, Concert-David Nail, Demolition Derby.

MANTON

Memorial Day Car Show • May 28 • Arts & Crafts • mantonmichigan.org
 Chippewa Landing/Oak Grove • River Clean Up • June 16 - 21
 All day, bring back trash; canoes/kayaks 1/2 off.

MERRITT

Merritt Raceway • Every Saturday • merrittraceway.com

MIDLAND

Michigan Antique & Collectible Festivals (See below & pg. 8)

OLD MISSION PENINSULA

Old Mission Bloom Days • May 19-20 • wineriesofoldmission.com

REED CITY

Memorial Parade • May 28 • Downtown • 9am
 Chamber Golf Outing • June 8 • Spring Valley Golf Course

ROSCOMMON

Farm Market • Saturdays Beginning May 26 • 989-281-1260
 AuSable River Center Show & Sell Outdoor Market • May 27
 Garage Sale • 10:30 • 989-275-4392

STANWOOD

River Ridge RV Resort • 877-287-4837 • riverridgeresort.com
 May 26-28 – Memorial Day Celebration
 June 16-17 – Father's Day Celebration
 June 22-23 – Wet & Wild Weekend
 July 4 – Old-fashioned Independence Day (See pg.24, back cover)

THOMPSONVILLE

Michigan Beer & Brat Festival • May 26 • Crystal Mountain • 3-9

TRAVERSE CITY

Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Markets • May 12-Oct. 27
 Clinch Park • 7am-noon • downtowntc.com
 Ranch Rudolf • ranchrudolf.com (See pg. 27)
 Celebrates 30 Years • June 2, 2 pm - dark
 Novice Horse Camp, June 11-14
 Barn Buddies, June 18-20
 Traverse Colantha Walker Dairy Festival • June 10
 Village at Grand Traverse Commons • 10am-6pm
 Dressage by the Bay • June 22-24
 Flintfields Horse Park • www.horsheshowsbythebay.com
 Great Race Traverse City to Dearborn • June 23 • greatrace.com
 Back to the Bricks • June 17 • 6:30-9pm • backtothebricks.org
 Old Town Arts & Crafts • June 24 • 10am-5pm • downtowntc.com
 Traverse City Wine & Art Festival • June 30, 3 - 10 pm

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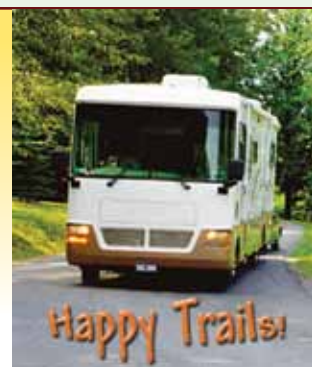
tickets.interlochen.org • 800.681.5920

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 Steve Martin & The Steep Canyon Rangers
 Gavin DeGraw w/special guest Andy Grammer
 Buddy Guy & Jonny Lang
 Umphrey's McGee w/special guest G. Love & Special Sauce
 Capitol Steps • A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor
 Nathan Gunn • Doktor Kaboom! • Pacifica Quartet
 Montgomery Gentry • Styx • Peter Dinklage • Dat Phan • Blind Pilot
 Preservation Hall Jazz Band with special guest Del McCoury
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 Enso String Quartet • The Dukes of September featuring
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The Dogman Returns

One of our more popular stories in the History Corner has been the Michigan Dogman. We first ran the story back in August of 2009 and we still get requests from our readers for more information on the legend. If you were lucky enough to be in Cadillac this past April you had a chance to see the legend on the silver screen.

Traverse City film maker Rich Brauer produced the movie in Benzie County during the fall of 2011 and brought it to Cadillac because this area is close to where the legend is said to originate. So sit back and once again let your imagination run wild with the legend of the Michigan Dogman.

Things that go bump in the night

are the grist for legend and folklore and every region seems to have its own home grown version of weird sightings and “encounters” from UFOs in Roswell New Mexico, Big Foot skulking through the Olympic forests of Washington State, vampire aliens eviscerating cattle and sheep anywhere there are cattle and sheep, to Chessie (think Nessie on the Chesapeake Bay).

Michigan has its own mascot of horror—the Michigan Dog Man. It walks upright (sometimes), has a mouthful of needle-like teeth, glowing reflective eyes and howls in the distance at inappropriate times, like when people are lost on dark, lonely roads or taking a midnight stroll through the forest. So far, none of these creatures have knocked on the front door looking for handouts or closeup photo-ops.

As one poster on a web site dedicated to the unusual and paranormal stated, “I don’t believe in anything . . . until I’m in the woods, at night, alone and unarmed . . .



- Then I believe in everything!” Belief in the “unnatural” thrives with fear. That said, over the years there have been literally hundreds of sightings of strange dog-like creatures walking erect on two legs through the forests of Michigan and Wisconsin. Most reports are made by hapless campers, hikers and farmers. One report (unsourced by *The Northern Camper*) was made by DNR officials in Wexford County who reported a strange attack on a cabin and lots of large dog prints surrounding the area. Dog prints do not make a shapeshifting creature from the netherworld, but stories like this become inkblots for our interpretations.

- The official kickoff for the Dog Man legend can actually be pinpointed. A song called “The Legend”

written by Steve Cook was broadcast by radio personality Jack O’Malley at WTCM in Traverse City as an April Fool’s prank. The song-story incited a rash of calls from people who swore they had witnessed such a creature. Fuzzy photographs and murky film clips began to appear from all over the state and the legend went viral, spreading through the media all the way to the Sean Hannity Show, USA Today and Paul Harvey.

What more fitting a bequest than donations gleaned from our crazy interest in giant walking dogs seen through the mists of our imagination? Or are the old Indian legends true—that shapeshifters, spirits from the old Indian nations, appear every seventh year of each decade to howl and remind us that we may not be alone on our walks through the dusky woods. ✦

Vegetation Station

by Dave Kingma

Lilacs & Tinkerbell

My favorite thing about spring is the smells. Every time I walk out my front door in the springtime all I can smell is lilac. Lining one whole side of my house are these amazing and beautiful bushes. We actually have several varieties in our yard. We have approximately four dozen of the white variety. They are really beautiful. It is not surprising that there is a lilac festival in Michigan because you can find them just about everywhere.

This past summer, my wife cried because our weeping willow tree fell on the only cluster of purple lilacs that we had. She said as a child she thought Tinkerbell lived in that lilac bush. Now that I have done some research about the plant, I know that it was actually named after a nymph from Greek mythology. Her name was Syringa. As the story goes she was a very beautiful nymph. Pan, the god of the forests and fields, was captivated by her beauty and chased after her through the forest. Syringa was frightened by his gesture of affection and having no interest in him she escaped him by turning herself into a bush. That is right; she turned herself into a lilac bush. So it is no wonder that in a little girl's imagination this simple but beautiful bush could be magical.

I found a couple other fun facts about lilacs in my research. Lilac is actually the state flower of New Hampshire. It is said to symbolize the hardy character of the Granite State's citizens. It is also the 8th wedding anniversary flower. This aromatic bush is frequently known as the first sign of spring. The time of the lilac bloom can tell you whether it will be an early or late spring.

It is said that flowers have a language all their own. I used to think that was a ploy by the greeting card and flower companies to get guys to buy more for their



ladies, but the fact is when you can stop and appreciate a flower in the right light they really do seem to speak to you. In this language of flowers, the purple lilac is said to symbolize the first emotions of love while the white lilac represents a youthful innocence.

The great thing about these particular bushes is they grow wild or you could have a beautiful garden of them. Like I mentioned before, there is a festival dedicated to this bush. It is held on the amazing Mackinac Island. If you love the smell of this simple little four petal flower then a trip to the Island sometime during the ten day festival may be right up your ally. The festival started in 1949 as Lilac Sunday and has since blossomed

- into ten days of fun, fragrance and families. The festivities commence on June 8th and wind down on the 17th. They have a horse drawn parade, a poster contest where artists compete for the honor of having the official poster in their art collection, a student elected as the Lilac Queen and many other family activities, not to mention the tastes of Mackinac. ✦

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Campground Critter

by Dave Kingma

The American Black Bear

I would like to start this one out by saying I am from the Grand Rapids area. There were not bears around when I was growing up. A few years ago, I moved up to this area and for the first time saw a bear crossing sign. I had to stop and take a picture. I could not believe that they were so common here that you need signs for motorists.

Another shock to me was when my wife informed me of the infamous “Sam the Bear.” When she told me she used to feed ice cream to a bear, I honestly didn’t believe her. Apparently back in the 70s, the DNR rescued “Sam the Bear” and the owners of a local gas station volunteered to nurse the abandoned cub back to health. My wife took me to Thirsty’s gas station on M-55, but there was no bear. For those of you who are not aware there is an ice cream counter and an extensive candy selection inside. I was informed she used to reside right on the edge of the parking lot and that she used to be quite the tourist attraction. All the kids that came to visit thought it was neat to share their ice cream and candy with her; even adults got in on the fun. Unfortunately Sam died in the 1990s, long before my trip to this beautiful area but it got me interested in the details of bears in Michigan. Did you know that Sam was also known as the only bear in captivity to hibernate on her natural schedule? This fact alone makes her a great part of Michigan folklore.

In the state of Michigan there are somewhere between 15,000 and 19,000 bears of varying ages. Only about 10 percent of these bears live in the Lower Peninsula but if you do the math it still means close to 2,000 bears are in the Northern Lower Peninsula. Today, these bears are managed and protected by the DNR.

The black bear has dark black fur and can vary in size dependant on its age, sex, and diet. A female is typically smaller than the male but they still weigh between 100-250 pounds and the male weighs between 150-400 pounds. A bear can be as tall as 3 feet when on all fours and 5 feet when standing tall. They can live between 20-30 years in the wild as well. The female likes to have a small area to roam; only about 20 square miles. The male likes to wander more; he roams about



100 square miles and calls it home. This depends on food availability.

Bears eat just about anything. They are considered opportunistic eaters; they eat whatever they can find. In the spring when the green leaves are fresh, they get their post hibernation bellies full on them but when the berries and nuts are in full season bears will gain a lot of weight very quickly. As they are building their fat for hibernation, the bear will eat anything it can find including garbage from campsites, homes, or even businesses. Oh yeah, and don’t forget the standard pet feeders. In my research of bears in this area one of my in-laws showed me a picture of a black bear emptying her bird feeder in the back yard. These creatures truly remind me of my childhood with Yogi Bear. “Hey Boo-boo, lets go grab us a picanic basket!”

Bears are not considered adults until they are old enough to breed. This usually happens between 2-1/2 to 3 years of age. They breed in June and July and cubs are typically born in January when the mother is in her den. The litter can be as few as 1, more commonly 2-3, but as many as 4 cubs. Bear cubs weigh about a pound at birth. The female bear will breed every other year but the male may breed every year. The cubs stay with their mother for over a year and when she is ready to breed again she forces the cubs out on their own.

Black bears are not true hibernators. Instead they stay in a state of lethargy kind of like people that do not like the weather. They bunker down due to scarceness of food, not to get out of the weather. These bears can actually go from October to April or May without eating, drinking, or even passing waste by simply slowing down their metabolic rate in the den.

The den could be a hollowed tree, brush piles and even open ground nests. If you happen across a bear in its den, it is unlawful to harass that bear. It is much easier to check out a bear den in the summer months when the danger is much less. How can you tell if it is a bear's nest? Look for droppings, tracks, over turned rocks or tattered trunks of trees, or even broken branches of fruit trees nearby.

Black bears are shy by nature so if you were to come into an area where a bear was, the chances are high it would smell or hear you first and run off. Please do not leave food out for the purposes of seeing a bear because if a bear overcomes its natural fear of humans, it could become a serious danger. This will help us all avoid human vs. bear conflicts. If one bear gets out of hand, it would have to be managed. But if one person gets out of hand many could get hurt. The DNR offers classes as part of the management of this animal.

Since bears are such a large part of Michigan, I thought I would tell you one last story. It is actually a legend and it made such an impact that a national lake shore was named for it: the Chippewa legend of the sleeping bear and you guessed it—the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes. The legend goes that there was a terrible fire and a mother bear and her two cubs had to swim into Lake Michigan to be safe. As they swam, they got very tired and the cubs got behind. When the mother reached the shore she climbed high to see how far the cubs were. She waited there for a very long time and fell asleep. The cubs however drowned, and the legend claims that the islands of North and South Manitou were formed to commemorate the cubs. As the mother slept the winds blew the sands over her where she waits to this day. There is a small tree covered knoll at the top of the bluff where she lays.

Take a road trip this summer to the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes. Share the story with your family on the way. And be careful not to wake the bear when you get there. +

UNPUZZLER

Sudoku (Page 9)

7	6	4	5	1	9	8	2	3
5	2	3	4	6	8	9	7	1
1	9	8	3	2	7	6	5	4
6	5	7	1	9	4	3	8	2
3	4	9	8	5	2	1	6	7
2	8	1	6	7	3	4	9	5
9	1	6	7	4	5	2	3	8
8	7	2	9	3	1	5	4	6
4	3	5	2	8	6	7	1	9

Crossword (Page 13)

A	P	A	C	E		A	L	M	S		E	D	G	E
R	E	L	A	X		B	E	A	T		L	A	I	R
T	R	A	M	P		O	N	C	E		E	R	R	S
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A	T	O	N	E		S	I	G	N	A	T	U	R	E
S	O	D	S			D	E	B	U	G		A	N	O
S	P	E	C	T	A	C	L	E			A	R	I	A
				R	O	U	T	E			A	N	Y	O
	S	L	A	N	G				N	I	X			
I	T	E	M			H	E	R	E	D	I	T	A	R
C	R	A	B			T	R	E	E		E	Y	R	I
E	A	R	L			E	G	A	D		T	R	I	L
D	Y	N	E			R	O	D	S		Y	O	D	E

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got rocks?

by Kevin Gauthier

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Quartz is the most abundant mineral on earth.

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Look around you for a moment and I bet you see or are touching quartz. If you see any house windows, car windows, beer bottle, pop bottle, candy dish, any glasses or any glass item, it is all made from molten quartz.

This is because glass is made from molten sand. Yes, sand! You are standing on a lot of sand right now: it is underneath the tallest sky scraper, it is under every house/cottage, and under every road and freeway you drive on.

But we take quartz for “granite” as it makes up most granites (pun intended). Petrified wood, ag-

ates, chert, jasper, even *some* Petoskey stone coral heads were replaced with the mineral quartz to become petrified.



Most of the time, we think of quartz when we pick up the clear, white or creamy pebbles at the beach. It is the round smooth stone that has a silky feeling. It is silky because all the sand washing to-and-fro are materials with the same hardness. The sand is actually polishing, and that's how you find smooth quartz pebbles on the beach. It's almost like rubbing two sticks together to form a smooth surface. Next time you are at the beach, pick up a small handful of sand look at it closely; the same picture of quartz in this article is what you will see on a microscopic scale.



concentration of quartz. This material was shipped down to Leland and turned into the steel which laid most of our railroad tracks. What was left behind was the quartz. It floated to the top of the steel batch and was scraped off, leaving behind what we now call Leland Blue. ✦

Editor's note: Kevin and the Korner Gem crew, here's to many more "quartz" on the Salty Dog.

There are times when you don't like quartz. Think about this article the next time you have sand in your shoe, vacuum out your car, sweep your entry way or kitchen. And if you have ever been to the Sleeping Bear National Sand Dunes, well, need I say more where you will find quartz. ☺

Take Note

On a real windy day at the beach you will be quartzed! This is pelted from sand grains, not from drinking out of a cocktail glass, which, by the way, is made of . . . you know . . .

And as you may know, Leland Blue has become the hottest stone to own in Northern Michigan. It is one of the most requested stones for jewelry since our article debut in June of 2009.

But what is it really? Quartz!

If you read the article, you know the iron ore from the Upper Peninsula had a heavy

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MONDAY, JUNE 18

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TUESDAY, JUNE 19

- Farm Stock Tractor Pull ~ 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

- Draft Horse Show ~ 10 am
- Heavyweight Draft Horse Pull ~ 7:30 pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

- Super Kicker Rodeo ~ 7:30 pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

- David Nail In Concert w/ Opening Act The Bronk Bros. ~ 8 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

- Antiques

MARION

Osceola County



by Joann Treiber

Located on M-66 just North of M-115

you'll find the town of Marion, named for the wife of Christopher Clark the founder and owner of the Clark Mill who established the town in 1875. The dam that once ran the mill now sits beside a lovely park, and if you look you can find the Artesian wells the town is known for.

I found Marion to be very busy and extremely friendly. With the fair coming up in June everyone was getting ready for the extra people that come to the fair and to see all the events that happen that week. The restaurants were calling around for extra help, Flemming's Clothing has a full stock of boots and jeans, even McCrimmon's Feed is stocking extra for all the extra animals that will be at the fair. Everyone was getting ready for the big week.

But this is not the only time this town is full of extra people. Marion has a very busy campground right in town next to the river and a few times every year it plays host to special events. In July, The Michigan Bow Hunters have their Rendezvous: activities include archery shoots, cook off and vendors, much of which is open to the public. In August the campground is filled with music as White Pine River String Music has its "Reunion" and the public is welcome.

If you're looking for something a little different, stop by one of the shops and get a map of the Quilt trail; I picked mine up at the Potting Shed. This would be great for the color tour this fall. With surrounding acres of state land and a trout stream running through it, Marion offers something for everyone. For shopping, great food, a full service campground and motel, don't miss this small town stop. ✦





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Camper's Choice

River Ridge RV Resort

by Susan Lovelace

With spring fever in the rear-view mirror and the glory of a Michigan summer on the horizon, I drove into **River Ridge RV Resort & Marina**, wide-eyed and “Wowed!” You only get one chance to make a first impression, and River Ridge RV Resort knocks that one out of the park.

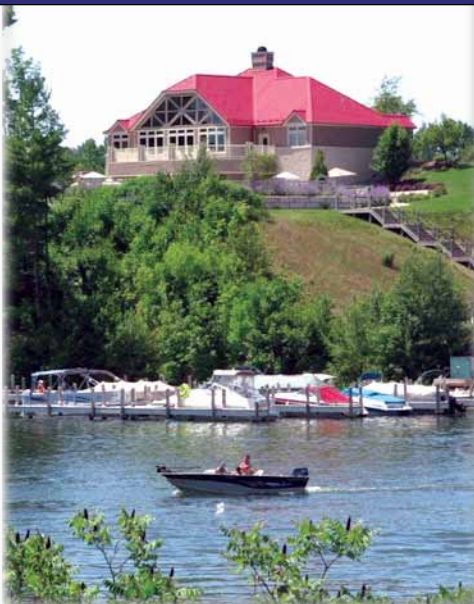
This five-star resort, one of *Trailer Life's* 2011 Top 100 parks nationwide, is a jewel in the heart of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. In its tenth year, River Ridge Resort (RRR) boasts some of the finest camping and recreation in the nation. Visitors come from all over the United States and Canada to spend from a weekend to an entire season.

The RV resort is perched on a scenic bluff above the Muskegon River and the backwaters of Hardy Dam. Open from April 15 to October 30, every inch of RRR invites vacationers to relax and enjoy all that summer in Michigan has to offer.

“We’re all about hospitality,” relates Park Director Rick Stafford. This is evident on a tour through the resort’s 58 impeccably landscaped acres, which sport spacious sites equipped with full hookups and 30- and 50-amp service.

On-site recreation at the clubhouse includes workout and game rooms, a community kitchen and lounge area, and a library. The clubhouse, as with all facilities at the resort, is fully accessible to those with disabilities.

The 80,000-gallon pool, with space in and around for up to 200 guests, is one of the first resort pools in



Vickie appreciates the ability to get Danielle out into the community with ease. “She (Danielle) loves activities and being around people. The people here are so good to us.” The Watts family also enjoys the easy access to water, as well as being within reasonable proximity to such places as Traverse City for day trips.

Repeat and seasonal guests stand as a testament to RRR’s commitment to hospitality. Seasonal guest Linda Johnson of Lansing told me, “The staff is great here. They take care of you.” Arlene Atwater added, “They do little niceties for you.” She related a story about setting up their new rig in which staff assisted in ironing out the wrinkles.

Other niceties provided by the

- resort include site maintenance, trash pickup, laundry facilities, and free wi-fi and cable throughout the property.
- The resort also boasts tennis courts, basketball, shuffleboard, volleyball, and a playground for the kids.

- The focus here is on family. RRR welcomes all campers, whether you’re in a big rig, a pop-up or something in between. In addition, RRR hosts activities throughout the season, including events on Mother’s and Father’s Days, crafts for the kids, and a Halloween festival. “All of this reflects our dedication to family values,” said Rick.

- A road down to the resort’s waterfront reveals even more RRR gems. Eighty boat slips and a fueling station, pontoon and kayak rentals, and a 25-mile-long body of water known for smallmouth bass and walleye fishing invite water sports enthusiasts. You’ll also find a camp store like no other, stocked with grocery items, clothing, tools, supplies for your RV or boat, and a full line of adult beverages. The store also includes a commercial kitchen offering pizza, deliverable to your RV door.

- Whether you’re from the southern tier looking for a quick up-north getaway or a northerner looking for an all-inclusive and relaxing camping experience, it will be well worth your time to check out River Ridge RV Resort of Stanwood, a jewel in the heart of central Michigan. ✦

Check out back cover for more!

Michigan to have a pool lift in advance of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



For Vickie Watts of Kalamazoo, a seasonal guest for the past five years, this and all of the other resort amenities are particularly inviting.

Vickie’s daughter, 27-year-old Danielle, has spina bifida and is confined to a wheelchair. The Watts family chose RRR as their summer vacation spot, “Because,” as Vickie said, “It’s perfect for us.”

The Northern Camper

Winner of The Northern Camper Chair
Michael L. Orvis from Midland
Congratulations!

Michael was actually our first contest entry and guess how we received it? Snail mail! We love getting letters in the mail so thanks for that!

Michael has been camping for over 30 years. And when his family grew, so did his camping needs, moving him from a tent to a 5th wheel. (How many of you are familiar with this scenario?) He chooses campgrounds that are a short drive from his home and is partial to areas with beaches and hiking trails.

So without further ado, (drum role, please) Michael's favorite camgrounds are:

- Mitchell State Park in Cadillac
- South Higgins Lake in Roscommon
- Traverse City State Park in Traverse City



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Northern Waters

by Otis Bailey

If you have spent time on the water in Michigan, be it a lake, river or stream, one thing I'm sure you

know is things can change in an instant, especially the weather. The day can start out with sunny skies, calm wind and smooth water. After loading up the family, supplies, and water toys you head out for a day of fun in the sun. Before you know it the winds and waves can pick up, the temperature drops and dark skies appear. Many times it is hard to notice the changes depending on your location; you can be on an inland lake where the shoreline is mostly trees that obscure the horizon.

There are a few simple things we can do to make sure our time on the water is safe and also stays fun for our family and friends.



A poncho and a cocktail can go a long way on a rainy day!

rain ponchos; these can cost as little as \$2 but will go a long way in helping salvage the day. If your boat has a Bimini top, try to make sure and bring it along. It may seem like it's in the way but when that fast moving rain squall hits and you are on the other side of the lake, your family and guests will sure appreciate it.

Tell your guests to bring a sweatshirt or some sort of warm pullover. Even though it may be sunny and warm when you start out, you can almost count on the winds

to pick up and the temperatures dropping on our northern waters. The warm pullover will go a long way to preserve the moods of your crew.

If you are boating on a lake you are not familiar with make sure and take a look around when you launch. The ramp and shore will look a lot different from the water than it does from land; when you are coming back after a day of playing the last you want is to guess where the ramp is. So when you launch, make note of some landmarks—a flag pole, cool looking

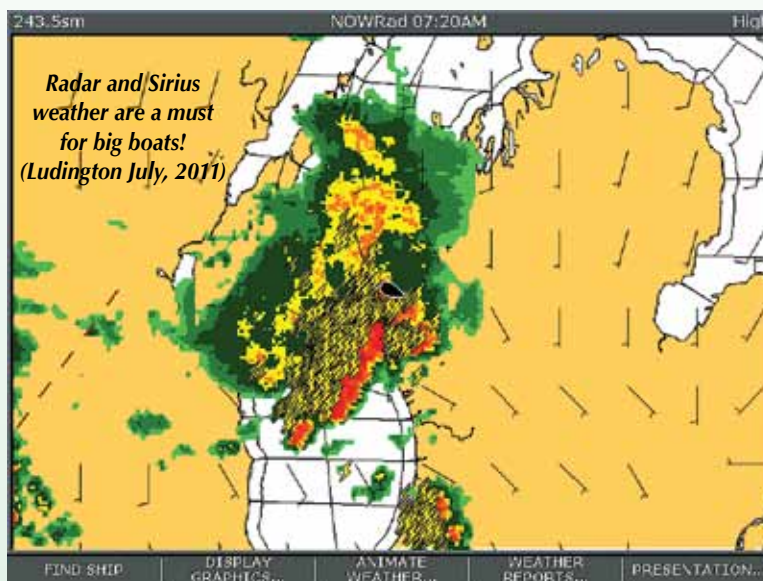
house, or a water tower. You can use these landmarks on the return trip.

If you have a handheld GPS unit, set a waypoint of your departure location. You can use this to help find your way back.

Another great handheld device is a VHF marine radio. You can find one that is fairly inexpensive and they receive the 24-hour marine weather broadcast from NOAA. While these broadcasts focus on the big water, it can be a great resource to hear about what may be coming your way, even on an inland lake.

Make sure your cell phone is charged and get the phone number of the local marina or water patrol if possible.

The best advice is to be familiar with your surroundings and equipment when planning a cruise on the northern waters. Be prepared and enjoy the ride! ✦



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ANTRIM COUNTY


COUNTY

Barnes Park Campground • 231-599-2712
12298 Barnes Park Rd., Eastport, MI 49627

Facilities: 76 sites (14 rustic), electric, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, beach, Wi-Fi. **SEE PG. 27**   

STATE

Graves Crossing Forest Campground • 989-732-3541

Facilities: tents & small trailers/10 sites. 

Pinney Bridge State Forest Campground • 989-732-3541

Facilities: tents/15 sites. 

PRIVATE

Chain O' Lakes Campground • 231-533-8432

7231 South M-88 Hwy., Bellaire, MI 49615




Facilities: tents/15, RVs/55, cabins/12, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, pool, store, laundry, Wi-Fi, rec. room.



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY



TOWNSHIP

Whitewater Township Park • 231-267-5091
9500 Park Rd., PO Box 159, Williamsburg, MI 49690





Facilities: Electric/53, sanitation, reservations, beach, boat launch.   

STATE



Arbutus No. 4 Rustic Camp • 231-922-5280

Facilities: rustic/30, boat launch.  

Interlochen State Park • 231-276-9511
M-137, Interlochen, MI 49643

Facilities: Duck Lake – electric/418, wheelchair accessible, reservations, beach, boat launch, store; Green Lake – rustic/58 sites, teepee & tent rental/4 sites.    



Lake Dubonnet State Camp • 231-922-5280

Facilities: rustic/50, boat launch.  

Lake Dubonnet Trail Camp (Equestrian) • 231-922-5280

Facilities: rustic/200 people, reservations. 

Scheck's Place State Forest Camp • 231-922-5280

Facilities: rustic/30, boat launch.  

Scheck's Place Trail Camp (Equestrian) • 231-922-5280

Facilities: rustic/200 people, reservations.



Traverse City State Park • 231-922-5270



1132 US-31 North, Traverse City, MI 49686

Facilities: tents & RVs/343, cabins/2, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, beach.   

PRIVATE




Everflowing Waters Campground • 231-938-0933

5481 Brackett Rd., Williamsburg, MI 49690

Facilities: RVs, tents, electric, water, reservations, wheelchair accessible.  


Holiday Park Campground • 231-943-4410

4860 US-31 South, Traverse City, MI 49684

Facilities: RVs, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, beach, boat launch, store, laundry, Wi-Fi.   



Oak Grove Campground • 231-313-0832

11768 S. Union St., Fife Lake MI 49633

Facilities: tents & RVs/50, electric/30, water/30, sanitation, reservations, store, water sports. **SEE PAGE 27**  


Ranch Rudolf • 231-947-9529

6841 Brown Bridge Rd., Traverse City, MI 49686

Facilities: tents & RVs/25, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, pool, store, laundry, Wi-Fi, watersports, horseback riding. **SEE PAGE 27**  


Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort • 231-947-2770

4050 Hammond Rd., Traverse City, MI 49696

Facilities: RVs, cabins, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, pool, store, laundry, Wi-Fi, rec. room, tennis, pickleball, dog park. **SEE PAGE 2** 



Traverse Bay RV Resort • (231) 938-5800

5555 M-72 East, Williamsburg, MI 49690

Facilities: RVs/217, electric, water, reservations, wheelchair accessible, pool, laundry, cable, Wi-Fi, rec. room. 

Traverse City KOA • 231-269-3203, 800-249-3203



9700 S M-37, Buckley, MI 49620

Facilities: tents, RVs, cabins, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair access, pool, store, laundry, rec room, cable, Wi-Fi, jumping pillow.  

LAKE COUNTY

STATE

Bray Creek State Forest Campground • 231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/9, boat launch.  

Carrieville State Forest Campground • 231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/31 sites. 

Leverentz Lake State Forest Campground

Facilities: rustic/18 sites on Big Leverentz Lake, rustic/7 sites on Little Leverentz Lake; boat launch.  

Lincoln Bridge Rustic Campground • 231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/9 sites. 

Silver Creek Rustic Campground • 231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/26 sites. 

PRIVATE**Enchanted Acres Canoe & Campground • 231-266-5102**

9581 N. Brooks Rd., Irons, MI 49644

Facilities: tents, RVs, cabins, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, store, rec room, cable, free casino pkg., pet farm.

**LEELANAU COUNTY****STATE****Leelanau State Park • 231-386-5422**

15310 N. Lighthouse Point Rd., Northport, MI 49670

Facilities: rustic/52, RVs/10, cabins/3, reservations, beach.





**PRIVATE****Indigo Bluffs RV Resort • 231-326-5050**

6760 W. Empire Hwy. (M-72), Empire, MI 49630

Facilities: RVs/145, cabins/2, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, pool, camp store, laundry, Wi-fi, club house, playground, nearby beach and boat launch.



**Lake Leelanau RV Park • 231-256-7236**

3101 Lakeshore Dr., Leelanau, MI 49653


Facilities: tent/4, RVs/196, cabins/1, electricity, water, reservations, wheelchair accessible, beach, boat launch, laundry, cable, Wi-Fi, rec. room, clubhouse.    

Wild Cherry RV Resort • 231-271-5550

8563 E. Horn Rd. • Lake Leelanau, MI 49653



Facilities: tents/10, RVs/50, cabins/1, electric, water, reservations, wheelchair accessible, rec. room, Wi-Fi.  

MANISTEE COUNTY**STATE****Healy Lake State Forest Campground • 231-922-5280**

Facilities: rustic, 24 sites. 

Orchard Beach State Park • 231-723-7422

2064 N. Lakeshore Rd., Manistee, MI 49660


Facilities: 201 acres, tents, RVs, cabins, reservations.  

Tippy Dam • (231) 848-4880


5200 Dillings Road, Bretheren, MI 49619

Facilities: rustic, 40 sites, boat launch.

**FEDERAL****Blacksmith Bayou Access Site • (231) 723-2211**

Facilities: 6 sites. 

Government Landing • (231) 723-2211

Facilities: 3 sites. 


Lake Michigan Recreation Area • 231-723-2211

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Marzinski Horse Trail Campground • 231-723-2211

Call for updates on clearing.





Pine Lake Campground • (231) 723-2211

Facilities: 12 sites. 

Red Bridge River Access • (231) 723-2211

Facilities: 4 sites, boat launch.

**PRIVATE****Insta Launch Campground & Marina • 231-723-3901
20 Park Ave., Manistee, MI 49660**

Facilities: tents & RVs/127, cabins/10, electric/117, water/67, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, beach, boat launch, store, laundry, cable, Wi-Fi, rec room.    

Little River Casino Resort • 866-572-4386

2700 Orchard Hwy., Manistee, MI 49660

Facilities: RVs, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair access, pool, laundry, store, cable, Wi-Fi, rec room.

SEE PAGE 4 



Loomis Landing Campground & Marina • 231-848-7449

19522 Husiar Rd. • Wellston, MI 49689

Facilities: tents/11, RVs/11, reservations, pool, boat launch, store.

**Sportsman's Port 231-862-3571**

10487 W. M-55, Wellston, MI 49689

Facilities: Tents & RVs, store, paddle sports.  

**Twin Oaks Campground & Cabins • 231-848-4124,
877-442-3102**



233 Moss Road, Wellston, MI 49689

Facilities: group camping/8, tents/24, RVs/28, cabins/4, electric/33, water/15, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, store, laundry, rec room, Wi-Fi, playground, fish cleaning station, volleyball, horseshoes, open year round.

SEE PAGE PG 27  

MECOSTA COUNTY**PRIVATE****River Ridge RV Resort • 231-823-8338**

22265 8 Mile Rd., Stanwood, MI 49346

Facilities: RVs/226, rental trailers/5, electricity, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, pool, boat launch, store, laundry, cable, Wi-Fi, rec. room.  

(continued on page 30)



MISSAUKEE COUNTY

CITY

Maple Grove • 231-839-4429

Facilities: 32, electric, water, sanitation, reservations.

COUNTY SEE PAGE 27

Ben D. Jeffs River Park • 231-839-4945

PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651

Facilities: rustic/17 sites.

Crooked Lake Park • 231-839-4945

PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651

Facilities: 37, electric/15, toilets, shower, sanitation, reservations, beach, boat launch.

Missaukee Lake Park • 231-839-4945

PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651

Facilities: tents & RVs/170 sites; electric/21, water/96, sanitation, reservations, beach, boat launch.

STATE

Goose Lake • 231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/54, boat launch.

Hopkins Creek Camp (Equestrian) • 231-824-3591

Facilities: rustic/16, 108 people, reservations.

Long Lake State Forest Camp/Missaukee •

231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/20, boat launch.

Reedsburg Dam • 989-275-4622

Facilities: rustic/38, boat launch.

Spring Lake State Forest Campground •

231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/32, boat launch.

OSCEOLA COUNTY

CITY

Riverside Park Campground - Evart • 231-734-5901

315 South River St., Evart, MI 49631

Facilities: tents & RVs/15, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, boat launch, Wi-Fi, playground, shuffleboard, basketball, volleyball, fishing platforms.

Rambadt Memorial Park • 231-832-2245

700 Park St., Reed City, MI 49677

Facilities: tents & RVs/13, electric, water, sanitation, wheelchair accessible, playground, horseshoes, pavilion, nature trails.



Veteran's Memorial Park • 231-667-0100

226 S. Mill (M-66), Marion, MI 49665

Facilities: tents/12 (rustic), RVs/38 (full hook-up w/sewer 12), electric/26, water/26, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, laundry, playground, pavilion rental.

COUNTY

Crittenden Park • 231-734-2588

3641 S. 50th Ave., Sears, MI 49679

Facilities: rustic/20, RVs/70, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, beach, boat launch, store.



Rose Lake Park • 231-768-4923

17726 Youth Dr. • LeRoy, MI 49655

Facilities: rustic & RVs/160, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, beach, boat launch, store.



STATE

Sunrise Lake • 231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/17, boat launch.

PRIVATE

Albright Park Camp • 231-832-9094

3156 190th Ave., Reed City, MI 49677

Facilities: tent & RVs, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, pool, boat launch, Wi-fi.

Cadillac Woods • 231-825-2012

23163 M-115, Tustin, MI 49688

Facilities: tent/20 RVs/24, cabin/6, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, pool, laundry, store, rec. room, mini-golf.

River Country Campground • 231-734-3808

6281 River Rd., Evart, MI 49631

Facilities: tents & RVs/125, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, boat launch/canoes, store, laundry, rec. room.



ROSCOMMON COUNTY (WEST)

STATE

Houghton Lake • 989-275-4622

Facilities: tents & RVs/50, toilets.

North Higgins Lake/East • 989-821-6125

11747 N. Higgins Lake Dr., Roscommon, MI 48653

Facilities: tents & RVs/82, electric, reservations, wheelchair access.

North Higgins Lake/West • 989-821-6125

11747 N. Higgins Lake Dr., Roscommon, MI 48653

Facilities: tents & RVs/92, cabin, electric, reservations, wheelchair access.


South Higgins Lake • 989-821-6374

106 State Park Dr., Roscommon, MI 48653

Facilities: tents & RVs/400, cabin, electric, reservations, wheelchair accessible, boat launch.


PRIVATE

Higgins Lake Family Campground • 989-821-6891
2380 W. Burdell, Roscommon, MI 48653

Facilities: tents & RVs/74, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, store. 

West Houghton Lake Camp • 989-422-5130

**9371 W. Houghton Lake Dr.,
Houghton Lake, MI 48629**



Facilities: tents/7, RVs/120, cabins/2, electric/121, water/75, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair accessible, store, laundry, Wi-Fi, rec room. 

WEXFORD COUNTY

CITY



Lake Billings RV Park & Camp • 231-824-6454

232 E. Elmore St., Manton, MI 49663



Facilities: tents & RVs/48, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, beach, boat launch.  

STATE

Baxter Bridge Campground • 231-775-9727



Facilities: rustic/25, boat launch.  

Long Lake/Wexford • 23-775-9727



Facilities: rustic/16, boat launch.  

Mitchell State Park • 231-775-7911

6093 E. M-115, Cadillac, MI 49601


Facilities: tents & RVs/221, electric, reservations, beach, boat launch.  

Old US-131 Campground • 231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/25, boat launch.  



FEDERAL

Hemlock Campground • 231-723-2211

Facilities: rustic/19. 

Peterson Bridge • 231-723-2211

940 S. State, Route 37, Cadillac, MI 49601

Facilities: rustic/30, boat launch.  

PRIVATE

Birchwood Resort & Campground • 231-775-9101


6545 E. M-115, Cadillac, MI 49601

Facilities: RVs/32, cabins/8, electric, water, reservations, wheelchair accessible, cable, Wi-Fi/5, docking on Lake Cadillac.



Camp Cadillac • 231-775-9724

10621 E. 34 Rd. (Boon Rd.), Cadillac, MI 49601

Facilities: tents & RVs/115, cabins, electric, water, reservations, pool, store, laundry, Wi-Fi. 

Chippewa Landing • 231-313-0832

10420 Chippewa Landing, Manton, MI 49663

Facilities: tents/25 (rustic), RVs, water, reservations, beach, store, wooded separate sites on river. **SEE PAGE 27**



- **Coolwater on the Pine • 231-862-3481**
9424 W. 48 1/2 Rd., Wellston, MI 49689
Facilities: tents & RVs/65, cabins, electric, water, reservations, laundry. 
- **Kestelwoods Campground • 231-862-3476,**
231-878-5000
10860 W. 48 1/2 Rd., Wellston, MI 49689
Facilities: tents & RVs/96, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, pool, store, Wi-Fi. 
- **Northern Exposure Campground • 231-885-1199**
285 Manistee River Dr., Mesick, MI 49668
Facilities: tents & RVs/262, cabins/3, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, wheelchair access, beach, boat launch, store, Wi-Fi.  
- **Pine River Paddlesports Center • 231-862-3471**
9590 M-37 South, Wellston, MI 49689
Facilities: tents/30, RVs/5, cabins/1, water/16, reservations, wheelchair accessible, store, disc golf, climbing wall, paddlesports, bike rentals. 

The Northern Camper

Be a Campground With Happy Campers!

(231) 394-1549 • (231) 920-2569

Call for info on Directory Listings!

Where's Waldo?

He's on another page
in this issue ~
can you find him?

e-mail
northerncamper.com!





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Located on the Muskegon River in Stanwood, River Ridge RV Resort is honored to have been selected as one of the top-rated parks for 2011 by Trailer Life Directory. Of more than the 12,000 parks in the network, we are proud to be in the top 100.

River Ridge Resort is listed in the 2011 Woodall's North American Campground Directory for attaining Woodall's highest 5W rating in both Facilities and Recreation. We are proud to be a part of the select group that represents less than three percent of these privately owned parks.

We are also proud members of ARVC - Michigan, Good Sam Club, Go RVing, and FMCA.

*See page 24 ~ The Northern Camper's
Camper's Choice!*

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22265 8 Mile Rd., Stanwood, MI 49346

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