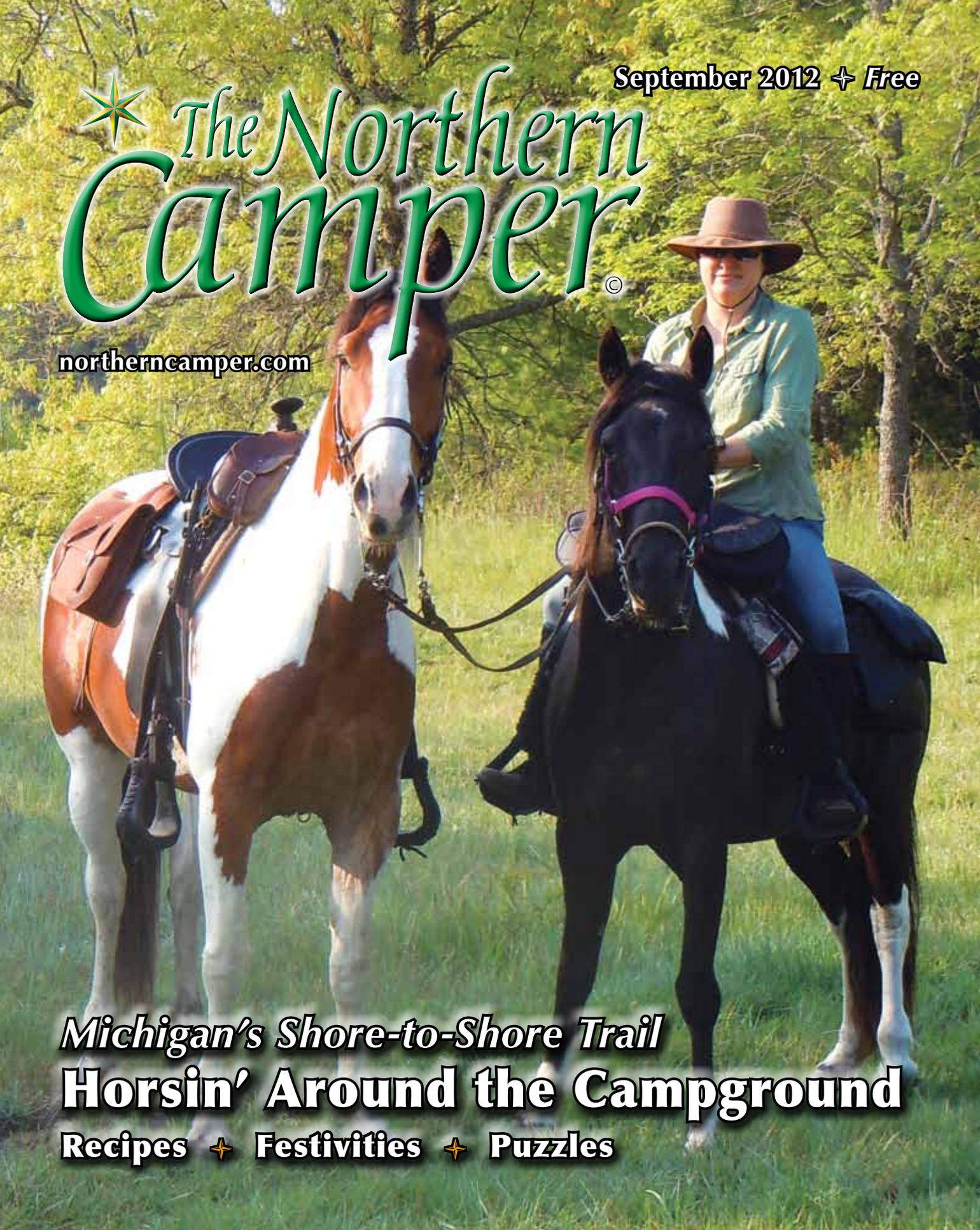


September 2012 ✦ Free

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Michigan's Shore-to-Shore Trail
Horsin' Around the Campground
Recipes ✦ Festivities ✦ Puzzles

Have a Nice Day! ☺

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NO ADMINISTRATION FEES WHEN YOU LIST WITH US!

Editor's Pencil

Have you done everything you've wanted to this summer?

It had been awhile since I had fished with my brother-in-law, Captain Bernie Salvatore, on the Angliar. The Benzie Frenzie "chick" tournament was scheduled for August 24 out of Frankfort, right before *The Northern Camper* deadline. I'll never want to compete with Kevin Spears from *Hooks & Bullets* on a fishing story, but here was my opportunity to represent fisherwomen first hand.

Plus, I needed to see if I still had my "reel on."

Bernie's wife, Laura, Daniela Weiner and myself made up the chicks. Ryan Selby and Pauly Salvatore (my nephew) completed the crew. The gig starts the night before with a meeting to go over the rules.

That's where the party started, not to mention my realization that I'd been out of the game for a while. These chicks were serious and knew their fishing, evident when the rules were "amended so guys could help a little." This brought more than a few choice words from these seasoned fishing women; they didn't need any stinkin' help from boys.

I was grateful, just in case I didn't have the biceps and gut that I used to.

The winds picked up that night and made the morning forecast a little iffy. By 5:45 a.m. we were on the boat and ready for the shotgun start. By 7 a.m., the tournament was cancelled. I think anyone who boats knows you have to respect the water, but these chicks wanted to fish. More than a dozen boats ended up placing side bets and stuck fast to tournament rules. The majority of us still went out for our own "fun fish."

So was I gonna have fun?

First off, coffee doesn't taste much better than on a boat before the sun comes up. And when the sun does come up, the colors are beyond the beauty of any bruise I'd get fishing. Now I was starting to look forward to sporting bruises and reeling in a salmon.

The theme of our crew was, "a bad day fishing is better than a good day at work," as well as, "It's all about the people you're with." With that kind of attitude, fun started with breakfast and a heron decorated cup cake.



Did I mention the heron lost its head when Ryan bit it off? Oh yes, then Daniela, baker of the cupcake, had to follow suit. What a hoot.

The waves felt like roller coasters and it was all good as long as you held on. How the crew kept balance when they were setting lines still fascinates me. Captain Bernie multi-tasked while mates staged dippy divers and planer boards on copper and lead core lines.

I sound like I know what I'm talking about, right?

Fishing requires a lot of intelligence and compassion; it doesn't matter if you're a guy or gal. And I know my respect grew with each line that was set. I was starting to remember what I loved about this sport.

As lines started going off, the chicks took turns reeling. We did get a little help from the guys but more because we were working as a team. And of course if you catch, you kiss. Each fish was given its due respect before hitting the cooler.

Keep in mind this family is Italian, so better a fish in the cooler than in your mailbox.

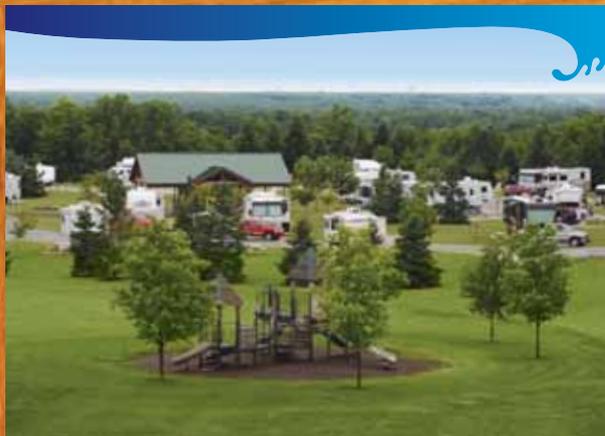
I give the other crews (who made the side bets) a lot of credit as they stayed out until the original time of 1:30 p.m. We came in after three hours, which was a good run and legal tournament time. I'm thinking we were a little smarter though because we still caught fish and were able to crack that beer a little sooner.

I had so much fun! I'd like to thank Captain Bernie, the Angliar crew and my fellow fishing chicks for a great time. More importantly thanks for reminding me I can still hang with the best of the fisherwomen and that I love being out there.

So what are you waiting for? Get out there yourself and do whatever it is you haven't done in a while. Summer' isn't over yet. ✦

~ Kathy Salvatore,
publisher





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The Northern Camper

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Cover ~ Thanks to Ashlyn Kuersten from 3rd Branch Farm near Otsego for her story and photos. Her new trail horses are ready for you to come and ride Michigan's Shore-to-Shore Trail!

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Horsin' Around the Campground

Imagine riding horseback for nearly 250 miles through pastoral countryside, fording rivers and streams, scaling near-mountain trails for panoramic views of back-road Michigan. Most of us would give anything to experience a trip like that!

This little-known treasure probably remains a well-kept secret because it is so well secluded. Nestled mostly on state forest land, but also crossing private and county property, the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail is scenic and quiet, and means to stay that way.

In 1963, Michigan horse enthusiasts brought a dream to fruition: A horse and hiking trail that spanned the Lower Peninsula from Oscoda to Empire. Partnering with the DNR, this trail was no little feat! Prior to this, there were only bits and pieces of trail. Land was surveyed for travel. Clearing was another factor. Miles of trails would be carved out of Michigan forest land. Permission was needed for all private land, which entailed personal visits and documentation of each parcel. Both parties wanted a trail just for horseback riding or walking—non-motorized. Traffic was to be avoided whenever possible. There also needed to be ample water along the trail for the horses. Even wooden bridges were needed at several marshy areas. Hours and hours of volunteer time was utilized. Finally, signs were posted and trail riding could begin! And the work continues as work bees are scheduled yearly to clear brush, remove fallen trees, and continue improvements.



We did it! Greg, two training horses, a dog and I put hooves in Lake Michigan, 14 days after putting hooves in Lake Huron!

- Rustic campsites appear every 18 to 25 miles
- along the trail, providing small areas for overnight
- camping. Some campers choose to traverse the
- trail with pack animals, but most meet up with a
- ‘rig jumper’ who drives to the next campsite with

all the camping gear for the night. Organized trail crossings occur several times yearly, with up to 160 horses and riders participating each time. Trail etiquette claims, “Leave things the way you found them, or better!” Cell phone reception is hit and miss, so riders must be prepared for emergencies, especially if traveling alone.

- The Michigan Trail Riders Association (MTRA)
- is a non-profit group focusing on the love of
- horses and the appreciation of natural resources,
- and to promote the two in Michigan.

- The trail rides, sponsored by the MTRA, are well-
- planned events. Each morning the “rigs” are moved
- to the next camp, and riders are taken by bus back
- to the horses to begin the day’s travel. Days on the
- trail can be as short as four hours to as long as ten
- hours, depending on stops. These include sightsee-
- ing, meals, swimming, and rest times. The 16-day
- trip includes a layover day every three or four days,
- with no moving camp. Each night after dinner the
- trail boss has a short meeting to discuss the fol-
- lowing day’s trails and schedules. Evenings are fun
- times of sharing stories, campfires, and usually a
- guitar or two will serenade while campers share
- meals. This trail ride may be the closest any of us
- ever comes to a real “old west” experience.

(continued on page 6)

Horsin' Around *(continued from pg. 5)*

Of course, there is always animal care involved, with a late-night check on the horses before bedding down for the night. Special attention is paid to the horses to check for any injury, such as a scratch, bug bite, or lost shoe from travels. At least one horse has finished the trail with his shoe duct-taped on! Being far from civilization often requires ingenuity.

Camping with horses presents its own kind of preparation. Horses must be in optimum condition for such a ride. Most horses would not be in shape to endure the 11 to 16 days that traversing the Shore-to-Shore trail will take. Most riders are not either. Preparing for a trip on this scale takes weeks or months of training for both horse and rider, and makes the difference between comfortable or grueling, or even being able to finish the trail. Horses need to be steady and trained in a variety of circumstances: used to traffic, rivers, sand, and obstacles such as fallen limbs, as well as hours with a person on his back. Being in top-notch condition will help prevent the majority of injuries to man and beast.

• Rig Jump-
 • ers are the
 • backbone
 • of the trail.
 • They set up
 • and take
 • down camp,
 • move horse
 • equipment,
 • get tempo-
 • rary corrals
 • in place,
 • and often
 • prepare
 • meals and run to the nearest town for necessary
 • items. But they will tell you it is a lot of fun, too.
 • They also share camaraderie about the trail. Work-
 • ing together lightens the load for all. Many become
 • life-long friends.



• Ashlyn Kuersten from 3rd Branch Farm near
 • Otsego has ridden the trail multiple times. “There’s
 • a saying to bring everything from swimming suits to
 • snow suits,” Ashlyn said. “One three-day trip in May,
 • we went from 90 degrees to snow.” Ashlyn and hus-
 • band Greg may be the only ones
 • to complete the trail on their own.
 • They couldn’t have done it without
 • Ashlyn’s parents, who drive their
 • motor home all the way from Alas-
 • ka, to ‘rig jump’ them along the
 • trail. Ashlyn and Greg give riding
 • lessons, train their own horses and
 • occasionally, other horses for trail
 • riding. They have six horses on
 • their farm, all of which have done
 • all or some parts of the Shore-to-
 • Shore Trail in Michigan. “This trail
 • can be hard, even scary at times,”
 • says Ashlyn, “but it is a sparkling
 • gem in Michigan. I wish everyone
 • could experience this trail!”

Whether you hike, ride alone, or ride in a group, this is an awesome experience. For more information contact 3rdbranchfarm.com or Michigan Trail Riders Association at MTRA.org. ✦

Campgrounds on the Shore-to-Shore

These camps are located along the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail for your convenience. Most are located 20-25 miles apart and have pit toilets and pump wells. Unless you are on an organized MTRA ride, you will need to “pay the post” and register for the days that you use the camps.



EAST - WEST CAMPS

- Garey Lake Trail Camp
- Lake Dubonnet Trail Camp (Mud Lake)
- Scheck’s Place Trail Camp
- Kalkaska Trail Camp (Rapid River)
- Goose Creek Trail Camp
- Four Mile Trail Camp
- Luzerne Trail Camp
- McKinley Trail Camp
- South Branch Trail Camp
- River Road Trail Camp

NORTH - SOUTH CAMPS

- Walsh Road Trail Camp
- Johnson Crossing Trail Camp
- Elk Hill Trail Camp
- Stoney Creek Trail Camp
- Mullett Lake Trail Camp
- Hopkins Creek Trail Camp
- Cadillac Trail Camp

THE LEGEND OF THE MYSTIC WARRIOR



A very long time ago, there was a plains Indian who learned the ways of Mother Earth from his father as his brothers before him had, but he was an exceptional study and became known as the best of the tribe. He was the greatest hunter and the most fierce warrior his tribe had known in all of the stories passed down about the ancestors. Because of this fame, many of the young warriors of the tribe followed his every step to learn the ways of this master.

One fateful day in the midst of a hunt, the son of a chief was among the young men in the hunting party. It was a buffalo hunt and very dangerous. The first strike against the vast herd caused them to begin to move, and when the second party of hunters swept down off the hill, the herd turned and sped up to a full blown stampede. The mystic warrior and his followers were directly in the path of the charging buffalo.

All the brave young hunters turned their horses to go with the flow and attempt to get one more shot. The son of the chief wound up in harms way, his horse stumbled, and he was lost in a sea of buffalo. There was great sorrow in the camp and the chief was full of hatred that his son had been lost because he was with the mystic warrior. He called the council of chief's and had the great hunter banished from the tribe so that no more sons would be lost because they followed this mystic.

The law of the tribe was final. The warrior took his many horses and many wives and set out to the lonely

• life of the outcast. Their travels were northward and
 • eastward and in the end, they settled mostly in the
 • land of the hut dwellers who were fishermen and basket
 • weavers. In this new society he again became known as
 • a great provider, superior hunter and warrior, and be-
 • fore long, there were many young men following him
 • on the hunt and war path. When it came time for him
 • to be the story teller and prepare himself for the happy
 • hunting ground, his legacy grew and the young men
 • were charged with watching for a new mystic warrior.

• As legend has it, were you a candidate for mystic
 • standing, the other young braves would paint your
 • horse so the master would watch over you and your
 • comings and goings on the trail of life, with the hunt
 • and on the war path. When the mystic passed away be-
 • cause he had been an outcast, his spirit remained with
 • the hut dwellers and is thought to roam the woods of
 • what we now know as MICHIGAN, looking for bright
 • new horsemen to fill the ranks of the hunting parties
 • and the ranks of the warriors. He will mark the horse
 • of the new young warrior suitable for inclusion in the
 • party of the great hunter, the mystic warrior.

• There are tales of many such markings showing up on
 • the trail of the MTRA. Should you be a new rider, upon
 • completion of your first trophy ride, do not be alarmed if
 • you wake to find your horse marked. It is indeed an honor
 • to be marked as a follower of the mystic warrior. ✦



CAMPER'S GADGET

Rite in the Rain all-weather Paper

A handy thing to have when enjoying the outdoors is paper you can write on, even in foul weather. Rite in the Rain is an all weather product designed for the outdoor enthusiast, both the professional and recreationist. Whether you are taking notes while birding, recording details of your hike or climbing adventures, sketching that still life, or noting the coordinates of that great fishing hole, this product is perfect for those less than perfect days.

Simply put, it is an all-weather writing paper that sheds water and enables you to write anywhere, in any weather. It is a 100 percent recyclable wood-based paper that sheds moisture, dirt and a myriad of other substances allowing you to continue to write. While a pencil works best, all weather pens are also available.

There are various products available depending on your needs or activities from bound books, notebooks, loose leaf, pads and forms and even printer paper. Rite in the Rain is truly one of the great American made outdoors product.

Editor's Note: I just used a 3x5 notebook while taking notes aboard the Angliar (see story, page 3). It was perfect for note taking regardless if the water came from the netted fish or the first mate hosing down the captain!



Camper's Sudoku

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

Answers page 13

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BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
The Culver's Double Deluxe Value Basket

Based on purchase at regular menu price. All food baskets include designated beverage, regular Crispy Cut Fries and medium soft drink. Please no substitutions. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon not valid with Stack 'n' Stack. Value \$10.00 each. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Valid only at participating Culver's® restaurants. Expires 09/30/12. Valid only at Culver's of Traverse City, Gaylord & Cadillac.

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Double ButterBurger Cheese Value Basket

Based on purchase at regular menu price. All food baskets include designated beverage, regular Crispy Cut Fries and medium soft drink. Please no substitutions. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon not valid with Stack 'n' Stack. Value \$10.00 each. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Valid only at participating Culver's® restaurants. Expires 09/30/12. Valid only at Culver's of Traverse City, Gaylord & Cadillac.

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Any 2 Scoop Sundae

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BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Any Medium Concrete Mixer

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876 Munson Ave. • 231-421-9004

PUZZLED?

ACROSS

1. A prisoner's room
5. Exchange
9. Showers
14. Found in skin lotion
15. Sheet of glass
16. Endow
17. A thorny flower
18. Chief Norse god
19. Robbed
20. A medical procedure
22. Blabs
23. Aquamarine
24. A synthetic fabric
26. American Medical Association
29. Soothsayer
33. An adulterous woman
38. Take into confinement
39. Corn Belt state
40. Underpants resembling a G-string
42. Matured
43. Stop the flow of a liquid
45. Reckless
47. A design on the skin
48. Refinable rock
49. Relative of the birch tree
52. Liberates
57. Odor
60. 4 times per year
63. Sprite
64. Eardrum
65. Stab or thrust (archaic)
66. Astound
67. Cain's brother
68. Cocoyam
69. Spermal fluid
70. Tardy
71. Marsh plant

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
20					21					22					
23							24		25						
					26	27	28		29			30	31	32	
33	34	35	36				37		38						
39					40			41			42				
43					44			45			46				
47								48							
					49			50	51		52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59					60		61	62					
63							64					65			
66							67					68			
69							70					71			

DOWN

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chocolate substitute 2. Run off to marry 3. Not a winner 4. Apprehensive 5. Blemish 6. Dry riverbed 7. Negatively charged particle 8. 1 cent coin 9. Fix up 10. Existing before birth 11. False god 12. Void 13. Views | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Winged 25. Boarder 27. System 28. Residue from a fire 30. Hamster's home 31. Prevaricates 32. Concludes 33. Spray 34. Bit 35. Smack 36. Fease or torment 37. Fifth note in do-re-mi 41. Prefix meaning "New" | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 44. An Irish girl 46. Skillful 50. Having the same value 51. Cuban dance 53. Direct elsewhere 54. Chip away at 55. Leave out 56. Church council 57. Resorts 58. Marcel Marceau was one 59. Test 61. Assist 62. Part portrayed |
|---|--|---|



COOKIN' CAMPER'S

BACON DEVEILED EGGS

- 12 eggs
- 5 strips of bacon
- 1/2 cup of mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons of mustard
- 2 tablespoons of horseradish
- 4 tablespoons of finely ground cheddar cheese
- 1 pepper to taste
- 1 paprika to decorate
- 1 chives to decorate

Hard boil eggs. Cook bacon, crumble and set aside in a bowl. Cut boiled eggs in half. Remove yolks to the bacon bowl. Mash egg yolks with mayonnaise, crumbled bacon and cheese. Stir in mustard and horseradish. Fill egg white halves with the yolk mixture, sprinkle paprika and chives and refrigerate until serving.

~ Submitted by Laura Gervenack, Spring Lake

PIZZA POPCORN

- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup FRESH grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp garlic salt
- 1/2 tsp basil
- 1/4 onion powder
- 10 cups air popped popcorn

Preheat oven to 300. Put popcorn in a large paper bag. Combine butter, cheese, and seasonings and pour over popcorn a little at a time, shaking the bag as you go. Spread out into a jelly roll pan. Bake for 15 minutes.

~ Submitted by Lizelle Bazuin, McBain

GRILLED PEACH DESSERT

- Peaches
- Ice Cream (Vanilla or Raspberry)
- Olive Oil
- Balsamic Vinegar
- Honey

Cut peaches in half, brush with olive oil. Grill until nice grill marks. Put scoop of ice cream on peach half, drizzle with balsamic vinegar mixed with honey.

~ Submitted by Laura Salvatore, Traverse City

DUTCH OVEN APPLE CRISP

- 6-8 apples, peeled and sliced
- 3/4 c. butter
- 3/4 c. dark brown sugar
- 1 1/4 c. flour
- 1/2 c. quick oats
- 1 T. cinnamon

Place apple slices in Dutch oven. Combine brown sugar, flour, oats, and cinnamon. Cut butter into mixture. Spread mixture over apples. Cover and cook over hot coals about 45 minutes or until apples are soft.

~ Submitted by Renee Fehr, Iron Moutain

EXPERIMENTAL S'MORES

- Chocolate or honey graham crackers
- Marshmallows (try a new flavor)
- Hershey's cookies and cream, Reese's Peanut Butter cups, York peppermint patties, etc.

You know the drill; regular s'mores are good, but boring!

~ Submitted by Josh & Becky Salzman, Appleton, WI

DUTCH OVEN BREAKFAST TORTILLAS

- Sausage and/or bacon
- Eggs
- Onions and/or peppers
- Milk
- Spices to taste
- Soft tortilla shells

Cook bacon/sausage in Dutch oven and set aside. Sauté onions/peppers. Scramble eggs with milk and spices; add to onions and peppers. Cook until eggs are firm. Place tortillas on inverted Dutch oven top to warm. Fill with eggs and meat. Fold and eat.

~ Submitted by Renee Fehr, Iron Moutain

CREAM OF BROCCOLI SOUP

- 6 T. butter, divided
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 1 carrot, grated
- 2 c. chicken broth
- 1 c. water
- 1 large or 2 small bunch(es) fresh broccoli, cut into bite-size pieces (about 8 c.)
- 1/2 c. flour
- 2 c. milk
- Salt and pepper to taste

In 2 T. melted butter, sauté onion, celery, and carrot until tender. Add broth and broccoli; cover and simmer about 10 minutes or until broccoli is tender. Puree soup in pot with immersion blender.

In separate saucepan, melt remaining 4 T. butter. Stir in flour. Gradually add milk and stir over low heat until mixture is thickened and bubbly. Add mixture to puree; mix well and season with salt and pepper.

~ Submitted by Susan Lovelace, Manton

EASY CHICKEN CASSOULET

- 8 oz. skinless boneless chicken thighs, crushed
- 2 med. carrots cut into 1/2" pieces
- 1 med. red or green pepper cut into 1/2" pieces
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 2, 15 oz. can cannellini beans or great northern beans rinsed and drained
- 1, 14-1/2 oz. can Italian-style stewed tomatoes
- 8 oz. fully cooked smoked turkey sausage, halved length & cut in 1/2" slices
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon snipped fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme crushed
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- 6 oz. spinach chopped

Cut chicken into 1 inch pieces. In a 3-1/2 quart crockery cooker place carrots, sweet pepper, onion, garlic, beans, undrained tomatoes, chicken, and sausage. In a bowl combine chicken broth, wine, parsley, thyme, red pepper, and bay leaf. Add to cooker. Cover, cook on low-heat setting for 7 to 8 hours or on high-heat setting for 3-1/2 to 4 hours. Discard bay leaf and add spinach.

~ Submitted by Laura Gervenack, Spring Lake

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Clanging	Humidity	Query
Continue	Jangle	Rapport
Daring	Lamb	Sadness
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L	S	D	A	A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	E	L
U	T	I	M	E	U	N	I	T	N	O	C	M	N	I
P	U	E	I	E	L	G	N	A	J	M	O	H	O	P
O	R	S	A	D	N	E	S	S	F	D	X	S	X	P
P	E	E	B	A	Q	U	E	R	Y	L	N	I	I	A
D	G	L	L	V	S	U	O	D	N	E	R	R	O	H
P	O	C	E	R	E	T	N	E	C	I	P	E	U	U
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M	I	D	U	N	E	S	P	J	R	N	U	I	V	D
A	M	D	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	I	A	G	N	I
G	E	L	N	R	E	T	S	V	R	H	N	B	A	T
E	R	E	Y	L	A	T	E	X	E	T	T	G	C	Y

UNPUZZLER

Sudoku (Page 8)

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

Crossword (Page 9)

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



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SEPTEMBER

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3rd Annual Acme Fall Fest & Classic Car Show • Sept. 29, 10 AM - 5 PM
Flint Fields, 6535 Bates Rd., Williamsburg, www.discoveracme.com
Craft Show and Farmers Market, Kids Activities including Pumpkin Coloring, Pony Rides and MORE! Wings of Wonder Live Raptor Show Car and Tractor Show—Men's, Women's & Kid's Divisions

Bellaire

Farm Market • Fridays, 8 am - 12:30 pm, through Oct. 26, 231-553-6959
Annual Harvest Festival & Scarecrow Extravaganza • Sept 29

Cadillac

Farm Market • Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 am - 4:30 pm
North Star Quilt Guild Quilt Show • Sept. 22 (See Below)

Fall Fever Festival • Sept. 22 - 23

Celebrate fall in downtown Cadillac, family fun Craft Beer Festival, Car Show, bounce houses for the kids, doggie show, Criss Cakes Flying pancake breakfast, music, local food and farmers.

Wexford Civic Arena Dancing with the Y Stars • Saturday, Sept. 29

The 2nd "Dancing with the Y Stars" YMCA Fundraising Event, Jen Reagan at 231-775-3369. (*Editor's Note: Go Mike Elmore!*)

Transition Cadillac Area Harvest Celebration • Sept. 30, 4 pm

Foxhill Event Center, transitiontown.cadillac@gmail.com; Fun(d)-Raising Dinner and OOOOBY (Out Of Our Own Backyards) Potluck
Transition Cadillac Area is now the 123rd officially recognized Transition Initiative in the United States! Tickets are available from Willow Mercantile and Brinks Framing for \$15 each. Children under 6 eat free.

Ellsworth

Farm Market • Through Mid Oct., Tuesdays, 5-7 pm, 231-588-7411

Elk Rapids

Farm Market • Fridays, 8 am - 1 pm, through Oct. 12, 231-264-8202

Evart

Wood Carvers Rhadigan Seminar • Sept. 13-15
Loners on Wheels • Sept. 21-23

Fife Lake

Cherry Raceway
Sept. 2 • Michigan Dirt Cup Modified Tour
Sept. 8 • MTS Sprint Cars & Street Stock Special

Houghton Lake

Pumpkin Run Car Show • Sept. 22-23

Lake City

Farm Market • Thursday evenings from 5-8 p.m.
Festival Of The Pines • September 13-16 (See Below, Left)
Beverage tent, Prince & Princess Contest Friday night, Horseshoe Competitions, Arts & Crafts Market, Grand Parade, Lumberjack Competitions, Youth Archery Competition and Bingo on Saturday. Lumberjack breakfast, Muzzle Loader Competition, & more!

Need a New Quilt for Your Camper?

The North Star Quilt Guild is excited to be hosting its 7th annual quilt show on September 22. The show will be held at the St. Ann's school gymnasium in Cadillac. We have a wonderful selection with something for everyone - jewelry, natural food, painting and woodworking items, buttons, yarn and patterns, and of course, quilt shops and other supplies such as totes, ironing board covers, and featherweight machines. We hope that this encourages non-quilters to also come and enjoy the beautiful quilt creations. And of course, we will once again have a white elephant sale with all sorts of items that are fiber-related.

All of the displayed quilts have been made by members of the guild. The show will include quilts made from our recent fabric dyeing class, miniatures (scaled down quilts less than 24"), clothing, and some of the winners from last year. Our featured quilters this year - MaryAnn Evens and Debra King - will have a few of their creations on display and are eager to share their passion for quilting with the community. There will also be a working display of our "Quilts for Kids" project. Our guild has long made and donated



quilts to other organizations such as Oasis, Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life, Michigan State Police and many others - either for their use or for their fundraising efforts.

There will be a raffle quilt with tickets for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. We will have door prizes with drawings every half hour. We do ask for a \$3 admission donation which helps to buy supplies for our charity quilts. The ladies of St. Ann's circle will have a lunch available for purchase. For more information visit northstarquiltguild.org.

FESTIVITIES

Leland

Leland Heritage Celebration & Library Book Sale • September 15

Ludington

Farm Market • Friday, 3 PM - 8 PM

Mancelona

Farm Market • Through Oct. 25, Thursdays, 3-7 pm, 231-585-6922

Manistee

Farm Market • Saturday, 8 am

Swing for the Animals • Sept 15, 6 pm

Big Band and Swing Music, gourmet dinner, dancing and a silent auction to benefit the Homeward Bound Animal Shelter of Manistee County.

Home Grown Saturdays • Sept 1, 8, 11

Local artisans/musicians performing at various locations downtown.

Manton

Harvest Festival • Sept. 2-5

Parade Monday at 10 am, Craft Show, Book Sale, Lumberjack Competition, Horse Pulls, Chicken BBQ Monday, Music every day.

McBain

Hughston's Cow Camp Annual Labor Day Rodeo • Aug. 31, Sept. 1-2

Midland

Michigan Antique Collectible Festival • Sept. 22-23 (See Below)

Roscommon

Farm Market • Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm

Ausable River Center, no vendor fees.

Roscommon Farmer's Market is looking for more vendors! Erine Adams, erine@hotmail.com

Roscommon Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival • Sept. 13-16

Traverse City

The Village Outdoor Farm Market • Mondays, 2 - 6 pm

Sara Hardy Downtown Farm Market • Wednesdays, 8 am - 12 pm

Red Wings Training Camp • Sept. 22 - 27

Centre ICE Arena, www.centreice.org

Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort (see back page)

231.947.2770, info@TimberRidgeResort.net

TBAY's Autumn Classic Stay and Play • Sept. 14-16

Open to teams / families of those participating in the TBAY's Autumn Classic. 10% discount on campsite stay with proof of participation in tournament (registration card for tournament required).

Red wings Training Camp Week • Sept. 22-27

Special pricing for Red Wings fans staying at Timber Ridge during training camp. Show proof of attendance at games during training camp and receive 10% off usual fall rate.

Fall Color Stay • Sept. 28 - Oct. 22

Come enjoy the beautiful fall colors that Northern Michigan has to offer, at great fall rates. Complimentary wine from local vintner and information on scenic drives provided.

Remembrance Run • Oct. 5-6

Participants in the 2012 run are eligible for special pricing.

Rates available for any cabin, RV, or tent site. 2 night stay required. Space is limited, discount subject to availability. Event must be referenced at time of reservation. Not to be combined with any other offer or discount.

Scottville

Farm Market • Saturday, 9 AM - 1 PM

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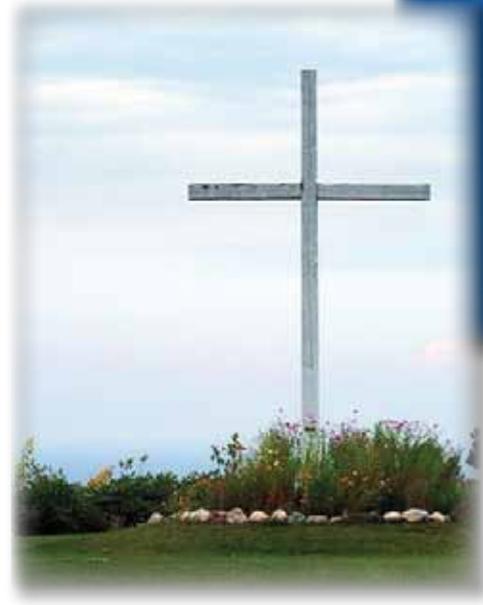
Is There a History Lesson In Your Road Trip?

We have mentioned it before and it is worth saying again: there is so much to see and do in Michigan, at times the opportunities seem endless. Sometimes just packing a few things in the car, grabbing the road atlas and heading out can lead to a wonderful adventure. Several years ago we were in the Petoskey area for a few days and did just that. We grabbed a few essentials—light jacket, camera, atlas and emergency car food (that’s what mom called it) and headed north along the big lake. We had no particular destination in mind and before long, found ourselves along the famed M-119 Tunnel of Trees of Emmet County.

This was definitely a beautiful drive in the summer and we can only imagine how it must be during the splendor of the fall colors. Hardwood and evergreen trees grow right up to the edge of the road creating a tunnel effect, with sunlight shining through the leaves and branches. The road is pretty narrow and winds its way up and along Lake Michigan. One area with a particularly sharp twist is locally known as Devil’s Elbow and said to be haunted by an evil spirit. It is even said you can hear voices after dark.

About mid way up the drive is a small town called Cross Village. This was once a thriving lumber and fishing town and is thought to be one of the oldest settlements in the State. As you travel through the small towns and villages dotting the Lake Michigan shoreline, you will eventually encounter historical markers and tributes to the famous French explorer Father Jacques Marquette. Cross Village is one such place. Historical recounts of the area say Father Marquette erected a huge white cross on the bluff overlooking the lake when he traveled through the area. While his cross has been gone for many years, a replica has taken its place and can be seen from far out on Lake Michigan.

- Like Marquette,
- many other Euro-
- pean missionaries
- are known to have
- had an influence
- throughout the re-
- gion. In 1830, Fred-
- erick Baraga came
- to the area from his
- native Slovenia. His
- goal was to serve
- the native popula-
- tions and isolated
- northern Michi-
- gan communities.
- Baraga is believed
- to be responsible
- for spreading the gospel among the Native Ottawa and
- Chippewa peoples. In 1853, he became the first Bishop
- in northern Michigan.
- In 1840, the State Legislature passed Act No. 119,
- laying out the boundaries of certain northern counties.
- These counties were unorganized and Section 28 of
- that Act described the boundaries of what was called
- the County of Tonedagana. Two years later, another
- act changed the name to Emmet County. The County
- was reorganized in 1855 and four new townships were
- created. One of them, named La Croix, was officially
- changed to Cross Village in 1875.
- Any visit to the area would be incomplete without stop-
- ping at the historic Legs Inn. This quaint little develop-
- ment was started by a Polish immigrant, Stanley Smolak,





in the late 1920s. Looking for a place that would remind him of home, he and his new wife Eleanor came to northern Michigan and settled in Cross Village.

Smolak spent a lot of time exploring the forests and lake shores of the area and started collecting driftwood and stones. He used these local "furnishings" to create the unique buildings and atmosphere of the Legs Inn. Smolak is known for saying "Nature is the greatest sculptor; I am only helping to make the artistic objects more visible to the ordinary eye." The first building he constructed was the curio shop, specializing in Indian handiwork and souvenirs. The next part of the development was the tavern with an expansive balcony and then finally the dining room with the majestic views of Lake Michigan. The name came about from the row of inverted cast iron stove legs that Smolak used to fashion the decorative railing on the roof of the building.

So keep in mind on that fall color tour, beyond the beauty of the turning leaf is a road or town or historian that turned the way of life way back when. Just packing up a few things in the car and going for a drive can lead to an educational and enjoyable experience. ✦

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Vegetation Station

by Dave Kingma

Asparagus ~ Plant Your Own This Fall

What do you know about asparagus anyway? Well, I know it grows in the wild here in Michigan. I also know that it is one of my favorite veggies. It is great on the grill, boiled, steamed and I even know people who will eat it raw. I also know that it is my favorite with a nice big juicy steak. It can also be very expensive at the grocery store.

Did you know that it is the top vegetable in providing folic acid? Yep—just five stalks will give you 60 percent of the daily-recommended value. If you are anything like me, then five stalks are easy to eat. It is also a great source of potassium, fiber, vitamin B6, as well as vitamins A and C. How can you go wrong with that nutritional goodness?

Did you know that asparagus helps prevent disease and aids in recovery of disease? If you eat asparagus as a regular part of your diet, it has been scientifically proven to help prevent leukemia. Chinese and Indian cultures also recommend eating it to help with gout. It is also a natural diuretic. Having a steady or regular diet can keep your urinary tract flushed. If you have issues with kidney or bladder stones or urinary tract infections, eating asparagus can help flush them out. Folic acid is also necessary for cell formation, growth and prevention of liver disease as well as spina bifida in babies. It's a healthy choice all the way around.

Were you aware that Michigan is in the top three producers of asparagus in the United States? In Oceana County, near Shelby and Hart, you will find approximately 11,000 acres of cultivated asparagus. This may not seem like a large amount of land but when you harvest on the average 20 times in a 6-7 week period, it sure adds up. The asparagus industry brings in approximately \$15,000,000 a year. Now that is some big money for a small amount of our wonderful state. Only California and Washington produce more asparagus than Michigan.



- How can you tell if you are eating Michigan asparagus? Well in Michigan, we tend to do things a little
- differently. Usually when you buy asparagus from
- the store you will notice the ends are sliced nice and
- straight. This means you will need to trim it up quite a
- bit to get past the stringy or woody part. In Michigan, our farmers just snap it off so the ends will be jagged.

This reduces the need to trim because it usually snaps above the woody part of the stalk.

Can anyone grow asparagus? The answer is yes. All it takes is a sandy area in full sun. Be aware however that it takes about three years to be able to actually eat it. It grows from the stalks that we eat into a large fern. You plant in the later fall and harvest in the early spring, usually May and June. The crazy thing is you harvest it as much as everyday when it is in season, or at least every three days. The plant likes very neutral soil so make sure not to plant it around pine trees since they create acidic soil. If you do want to plant it near pine trees you will need to use denatured lime to neutralize the soil.

What is the difference between white, green and purple asparagus? Green asparagus is the most

- common but contrary to common belief, white asparagus is just sun-starved green asparagus. It is said to be
- sweeter and less fibrous. Purple however is different. It
- still turns green when cooked and tastes pretty much
- the same but the plants are often disease ridden and
- do not produce nearly as much.

- If you are from Michigan, you know of the Traverse City Cherry Festival, the Mesick Mushroom Festival and Holland Tulip Time. But have you heard of the
- National Asparagus Festival in Oceana County? If you haven't, then add it to your list for next year for the
- second weekend in June. (Empire also has a festival the
- third week in May). Just keep in mind that if you want
- to grow your own, get busy planting this fall. ✦

Campground Critter

by Dave Kingma

Red-tailed Hawk

I was driving down the highway on my way down state and I noticed our kids in the back seat were causing a ruckus. They spotted a red-tailed hawk flying high in the sky. They wanted to know what it was because it was the biggest bird they had actually seen outside of the zoo. With a wingspan of four feet and a length of two feet, that is a pretty big bird. It was circling the highway and the neighboring field without even flapping its wings. The thought occurred to me that it would be so awesome to be a bird in that moment, floating on the breeze and soaring farther and faster without the need of an engine.

The red-tailed hawk is considered a bird of prey. The female is 25 percent larger than the male. These hawks are light auburn to deep brown; their underbellies being lighter with a dark band around it. The legs and feet as well as the skin under the beak are yellow. The tail is brownish red, which is how it gets its name. The eyes are also a dark brown, however, in the case of an immature hawk, the eyes will appear yellowish-grey until they darken with maturity.

Hawks breed in the spring and the female lays an average of three eggs. Both parents keep the eggs warm during the 4-6 week incubation period. Once hatched, they are considered fledglings or babies for about seven weeks. At this point they learn to fly and become independent about three weeks later.

The red-tailed hawk is fully matured at about three years old when it can breed. Both males and females mature at the same rate. This bird mates on the premise of marriage, "till death do us part." Red-tailed hawks only change mates when the original mate dies. During mating the female and the male fly in large circles together. Sometimes these flights can last as long as ten minutes. Mating usually happens after these flights. They land on a perch and preen each other. Red-tailed hawks can live to be between 20 and 30 years old, however many die within the first two years. If they survive the first few years, they typically live for a long time.

The red-tailed hawk pairs live together in an area that varies from 1/2 of a square mile to 3-1/2 square miles. These birds are very territorial and will defend their boundaries. The birds soar over their territory mostly on clear days to watch out for intruders. Since



- the red-tailed hawk is active during the day and has
- extremely good sight, the intruders do not stand much
- of a chance. This hawk is a carnivore by nature so it eats
- mostly rodents like mice, chipmunks and squirrels and
- can handle animals up to the size of a large rabbit in its
- very strong and large claws. The rest of their diet consists
- of lizards and other birds. The red-winged blackbird is a
- very easy prey since they are so distinct in color and stick
- out when they are guarding their own nests. The largest predator
- the red-tailed hawk has to worry about is the great horned owl
- taking the nestlings.

- As daunting as the red-tailed hawk may seem, they actually
- help out in their own way. They keep the number of the rodent
- population down. And there must be a streak of compassion in
- this carnivorous bird, as the common house sparrow has been
- found to share their nests. Maybe this is nature's way of
- keeping the small animal population balanced as well as helping
- out the small and "nestless." What I find most amazing is that
- a bird can live to be three decades old. That is one tough,
- resilient and smart bird. ✦

got rocks?

by Kevin Gauthier

Rock Shapes

Many times we are attracted to rocks, not because of the type of stone it is, but because of its shape. It is that unusual shape that will appeal to so many of us. My fascination is finding a rock shaped like a foot. A foot-shaped rock reminds me of the many people who walk the beaches enjoying the same spot I'm standing on. It reminds me of the footprints I just left in the sand. I like to believe it is "petrified people prints" in time before me.

Another favorite shape for many people is the heart-shaped rock. On a recent trip to Good Heart, Michigan, I met a woman named Cici, owner of Primitive Images. She is a collector of heart shaped rocks and has found over 140 of them this year. Because she has found so many over the years, she has a rating system comparing how closely the rock resembles an ideal heart shape. She told me this was the "year of the heart." Primitive Images is located in a 100 year-old log



cabin that she and her husband moved from Canada to Michigan. It has 24" wide x 8" thick hand cut timbers... an impressive size of tree to make these 20-foot long log beams. There is a very good, relaxing feel to her shop and a must visit to sit on the back porch at a table of sliced stones when you are in the area of Good Heart.

Some rocks are just eye-catching because of their smooth oval shape that fits perfectly in the palm of your hand. When you grip it, the firmness lets you know that it is a rock, but the smoothness in the palm of your hand is soothing and comforting. As you rub your fingers on it, you find this shape of rock is calming to the touch. Some people carry their smooth stone every day in their pocket only to pull it out then tell you, "look . . . this one is my worry stone." While they are telling you about their rock, inevitably, a smile will come across their face which always brings



the light rock is easy to be around. Square rocks do not really fit into the picture because finding a square rock is not only difficult, but quite the opposite of a square person. It is an interesting shape and has many uses such as a base where other rocks can be stacked upon it.

I challenge you the next time you are walking on the beach to find a few rock shapes that fit the traits of people you know or have encountered. Just pick them up and secretly smile to yourself over this new treasure. ✦

one to mine. I would like to propose we all start being politically correct by calling them happy stones instead of worry stones. I have never known a rock to worry, but I do know a lot of happy ones. Rocks are content.

I sometimes look at shapes in a rock and they remind me of different traits in people. A smooth rock leaves you with a happy feeling. When you meet a new person that you connect with right away, you usually walk away from the conversation happy; they are an oval smooth rock. The jagged rock can be you in a bad mood or someone who just had their “cheerios p--d on” and puts you in a bad mood. They are rough to be around. The heavy rock is just burdensome. On the other hand,

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Goin' to Firemen Fest & Zoo Boo?



by Joann Treiber

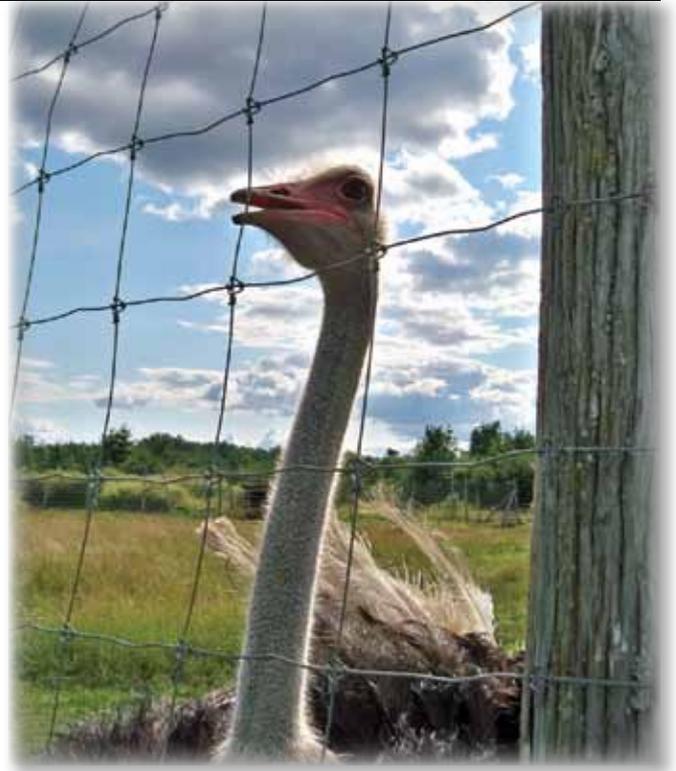
What is it about going to a parade that excites you the most? Is it the marching bands, beautiful horses or the decorated floats? For many people it is the lights and sirens of the fire trucks and police cars. If this is what you look forward to during a parade then I have just the place for you. The Roscommon Firemen's Memorial Festival boasts the largest display of firefighting and rescue equipment in Northern Michigan.

The festival starts Thursday, September 13, with a Family Night. Friday they have a "Bright Light Vehicle Showdown" at 7 p.m., which is followed by a Light Parade. Saturday is a busy day with a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Firemen's Memorial site at 9 a.m., followed by a parade through downtown at 11 a.m. The Waterball contest starts at 12:30 p.m. and then there will be a dance at 9 p.m.

Most of the events happen at the Roscommon County Fire Training Grounds, formally known as the Roscommon Fair Grounds, but this is only a partial list of the fun stuff that is planned. There is also an arts and crafts show, fire vendors, many displays and demonstrations, and wagon rides. For more information on the event visit firemensmemorial.org.



While you are in the Roscommon area, be sure to stop by the Cindy Lou's Zoo, 5-1/2 miles east of Roscommon on North M-18. Be sure to say hi to Humphrey the camel as well as Bert the ostrich



and the potbelly pigs. The zoo has a huge tortoise and who's ten years old. There is also a friendly ring-tailed lemur named Norman and they have some new baby animals for you to visit.

Be sure to add to your calendar the "Zoo Boo" on October 20 and take a stroll through the Haunted Trails. They have a trail for the little kids and one for the "big kids." Thank you, Jason, for the tour. For more information on Cindy Lou's Zoo visit cindylouszoo.com.

There are many places to camp while in the Roscommon area. Higgins Lake State Park will celebrate its Harvest Festival in October, where everyone decorates for Halloween and there is trick-or-treating with costumes, a scavenger hunt and "The Spooky Walk" is back this year. Check with the park for more details and dates.

Still looking for something to do? The Annual Pumpkin Run Car and Motorcycle Show and Cruise will be held at the Wal-Mart Super Store in Houghton Lake, Sept. 22-23. ✦

Camper's Choice

PaddleBrave ~ Roscommon



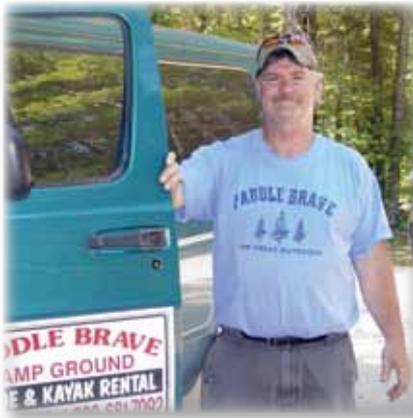
Discover PaddleBrave Campground & Canoe Livery,

a place where you can camp, canoe, kayak or tube located directly on the famous South Branch of the AuSable River with over 1000 feet of river frontage. PaddleBrave is a family oriented campground with quiet hours from 10:30 pm to 7:00 am, hosting 33 sites with electricity and 12 rustic sites along with a fill and dump station. There is a large wooden play structure for the little ones situated in the middle of the campground. All campsites are forested and electrical lines are installed underground as the entire complex is designed to enhance nature.

There are two cabins that sleep four people and a third cabin that sleeps two. The cabins come complete with linens, coffee maker and microwave. For a larger crowd, check out the "Log Cabin" on the River. This is an original log cabin located directly on the river that sleeps eight people comfortably. There is also an assortment of travel camping trailers that can be set up on site for rent.

Owner and Ranger, Tom Roberts is very helpful in assisting you with any questions you may have regarding your canoe float or camping experience. If you are interested in over night camping/canoeing, Tom

will be more than happy to help you with your arrangements. Many PaddleBrave customers are repeaters; some have been coming back for more than 30 years.



- A quote from a seven-year-old says it best, "My family took me to Disney World, but I am so happy to be back at PaddleBrave. I love it here."
- Here you may enjoy everything from canoeing the crystal clear, safe shallow waters of the AuSable, biking, observing wildlife, including the nightly raccoon bandits, trout fishing, hiking, swimming (at beautiful Higgins or Houghton lakes) or perhaps just browsing in the camp store. At the camp store you can find everything from a cold beverage, warm sweatshirts, fishing gear, canoeing accessories and many more supplies. If you forgot to bring it, they probably have it.

Canoeing the south branch of the AuSable River is

- a treat for the beginner or the advanced canoeist. This stretch of the river is world famous for its trout fishing as well. Anglers from all over the world come to try their skills at landing a fish. The river flows at a four to five mile per hour pace at normal levels. The most popular time to do a canoe float is from late April to late October, mid-summer being the busiest time. If you are looking for a more peaceful float, Sunday thru Friday is the best time to see more wildlife and to enjoy the northern Michigan woods.

- Canoe trips range in length from 1-1/2 hours to a 6-day adventure to Lake Huron. PaddleBrave supplies all your needs for a day on the river including paddles, seat cushions and coast guard approved life jackets. A free pickup shuttle back to your vehicle is included in your rental price. There is a wide selection of kayaks to choose from for rental use. They have tandem and single place kayaks for every type of adventure.

- With the large selection of kayaks you can choose from double sit on tops, double sit in, single sit on tops and single sit in. Along with your traditional aluminum canoes, Old Town Canoes are also available for rent. Boasting over a hundred tubes choose from ones with bottoms, ones with no bottoms, tubes for two, tubes



with back rest and their newest the tube Pro.

PaddleBrave is the closest livery to the famous and beautiful Mason Wilderness Tract. You can depart from PaddleBrave and visit Durant's Castle Ruins and the Mason Chapel on the most popular 5-hour float. On this float you will be surrounded by wilderness for 4 hours of the trip.

For those who would rather be on the lake and beach for the day, Higgins and Houghton Lakes are just a 15-minute drive away. After a fun day on the river you can come back to camp and play a game of volleyball, horseshoes or just relax in the game room.

Fall is a beautiful time to take a float down the river and enjoy the wonders of the fall colors. With fewer boaters, you increase your chances of seeing the beautiful wildlife along the river.

For the angler, the south branch is a famous trout stream with a lot of history. The world famous Mason Wilderness Tract is just moments downstream from PaddleBrave. The river offers a challenge to all who wade in its banks. There are brook trout, brown trout and the occasional rainbow trout. Fly fisherman from as far away as Alaska have visited PaddleBrave to try their skills at landing a fish.

PaddleBrave is within short distance of premium fishing and hunting grounds, miles of snowmobile trails, and choice lakes and streams for your favorite water sports. Being open year round for snowmobiles, hunters, fishermen and skiers, there are heated cabins



- and trailers available for rent. Imagine your camper on
- a plowed campsite or a warm cabin to return to after a
- day out hunting. Then top it off with a hot shower, add
- deer on the buck pole—it doesn't get any better than
- that. Winter storage with seasonal rates is available.
- With an abundance of state and federal land nearby
- there are many opportunities for the able huntsman.

• PaddleBrave has something for everyone and is a
 • place where memories are made. ✦

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When You've Outgrown Your Tent

by Matt Whetstone

The writing was all over the walls, painted in brilliant yellow reflecting off the red and beige nylon that surrounded us.

As the wind gusts came, our shelter shifted, buckling at times and allowing Mother Nature to turn an excursion on land into what felt like one at sea.

For our family, this was truly our last time in a tent. We were all there, although our now 2-year-old daughter wasn't around yet. It was the close of one chapter and the beginning of a new one, both for the family and the future of an activity we loved – camping.

It was July 2009 that marked the end of an era for my wife, Jeannette, and I. We contemplated our fate early that morning as the heavy woods around us creaked and shifted and the water slowly dripped into our tent. Our two Cocker Spaniels, Ruby and Chewey, loyally sat with us, waiting to see if they would have to venture into the monsoon outside. Rather than wait it out, we decided at 5 a.m. it was time to break camp. We threw the dogs in the truck and broke our own record for packing up camp so quickly. What started as a beautiful trip to Platte River State Forest Campground ended in us hightailing our way back to Cadillac as the sun rose.

Our tent was finished. In retrospect, I suppose, so was our future of camping as we had in the past. We could not justify setting up camp with our young daughter, two dogs and two adults, especially since bad weather routinely plagued us every time we ventured out.



Ruby and Chewey enjoy "their" bed every time we camp.



Jeannette, Margaret, Chewey and Ruby pose in front of Miner's Castle. If you visit Pictured Rocks during the week of Fourth of July expect a large crowd of people from all over the world. A bald eagle sitting on the way down to the viewing platform attracted a lot of foreign tourists hoping to capture a picture of the majestic bird.

• Parenthood brought a hiatus in our annual camping schedule. But as our daughter, Margaret, got a little older we wanted to ensure that she developed the same love for camping and the outdoors that we had. There was just one problem: how could we do it? When we camped before, we always had an issue with over packing. We'd fill our car or truck to the brim, carving out just enough space for the dogs to sit, and go on our way. With all of Margaret's things, how would that even be possible?

• The answer came pretty easily. We wanted to camp, and my dad offered use of his 23-foot Aerolite, which we now own. Just one problem: I'd never hauled a camper before and my memories of some scary times hauling our camper as a kid (high winds, angry drivers, etc.) left me a little apprehensive. That apprehension wasn't enough for me to say "no."

• So I drove down to my parent's house, and later that day the camper was gleaming in our driveway. A new adventure awaited!

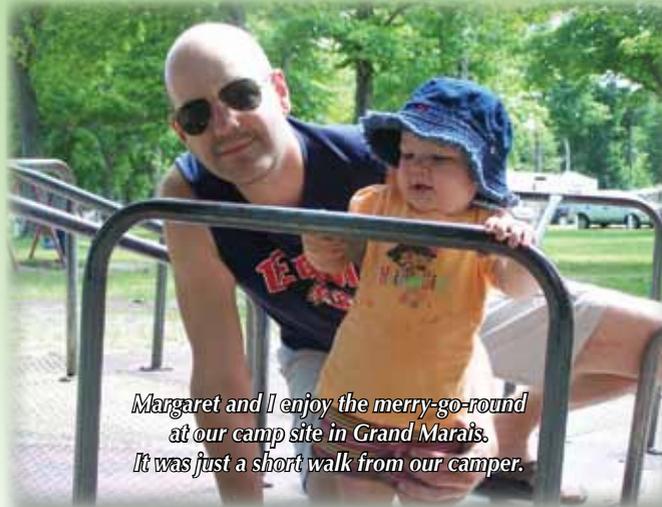
• Armed with a new tool of the trade and tons and tons and tons of stuff (boy we packed it up good), the camping bug was back. It had been a few years, but with a camper, we knew that the time of our lives was just a few hours away. And Margaret couldn't contain her excitement about camping.

• It was the week prior to Fourth of July, 2011 when we set out. Our destination was the city campground in Grand Marais, an idyllic little town located firmly in the middle of nowhere. The campground took no reservations so we knew there was a chance of having to keep going. That was okay with us, though, because we'd camped several times at the Lake Superior State Forest Campground, about 15 miles east of Grand Marais. That was our fall-back plan. We were so prepared and excited for camping with electricity. It would be a new experience for all of us.

When we arrived, we discovered that every modern site was taken. The campground, however, had a small section of rustic sites that were isolated from the main part of the campground. We drove there and found a spot right next to the large playground and just a one-minute walk to Lake Superior. To this day, we still call it the best site in the campground.

The week we spent there was the best week of camping in the 12 years we've been together. The weather was perfect (surprise, surprise) and Margaret took an immediate liking to Lake Superior. Of course, the week wasn't without some challenges. All the things we packed expecting to have a modern site were just in the way. And the "master bed" belonged to Margaret, so Jeannette and I slept on the bunk beds. Margaret is now actually big enough to sleep on the bunk bed so things have gotten a little easier.

From our home base in Grand Marais we made an excursion to Marquette for the international food festival, which is an extremely kid and dog friendly event. We drove to Munising and, after dropping the dogs off at a kennel for four hours, took our first Pictured Rocks cruise. We enjoyed a number of the many roadside beaches that dot the southern shore of Lake Superior. If you've never been, the shoreline there is amazing and the water isn't always that cold. Our nightly fires (thanks to Ed, a Grand Marais local who delivered a half cord of wood to our site) kept the bugs away and provided the perfect atmosphere as we stared



Margaret and I enjoy the merry-go-round at our camp site in Grand Marais. It was just a short walk from our camper.

each night at the millions of stars visible in that part of the state. The highlight was the amazing fireworks show over the harbor in Grand Marais.

Our camper kept us dry and it gave us some privacy that our tent did not. It was an amazing trip and helped us realize that the transition from tent to camper was seamless. No matter if you're in a tent or a trailer, camping is all about outdoor living and making the most of

- the natural resources. And if it rains, or if your family is too big for a tent, getting a camper is the perfect way to continue to enjoy a perfect summertime activity. And, by the way, hauling it was a piece of cake. ✦



Margaret is pooped after our trip to Oswald's Bear Ranch. After pushing her stroller through there for a while, we were too.

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"What you don't know won't hurt you"

did not live in Northern Michigan.

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Campground Directory



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. 32**

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

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.

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 32**

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.

• **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 32**

• **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.

• **Pere Marquette Campground • 231-898-3511**
• **11713 W. 40th St., Branch, MI 49402**
Facilities: tents, RVs, cabins, electric, water, sanitation, reservations, store.

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.

(continued on page 30)



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. 

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**

- **Twin Oaks RV Campground & Cabins • 231-848-4124**
- **233 Moss Road, Wellston, MI 49689 • 877-442-3102**
- *Facilities:* RVs/28, group camping/8, tents/24, cabins/4, electric/33, water/15, sanitation, reservations, store, laundry, rec room, Wi-Fi, playground, fish station, volleyball, horseshoes, open year around, Good Sam Park.
-  

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.  

MISSAUKEE COUNTY

- **CITY**
- **Maple Grove • 231-839-4429**
- *Facilities:* 32, electric, water, sanitation, reservations.  
- **COUNTY**
- **Ben D. Jeffs River Park • 231-839-4945**
- **PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651**
- *Facilities:* rustic/17 sites. 
- **Crooked Lake Park • 231-839-4200**
- **PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651**
- *Facilities:* 37, electric/15, 1 rental cabin, toilets, shower, sanitation, 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.  

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.  

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, beach.    

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

STATE

Baxter Bridge Campground • 231-775-9727

Facilities: rustic/25, boat launch.  

Long Lake/Wexford • 231-775-9727

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.  

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.

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.  

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 PG. 32**

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.  

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.  

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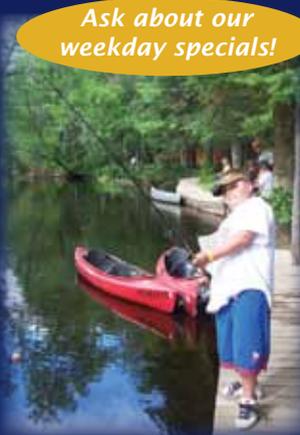
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