

The Northern Camper

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Geocaching 101

MAY 2010

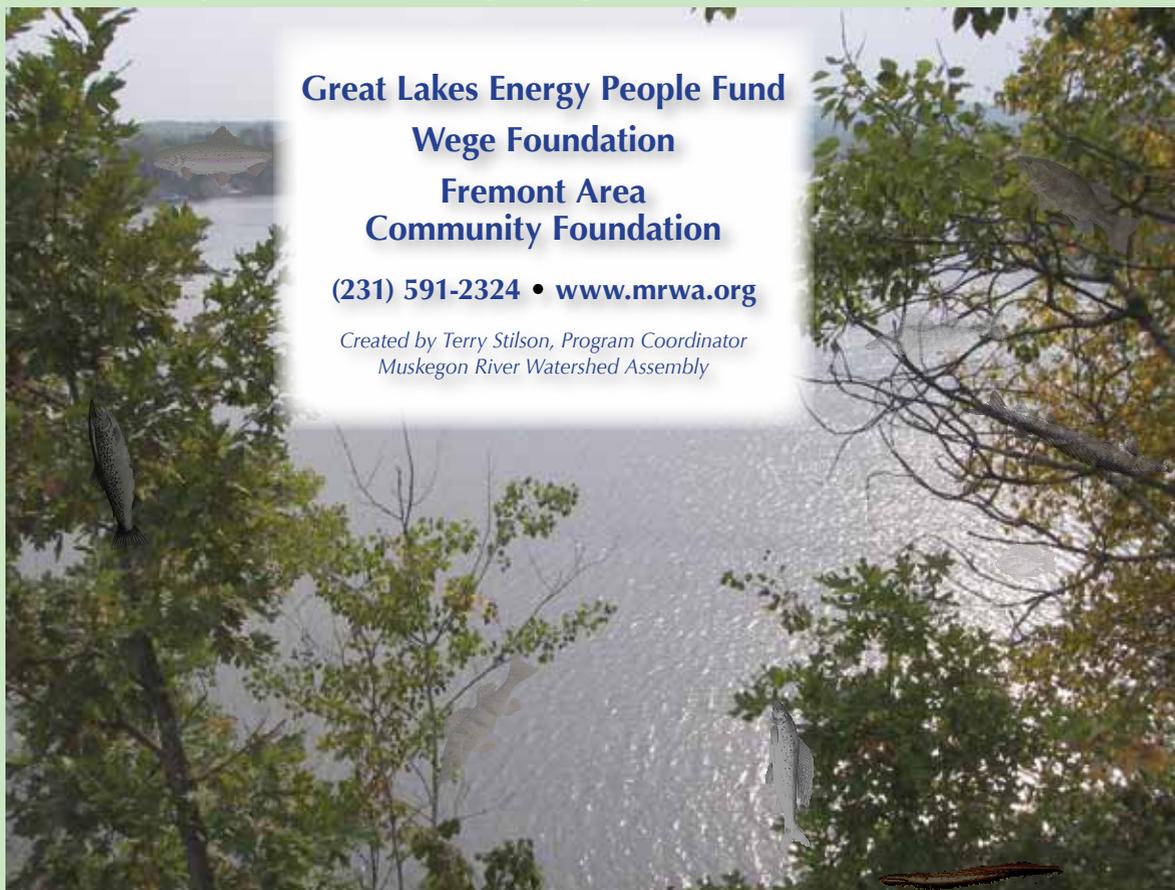
~ FREE ~

Go Fish!



During logging days, the rivers and streams in the Muskegon River Watershed were scraped and eroded. This caused sediment (dirt) to cover fish breeding areas. The trees that supplied shade for the rivers were removed, allowing the sun to warm up the water. Some fish and other organisms couldn't tolerate the warmed water. Dams were built that kept fish from moving up the river. Some fish species were destroyed and others were greatly reduced. Our watershed contains many species of fish—some are native (species were here before people) and some are not.

Directions: Try to find the fish in the Muskegon River picture below, taken near Davis Bridge in Mecosta County.



Great Lakes Energy People Fund Wege Foundation Fremont Area Community Foundation

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*Created by Terry Stilson, Program Coordinator
Muskegon River Watershed Assembly*

<p>Northern Pike is a native fish and can be found in streams and weedy places in lakes. They can get as large as 60 inches and 67 pounds and consume a large number of smaller fish.</p> 	 <p>Rainbow Trout (steelhead) is native to the Pacific Ocean. They were first "planted" in the Muskegon River in 1910.</p>	 <p>Lake Sturgeon can live to be 100 years old and is the largest freshwater native fish in Michigan. They have no scales but are covered with 5 plates. Sturgeon travel up the Muskegon River to spawn (lay eggs) near Newaygo.</p>	 <p>The Bluegill is a small native fish that likes warm, shallow water with plenty of weeds.</p>
<p>Walleye is native to Michigan and gets its name from its eyes which reflect light. This makes him able to see its food in dim lighted places.</p> 	 <p>Brown Trout are non-native fish, introduced in the Great Lakes in 1883. Many fishermen catch brown trout below Croton Dam.</p>	 <p>Grayling was a native fish that became extinct in the Muskegon River system by 1905. It was once found in great numbers in the Hersey River.</p>	 <p>Largemouth Bass live in shallow water among the plants. They like warm water with no current. The male bass constructs the nest.</p>
<p>Brook Lamprey is native to Michigan and classified as a fish. They are no longer than 5 inches long and no wider than a finger. These lamprey do not attach themselves to other fish like sea lamprey.</p> 	<p>Yellow Perch are the most frequently caught fish in Michigan. They are small—about 4 to 10 inches long—and like warm water, 66-70°.</p> 		

 Editor's Pencil

Welcome to May and our first seasonal issue of *The Northern Camper*! Northern Michigan is starting to green up, the campsites cleared and repaired from winter, RVs tuned up and readied as we approach a new camping season.

You'll notice that we are offering more pages this season with more writers and additional features plus we've widened our distribution area so that you can find us in more places including the Clare Welcome Center.

From Reed City to Traverse City and all points in between, our part of northern Michigan has infinite possibilities for visiting campers. Day-trip opportunities abound: fishing, hiking, kayaking, tubing, gift-shopping and more. Check our feature Campground of the Month for an opportunity to visit new horizons or read our feature on Geocaching to plant some ideas for a new experience.

Take some time to gear up for your visit and make sure you run through a complete safety check out, from batteries to leaky roofs to brakes and tires. Don't depend on the fact that everything was OK when you put your rig into storage mode last Fall. Check out our monthly column, "This Old Camper" for some great tips on how to care for your camper.

And don't forget our recipes! Sitting around a campfire or prepping a meal on your RV stove is one of the paramount joys of camping. In fact, send us a recipe or other cooking tips and we will happily print it in the publication, or online at northerncamper.com.

Speaking of web sites, CHECK IT OUT!

**You can link to campgrounds;
download camping information;
and be sure to check the weather
from our live radar!**

Thanks to all ~ family, friends, writers and sponsors for making *The Northern Camper* a valued and fun resource for all who love northern Michigan! ✦

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The Northern Camper

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Geocaching 101

Finding Hidden Michigan

Think of an international hide-and-seek game using GPS information to track down thousands of little treasures hidden across the globe. They could be hidden in the northern Michigan woods or 50 feet from a campground, in the parking lot of a local shopping mall or in the banks of a stream, in any state or even any country!

Curious yet? If so, you are about to discover a phenomenon that has swept the globe these last 20 years—150 countries and counting—since its inception in 2000 by an enterprising Oregonian who hid a small bucket filled with software, books, a slingshot and a little food (although not advised), and posted the longitude and latitude coordinates on the internet. The hunt was on.

Typically “caches” are waterproof containers varying from the size of your little finger to a 5-gallon bucket although surplus ammunition boxes are most commonly used. “Treasures” are usually of low monetary value but hold items precious to

- geocachers—specially minted coins, for example, or
- “travel bugs” (items that are re-hidden, sometimes
- in another country). Each cache also holds a sign-in
- log used to verify the discovery and to authenticate one’s find for posting on web sites.

Even a geocaching etiquette has evolved out of respect for private property and the environment. By their own creed geocachers pick up litter while seeking treasures and try to leave the forest in a little better shape. If near campgrounds or state parks, where permissions are requested, the geocachers for the most part happily agree. In most cases park services are happy to have them

- around and view the pastime as a positive experience for everyone involved.

- The following story (*page 6*) is by two geocachers from the Traverse City area. Their first hand description shows their fascination with the sport, and inspires you to find your own first cache which may be only walking distance from where you are camped!



Cache In Trash Out is an ongoing environmental initiative supported by the worldwide geocaching community. Since 2002, geocachers have been dedicated to cleaning up parks and other cache-friendly places around the world. Through these volunteer efforts, we help preserve the natural beauty of our outdoor resources!

Annually, we celebrate International **Cache In Trash Out** events where geocachers have an opportunity to participate in coordinated worldwide clean-up efforts. Geocachers host clean-up events in their local area on the same day or weekend as other geocachers around the world. Together, we make an enormous positive impact. Did we mention that we also have a bit of fun while we are at it?



Geocaching 101 (continued from page 5)

by *Brian Connon (Mccpl)* and
Phil Cook (gnarly twotrack)

“Wow! I’ve been coming here for years, and I never knew this cool place even existed!” We hear that a lot. Geocaching offers such an adventure for all ages. Kids love searching out the “treasure” and retirees are some of the most active cachers around.

Geocaching combines outdoor activities with technology that most of us already use. In its simplest form you need access to the internet, a handheld GPS receiver (GPSr), and some time to explore northern Michigan.

Geocaching brings something different to everyone. My interest was peaked after hearing someone talk about it. I walked my two Siberian Huskies every night anyway, so why not bring my GPSr and see what this is about?

The first cache we looked for was Team Owl and W8NC’s “Washington Avenue Park.” We looked for this cache for about a week. We found a couple of others easily and started to catch the Geocaching bug.

We became a little frustrated because we could not find “Washington Avenue Park.” It turned out that this was a “micro,” which just by the name I knew was going to be small—a little chrome tube in a knot hole in a tree! It so happened that the sun reflected off it just right that evening. Then we were hooked. The dogs still go nuts when they see the GPSr and know what we are going to do!



Many of us will hide a cache in an area we think people will enjoy seeing. Many times people experience areas they never knew were there. For example, I have lived in northeast Michigan all my life. We decided to go up to Rogers City for an afternoon of caching. I know that area quite well and during our hunt, Geocaching drew us to the Herman Vogler Conservation Area. I had never been there before; it has nice walking trails, picnic areas, and even a little waterfall. If it had not been for Geocaching I would have never found this great park myself.

“Trent and Kittie,” another northeast Michigan based team, have several caches at public sinkholes and other limestone formations. Locals often take these areas for granted and if you are from out of town, you’d never realize they’re here. The caches draw people to explore and enjoy.

To start, you need an account on Geocaching.com; a basic membership is free. This is the online database for all geocaches in the world —currently over a million! Here you can search for geocaches by coordinates: city, state, and zip code. You can also view the caches in an area from a list, or on Google Maps.

Once you select the caches you want to find, write down the coordinates and any descriptions, directions or hints you may need. There are ways to cache paperless, but that is a topic for another day!

The Geocacher’s Code *Safe ♦ Legal ♦ Ethical*

When placing or seeking geocaches, I will:

- Not endanger myself or others.
- Observe all laws and rules of the area.
- Respect property rights and seek permission where appropriate.
- Avoid causing disruptions or public alarm.
- Minimize my and others’ impact on the environment.
- Be considerate of others.
- Protect the integrity of the gamepiece.

For more information, visit one of the Geocaching organization web sites such as Northern Michigan Geocachers (www.nmg-geocaching.org).

The second thing needed—the key piece of hardware—is the GPSr. There are many receiver types, the basic starting around \$100 (*see Camper's Gadget, page 9, and below for GPS service on your cell phone*). In the end they all do the same thing—display where you are in latitude and longitude coordinates. They are all accurate within about 10 feet, so when the GPSr coordinates match the cache's coordinates, you are there. It is time to start looking!

The cache can be anything from a “micro,” about the size of a film canister, to a “large” which can be as big as the person hiding it wants it to be. Typically a micro has just a log page to sign (you'll need your own pen). “Small” caches and larger normally have items in them for trading as well as a log. They can be very well camouflaged or a plain container. They can be very well hidden, or in an obvious spot to a cacher but out of sight to the casual passerby. It is a very safe bet that anyone reading this has been within 20 feet of a cache and never knew it was there.

Once you find the cache, look around. The person that hid the cache most likely put it there so you would see something special. Don't get so involved in the cache that you miss what is around you. I was told a story about an experienced cacher who had their nose in the GPSr and walked into a big hole.

Remember that it is not only about the cache, it is about the surroundings you are in and the memories you create. We go out to camp, hike, bike, boat, and walk to experience the outdoors and sights we have here in northern Michigan. Geocaching is an extension of the things you already do and will lead you to new sites and new friends. I hope to see you on the trails and on the logs for my caches! ✦



In 2008, the DNR reached a new level of partnership with Guidelines and Procedures for Geocaching on all DNR approved lands. The scope of this historic agreement covers all four divisions of the DNR, and outlines the procedure for placing Geocaches with DNR approval. Best of all, perhaps, is that the individual fee to place a Geocache is no longer enforced. Instead, Michigan Geocaching Organization (MiGO) will pay a blanket permit, that covers the entire state!

We would like to thank each and every one of our responsible Geocachers. It is because of your willingness to pro actively be good stewards of our land, and demonstrate your cooperativeness with regards to partnership with the DNR, that makes this possible at all. So you all are to be congratulated individually, and as an organization, for paving the way to this historic agreement!

Note ~ The Department of Natural Resources is now the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/dnre.



GPS-Enabled Phone ~ The superior technology of smart phones like Blackberry and iPhone make cell phones like mini-computers, bringing geocache details to the cacher's fingertips. Along with standard navigation applications like Google maps, locating directions is quick and easy.

The first requirement is a GPS-enabled phone. Be aware that cellphone companies may charge for this service. If not normally used, the GPS function may need to be enabled on the phone.

Unlike GPS units, smart phones are not weather proof. Geocachers will want to consider investing in a skin or case for their smart phone. A simple, emergency solution is to always carry a plastic zip lock bag. Many geocachers may carry them anyway for cache maintenance, when a wet logbook or geocache is found.

Book Review

LIGHTHOUSE ADVENTURES ~ Heroes, Haunts & Havoc On The Great Lakes

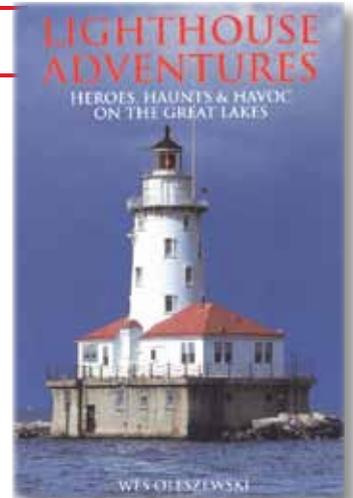
Within these pages will be found short stories, long stories, technical descriptions, shipwrecks, acts of courage, fascinating drawings, details on how things worked, maps of where things are and were, photos, and generally something for everyone.

There will be quick reading for the days that you desire just a taste of lighthouses, and long, detailed adventures for the times when you want to be transported to another place and era.

You will read the fascinating details on how some of these lighthouses were constructed in projects that are still considered as feats of ingenuity. Technical and cutaway drawings from the United States Lighthouse Board will be found within these pages, reproduced from the original reports of more than a century ago.

Along this path of discovery you will become acquainted with people and places that were our neighbors and neighborhoods long forgotten. In short, this text contains a wide range of lighthouse adventures from construction to shipwrecks to ghosts and hauntings.

As with all of my writings of the Great Lakes, each one of these stories is completely factual and the result of detailed research. There is absolutely no fiction here; the adventures that you will be reading actually happened, the people named actually existed and their trials and tribulations really took place.



Missaukee County Parks

Missaukee Lake	Day	Month	Season
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Full Hook-Up	\$24	\$475	\$1,800

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Missaukee Lake full July 2010. Boat slips sold out for season.

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	Crooked Lake	Ben D. Jeffs
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Primitive	\$15	\$10

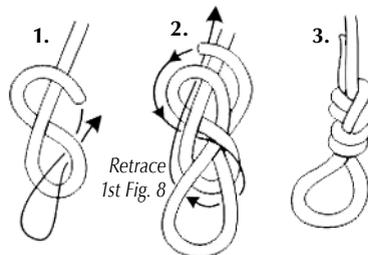
No Reservations Taken For Crooked Lake or Ben Jeffs

Camping Season • May 15 – October 1



Camper's Knot

The Figure Eight Follow-Through is one of the strongest knots. It is generally rated at 70-75% of rope strength. Due to its strength and the fact that it is easy to visually inspect, it is commonly used by climbers as their "tie-in knot," the knot that connects the climber to the rope. It forms a secure non-slip loop at the end of a rope. For even greater security, finish the tag end with a backup knot such as one side of the Double Fisherman's.



This knot can also be tied by tying a Figure Eight Knot with doubled line at the end of a rope (Fig. 1 with doubled line and don't come back through bottom loop). It is faster, but cannot be used if tying onto a fixed object. A single Figure Eight also makes a good "Stopper Knot" at the end of a rope.





CAMPER'S GADGET

eTrex Venture HC is an essential for any outdoor excursion. It features a high-sensitivity GPS receiver for peak performance in any environment and includes 24 megabytes (MB) of internal memory, a detailed base map and crisp color screen.

With its high-sensitivity, WAAS-enabled GPS receiver, eTrex Venture HC locates your position quickly and precisely and maintains its GPS location even in heavy cover and deep canyons. Whether you're in deep woods or just near tall buildings and trees, you can count on Venture HC to help you find your way when you need it the most.

eTrex Venture HC's base map contains lakes, rivers, cities, interstates, national and state highways, railroads and coastlines. Venture HC also includes 24 MB of internal memory, so you can load way points and routes from the included MapSource Trip & Waypoint Manager software and add map detail from Garmin's entire line of optional MapSource mapping products. Its 256-color, sunlight-readable display makes it easy to distinguish map details, even in bright sunlight.

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	9						2
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9							8
	6	2	7				1
4		3			6		

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COOKIN' CAMPER'S

BREAKFAST SANDWICHES

- 1 Egg, Scrambled or Over Hard
- 2 Pieces of Sandwich Bread
- Browned Sausage, Ham Or Bacon
- 1 Slice of Your Favorite Cheese
- Salsa, Salt or Pepper, Optional

Fry eggs and meat. Butter each slice of bread on one side. Place one piece of bread buttered side down in pie iron. Layer with egg, meat, cheese; top with second piece of bread, butter side up. Close pie iron and place over hot fire for approximately one minute on each side. Serves 1.

BACON & EGGS IN A PITA

- 3 Strips Bacon or Sausage
- 2 Eggs
- 2 Pinches Grated Parmesan
- 2 Tablespoons Salsa
- 2 Pita Pockets
- Dry Onion Soup Mix
- Horseradish

Fry bacon and cut into pieces when done. Fry eggs in bacon and then add onion soup mix. Line toasted pita with a spoon of salsa and horseradish, then fill with eggs and bacon and top with cheese. Serves 2.

BELGIAN-STYLE WAFFLES

- 1 Cup Flour
- 1 Tablespoon Sugar
- 1 Teaspoon Baking Powder
- 1/4 Teaspoon Baking Soda
- 1/2 Teaspoon Salt
- 1 Egg Yolk
- 1 Cup Sour Cream
- 1/2 Cup Milk
- 3 Tablespoons Butter, Melted
- 1 Egg White, Stiffly Beaten

Preheat waffle pie iron. Mix ingredients (except egg white) in bowl and beat until smooth. Fold in egg white. Pour 1/2 cup of mix into waffle iron, close and cook for 3-4 minutes per side. Use cooking spray to prevent sticking. Save time and reduce mess at camp by making batches of dry ingredients ahead of time. Try adding blueberries, chocolate chips or pecans.

BREAKFAST BISCUITS

- 8 Eggs
- 8 Slices Ham
- 8 Slices American Cheese
- 1 Package Biscuits
- Salt And Pepper, To Taste

Make biscuits at home, pack for camping. Heat griddle over camp stove and crack on the eggs. Turn eggs and put one slice of cheese on each. Slice biscuits in half, and place one egg and cheese on each half. Heat ham briefly on griddle and place one slice on each egg with cheese. Top with other half of biscuit. Serves 8.

BEAN & EGG BURRITOS

- 1 Can Black Beans
- 1 Cup Salsa
- 4 Eggs
- Flour Tortillas
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese

Empty beans in pan with salsa. Cover and bring to boil. Once boiling, turn off flame and let it sit while cooking eggs. Fry up eggs to your liking. When eggs are done, assemble burrito with layer of egg, scoop of beans, cheese. Fold tortillas, two edges at first, then one side and then other, roll.

Dinner Recipe – Add 1/2 cup water to mixture and 1 cup instant rice. Add rice when beans start to boil. You can also add bacon, ham, or sausage. Cook meat and mushrooms. Add green onions, tomatoes, and a little butter before adding eggs. Add cheese and stir until you add meat and vegetables. Cook until done. Serves 4.

CAMPFIRE ÉCLAIRS (For Breakfast!)

- 1 8-Ounce Can Crescent Dinner Rolls
- 2 Vanilla Pudding Snacks
- 1 Tub Whipped Frosting (Chocolate)
- Thin-Tip Cooking Sticks
- Aluminum Foil
- Cooking Spray

Cover tip of stick with foil and spray. Stretch crescent roll over foil and squeeze tip to close and tighten. Cook over campfire until golden brown turning frequently. (Roll is done when it slides off foil easily. Fill center of roll with vanilla pudding, spread chocolate frosting on top. Serves 8.



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Jerry's PHARMACY

This Old Camper



A Do-It-Yourself Guide For Camper Maintenance

by Gerry Bandelow, Lake City

Springtime is one of my favorite of the four seasons. Spring is like waking up early on a sunny Saturday morning after a long restful sleep, opening the blinds, and taking a look at the day awaiting you. Spring brings us the renewal of life. It's the symphony of frogs, gray and white backdrops turning to green, and our days becoming longer. The beauty of cherry blossoms dotting the landscape, blue water thawed lakes, and sounds of rushing streams welcome the returning birds as they build their nests.

Like nature, we also prepare for summer days by taking our campers out of storage, which brings us to this month's topic, de-winterizing.

It's amazing how the definition of a word can change by adding a "de-". Winterizing is never a word I like when it comes to campers—it marks the end of camp season. De-winterizing is winterizing in reverse. It's the spring cleaning, inspection and restocking of your camper—so let's get started!

Roof & Exterior

Begin with the outside of your camper working from top to bottom. Get out the ladder and inspect the roof (careful—the ground is "spongy" this time of year). Inspect the seams, seals and vents for cracks or other damage and remove any debris. This is also a good time to evaluate the roof to see if another coat of sealer is needed.

While the ladder is still out, give the old camper a good wash. This will help control those unsightly black streaks. Also applying a wax is a good idea. Most RV dealerships will carry the appropriate cleaners and waxes needed for the job.

Inspect the awning for damage, mildew and insects. Open outer storage compartments and have a look inside to see if everything is in order.

LP Tanks

Check the LP tanks for rust or cracks. Turn the supply valve on and carefully spray a bit of soapy water on the fittings. Watch for

soap bubbles forming at connections that would indicate a leak. If you do see or smell a leak, get a propane service person to check it out. Refill the tanks if necessary.

Hitches, Lights, & Brakes

Take a close look at all hitch components. Clean off old grease and re-lubricate. Go ahead and hitch up, plug in your umbilical and test all those lights.

Check the trailer brakes. A simple test is to slowly pull the camper forward and applying the brake in the driveway. Sometimes brakes will stick or grab at first after long storage due to corrosion. This should go away after the first few times. If the problem persists, get those brakes looked at before taking off on a trip.

Photo by Megan Brooks



Wheels, Tires, & Batteries

Check the wheel bearings. Re-pack them with fresh grease if necessary. Inspect all the tires (including the spare) for any tread or sidewall damage and if they are properly inflated to the manufacture's specifications. Re-install the battery and check to see that it's fully charged.

Hitches, brakes, wheel bearings, tires and LP tanks are not to be taken lightly. Not inspecting these areas could lead to a breakdown on your trip or even worse, injury, so be thorough.

Now pull out those steps and let's go inside!

Interior

Open up all the windows doors and vents to get some fresh air circulating. This will eliminate any musty stale smell and dissipate any condensation. Open all cabinets and closets to let the fresh air in there, too. Inspect these areas and evict any unwelcome critters that took up winter residents in your camper.

Inspect the ceiling and sidewalls for any leaks that may have occurred over the winter.

Safety Items, Filters & Appliances

Replace the batteries in all smoke, LP and carbon monoxide detectors. Test each detector to make sure they're working properly.

Check the charge on the fire extinguisher. If applicable, clean or replace the A/C filter. Check the stove to see that it lights properly. Do the same with the furnace and water heater (after the water is turned on). Check all of the lights and replace any bulbs if needed. It's a good idea to keep spare bulbs and fuses in a drawer. Turn the refrigerator on and test operation of both the gas and electric.

Plumbing

Now let's deal with the plumbing. The system will need to be flushed out, especially if RV anti-freeze (the pink stuff) was used. One possibility is to take the rig to your local campground and use their water and sewer hookups. Fill your fresh water tank, run the pump and open each faucet including shower. Run the system until all of the air and antifreeze is gone. Reset the valve bypass

on the water heater, but first make sure the drain plug is in. Turn hot water faucets on and flush.

Next, sterilize the fresh water tanks and plumbing. Mix a cup of plain household bleach in a gallon of water. Pour the mixture into the fresh water tank. Turn the water faucets on and leave running until you smell the chlorine. Flush with clean water until the chlorine odor is gone.

Camper Supplies

If you properly winterized, all of your camper supplies should be packed in one or two totes. Unpack supplies and place in their proper locations.

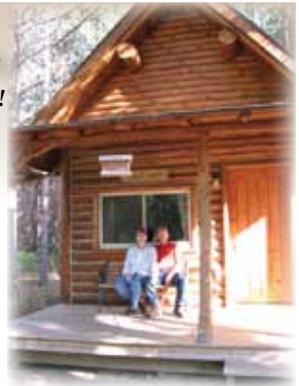
Now you're ready! You've *kicked the tires* and *lit the fires*. Start your camping adventures with sound mind knowing that you have properly prepared your camper.

Remember with this or any camper project, don't let it become overwhelming. Involve the family and keep it fun. If you have questions or comments, e-mail thehappycamperguy@yahoo.com or visit me on Facebook, Happy Camper Guy. ✦

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Baldwin

4th Annual Blessing of The Bikes • May 14–16
Food & vendors, 231-745-4331, lakecountymichigan.com.

Buckley

Old Engine Club Swap Meet • May 14 (Tentative)
Vendors, Farm & Country, Power & Engine Show.

Cadillac

JOHNSON CENTER • May Schedule
6087 M-115, (231) 779-1321, michigan.gov
Morels & Other Edibles • May 8, noon - 2 pm
Made in Michigan Day • May 15, 10 am - 5 pm
Live Michigan Snakes • May 29, 10 am - noon, 1 - 3 pm
A Full Day! • May 30, 7 am - 8 pm
Wetlands Video, 7 - 7:45 a.m.
Wetlands Hike with Ranger Rick, 8 - 10 a.m.
Float Fishing on Canal, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
3D Archery Shoot, 2 - 4 p.m.
Laser Shot Simulation, 6 - 8 p.m.
Pellet Gun Marksmanship Challenges, 6 - 8 p.m.

Jazz In the Park • May - September
downtowncadillac.com.

Art Walk • May 1-29
Art on display in downtown stores, downtowncadillac.com.

Art & Wine Showcase • May 6, 6 - 10 pm
Cobbs & Mitchell Building, downtowncadillac.com.

Rise Up Cadillac • May 12, 7 am
YMCA, 9845 Campus Dr., cadillac.org

Briefcase Open Golf Outing • May 26
McGuire & Eldorado Golf Course, cadillac.org.

Meet the Artist • May 29, 10 am - 4 pm
Artists on site downtown stores, downtowncadillac.com.

Memorial Day Parade • May 31
downtowncadillac.com.

Stride For Strive 5K Run • May 31
Rotary Club hosts; Johnson Center, cadillacrotaryclub.org.

Eastport

Petoskey Stone Festival • May 29, 10 am - 4 pm
Barnes Park, 12298 Barnes Park Rd., 231-533-6265,
petoskeystone-festival.com.

Elk Rapids

Arts & Crafts • May 29, 9 am
www.elkrapidschamber.org

Empire

Empire Asparagus Festival • May 14-16
Games, dinners, poetry contest; 231-326-5922.

Ewart

Community Trail Mixer • May 3, 2 - 6 pm
Blodgett Landing, 231-832-4090
Ewart Flea Market • May 28-29, 8 am - 5 pm
Ewart Airport, 231-734-9799, ewartchamberofcommerce.com
Ewart Car Club-Figure 8 Demolition Derby • May 30
Ewart Airport, 231-734-9799, ewartchamberofcommerce.com
Memorial Day Downtown Parade • May 31, 10 am
231-734-9799, ewartchamberofcommerce.com

Higgins Lake

2nd Annual Business Expo • May 12, noon - 7 pm
CRAF Center, 989-275-8760, hlrc.com

Houghton Lake

West Houghton Lake Camp Spring Clean-Up • May 15
Scott's famous chilli for all workers, 989-422-5130.
Craft Show • May 29-30, 9 am - 5 pm
Houghton Lake HS, 989-389-4500, nccraft@yahoo.com.

Interlochen

Interlochen Summer Arts Festival • See Page 27

Lake City

Nature Festival/Plant Sale • May 1, 10 am - 1 pm
6180 W. Sanborn, 231.839.7193, missaukeecd.org.
Good Morning Lake City • May 21, 7 am
Baked Beans, 103 Main St., margo.jacobs@chartercom.com.
3rd Annual Garage/Yard Sale • May 22
lakecitymich.com.
Kiwanis Annual Auction • May 22, 3 pm
American Legion, Post #300.
Equine Fellowship Free Fun Show • May 23, 2 pm
Missaukee Agricultural Society Arena, 231-878-1021,
equinefellowship.org.

ACTIVITIES

Manton

Old Time Jamboree • 1st Saturday of Month, 6 - 10 pm

Manton HS, square/round dancing, 231-389-0042.

15th Annual Classic Car/Truck & Craft Show • May 29

100+ vehicles/crafters, concert 1 pm, mantonmichigan.org.

Marion

Marion Vintage Power Swap Meet • May 21 (Tentative)

Merritt

Merritt Speedway • May Schedule (Tentative)

4430 E. Houghton Lake Rd., 231-328-4351, merritt-speedway.com

Opening Night – May 15

Saturday Night Specials – May 22

Spring Season Championships – May 29

SMR Night Of Destruction – May 30

Golden Agers Dance Night • Mondays, 6-9 pm

Sr. Center, dancers & musicians welcome, 231-328-4447.

Ben Jeffs Park Opens • May 15

Community Yard Sale • May 22

Merritt Alumni Reunion May 22 • noon - 2 pm

United Methodist Church, 231-231-7714.

Mesick

Mushroom Festival • May 7-9

231-885-2679, mesick-mushroomfest.org.

Reed City

Osceola Community Foundation Dinner • May 6, 5 pm

Dinner & auction, 231-832-4880, reedcitycrossroads.com.

47th Annual Michigan Week Dinner • May 13, 6 pm

Reed City HS, 231-832-5431, reedcitycrossroads.com.

Roscommon

Hike Gahagan Nature Preserve • May 14, 5 - 6 pm

Guided hike, gahagannature.org.

Kirtland Warbler Festival • May 15

Kirtland Community College, warbler.kirtland.edu.

Switchback at KCC's Warbler Festival • May 15, 4 pm

Concert, 989-275-6777, kirtland.edu/kcpa.

Tree Identification/Trail Hike • May 22, 10 am - noon

Guided hike, gahagannature.org.

Tustin

Kettunen Center • May Schedule

14901 4-H Drive, 231-829-3421, kettunencenter.org.

Stalking the Elusive Morel & Others • May 2 - 5

Spring Family Birding Festival • May 8, 10 am - 4 pm

Traverse City

Downtown Art Walk • May 7, 5 - 9 pm

Wine, food, music; 231-922-2050, downtowntc.com.

Timber Ridge RV Resort Cleanup Weekend • May 7-8

Stay free - rake leaves, 231-947-2770, timberridgeresort.net.

Stargazing • May 8, 9 - 11 pm

NMC's Rogers Observatory, 231-995-2300, nmc.edu.

Farmers Market • Saturdays, May 8-29, 8 am - noon

Cass & Union St., (231) 922-2050, downtowntc.com

Tails To Trails A Four Paw 5K • May 15, 9 am

Vasa Pathway, 4450 Bartlett Rd.

Old Mission Blossom Days • May 15-16, noon - 5 pm

231.223.4110, wineriesofoldmission.com.

27th Annual Bayshore Marathon • May 29, 7 am

Also half-marathon & 10k, bayshoremarathon@charter.net.

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H I S T O R Y C O R N E R

The Saga of Spikehorn Meyers

One of the most colorful characters of Michigan's past—part Grizzly Adams, part P.T. Barnum—was the eccentric John “Spikehorn” Meyers of Clare County.

Meyers became something of a showman in the 1930s—by then in his 60s—when he decided the world needed a more exciting taste of the rugged outdoors by offering Spikehorn's Bear Den and Wildlife



Park near Harrison. Dressed in buckskin and with a shock of long white hair and beard, Meyers would entertain his guests with endless tall tales of the “old days.”

For a little extra publicity, Spikehorn would release bears from his compound. Miraculously he was the only person around who could heroically “capture” them thus effectively calling attention to his other endeavors. It is said that he took a bear with him to the State House in Lansing during one of his “political” expeditions. (It is not noted if the Michigan House of Representatives were missing any of its members the following day.)

Unfortunately he had little regard for safety measures and Spikehorn spent

much of his time fending off lawsuits from his mauled visitors and remained an adversary of the Conservation Department to the very end with constant battles over permits and state regulations. His attitude toward regulation was easily displayed by a sign in front of his park, “Feed Conservation Officers to the Bear.”

Having worked as a woodsman, hunter, trapper, lumberjack, realtor, furniture maker and inventor, Spikehorn enjoyed bouts of fame not only from his Bear and Deer Park but for his 1948 run for state representative from Clare County. This was a short lived attempt at public service as he was jailed for writing and publishing defamatory material about one of his opponents.

A sort of rugged renaissance man, Meyers liked to invent manufacturing machines including a sugar beet lifter and a logging tractor that was so heavy it could barely pull itself. He even drew plans for a tunnel under the Detroit River for the Michigan

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Central Railroad and a tunnel under the Straits of Mackinaw. Although his plans were refused, some years later a tunnel was built in Detroit from plans almost identical to his. All of this publicity, of course, helped with the tourist trade. Locally, his

most famous invention was a contraption to snare children trying to steal his watermelons.

Always with a taste for the bizarre, Meyers offered a \$50,000 reward for the live capture of Adolph Hitler. No one knows how he would have paid, but the publicity earned him ongoing recognition. Although he appears to have been a scofflaw and constantly jailed, the county willingly put up with his antics during the Depression when any business was sorely needed.

In 1957 his operation burned down and the world had changed to place less willing to put up with his antics and the "Santa Claus in Buckskins" passed away two years later at the age of 89. †

ADMIT ONE

For a glimpse at Spikehorn go to
northerncamper.com

**YouTube Video ~ 1949 Northern Michigan
James Fitzpatrick's "Travel Talks"**

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Campground Critter



Spring Peepers

Did you ever realize how quiet snow is?

This could be a positive part of the winter season, but let's just say, "WE'RE GLAD IT'S NOT QUIET ANYMORE!"

One of the best spring sounds comes from our amphibian friend, the Spring Peeper. Peepers are one of the earliest callers among the dozens of frog species found in northern Michigan. Remember those first warm days in early April? That high pitched "peep" was the Peeper as if reciting its name and announcing spring's arrival.

They congregate near the wetland's edge, and sit on elevated perches of grass near the water. Only the male Peepers call and the louder and faster his "peeps," the more likely he is to get the girl.

The female has her work cut out for her, laying 750-1200 eggs. The eggs stay together in clumps and attach to wetland grasses and twigs. If the weather is warm, eggs can hatch as early as four days, but if mother nature brings forth a cold spell, it could be two weeks. Two to three months after the hatch, tadpoles are now young Spring Peepers and they leave the pond.

They spend the summer eating bugs: spiders, ticks, ants and caterpillars. Not quite peanut-butter and jelly, but it does make them grow to a whopping 1- 1½-inches long.

Peepers Pointers

- Scientific Name ~ *Pseudacris Crucifer*
- Visual Characteristics:
Color Variations; brown, gray or green
Dorsal marks that form an "X" on back
Weight ~ 11 to 18 oz.
Length ~ 1 - 1 ½ inches
- Sounds ~ Single, high-pitched peep
- Breeds ~ Yearly, April and May
- Number of Offspring ~ 900 (average)
- Time to Hatch ~ 4 to 12 days
- Lifespan (Captivity) ~ 3 to 4 years
- Territory ~ 4 - 18 ft.
- Daily Travel ~ From 20 - 130 ft.
- Known Predators:
Salamanders
Owls
Giant Water Bugs
Large Spiders
Snakes
Dragonflies
Leeches

And you know how you look like your mom and dad? Well, the Peepers keep their good looks in the family as well. There is a very distinctive dark brown "X" on their back which should be easy to distinguish if you're lucky enough to see one.

If you do go on a Peeper hunt, your campground could be the perfect place if surrounded by damp woods, swamps and marshes. The Peeper is the most abundant of Michigan's singing frogs, so your chances are pretty good of seeing one.

Find a good round log or dry spot of ground next to a swamp. And here's the challenge—see how long you can sit still and be quiet. With patience, you have a good chance of spotting more than one Peeper, and other members of the amphibian family.

Frog Marshals of Missaukee

Do you remember reading about the Loon Ranger of Sapphire Lake last May? Well consider Sandra Meyering and her husband Bernie the “Frog Marshals of Missaukee County.”

For 15 years, Sandy and Bernie have volunteered for the DNR (now DNRE) Natural Heritage Program. Their responsibilities include selecting 10 sites they believe have a strong frog population.

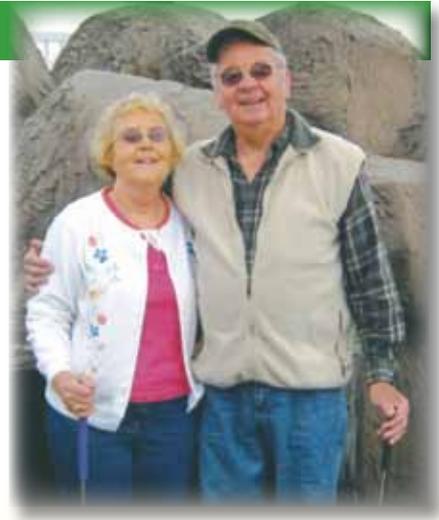
In early April, the patrol begins, driving to each of the sites just before dusk. Between Falmouth and Morey roads, you may see Sandy and Bernie on the side of the road stretching their necks in the direction of the “peep, peep, peep.”

“You don’t usually see them, but you know they are there by the frequency of their calls,” Sandy explained. “Every frog has a different call, so I practice by listening to a tape before we go out so I can recognize them.”

Along with tracking the peeps, they record time, temperature and wind data. They’ll be out again in May and June during the breeding season, then turn in their findings to the DNRE.

The most common frogs Sandy and Bernie have identified include the spring peeper, wood frog, chorus frog, green frog, and American toad. But Bernie did encounter an unusual sighting one day at the McBain Co-op. “On a cement slab of all places, he spotted a leopard frog, which you don’t see very often,” Sandy said.

So keep your eyes—and more importantly—ears open for those “peep, peep, peeps.” Frogs are indicators of a healthy environment, which in turn, indicates a healthy life for all! ✦



Do you know your peeps? For an audio quiz visit
www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz/

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MYTH VS. FACT

✔ **Poison Ivy rash is contagious.**

Rubbing the rashes won't spread poison ivy to other parts of your body (or to another person). You spread the rash only if urushiol oil—the sticky, resin like substance that causes the rash—has been left on your hands.

✔ **You can catch poison ivy by being near the plants.**

Direct contact is needed to release urushiol oil. Stay away from forest fires, direct burning, or anything else that can cause the oil to become airborne such as a lawn mower, trimmer, etc.

✔ **Do not worry about dead plants.**

Urushiol oil stays active on any surface, including dead plants, for up to five years.

✔ **Breaking blisters releases urushiol oil and spreads.**

Not true. But your wounds can become infected and you may make the scarring worse. In very extreme cases, excessive fluid may need to be withdrawn by a doctor.

✔ **You can become immune to poison ivy.**

Not necessarily true. Upwards of 90% of people are allergic to urushiol oil, it's a matter of time and exposure. The more times you are exposed to urushiol, the more likely it is that you will break out with an allergic rash. For the first time sufferer, it generally takes longer for the rash to show up, generally in 7 to 10 days.



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got rocks?

by Kevin Gauthier

The Passion of Rock Collecting

There are two kinds of people—those who love rocks and those who could care less about them. If you have bought and/or read a rock collecting book you are in the right category.

The passion of rock collecting is more than the hobby itself. It goes to the heart of human compassion. It is an inner connection with nature that is up lifting, spiritual, rewarding, challenging, full of discovery, tied with a common bond of companionship. It's unrivaled by any other sport/hobby. However, very few people think of rock collecting in such a manner.

Consciously or unconsciously, when rock collecting you make a connection with a sunset, the sounds of waves and gulls, fresh smells of the Great Lakes, or just catch a smile from another beach walker. Somehow, that moment becomes part of you. Unknowingly the stones which are picked up represent the physical tie to those memories. Rock hounding memories can be made on an individual basis or shared with all generations. From a romantic walk, a family day, watching the sun rise or set, to "I want to take a walk alone today," we all come back with a rock—a memory. It may be why people cherish their rock collections with such passion.

The hobby can be very rewarding by discovering a unique rock that no one else has. It is the one rock that you have a vivid picture of finding. It is naturally the coolest one in your collection, the one you pull

out to show first. It is the one that deep down the little inside child is saying "Na Na Nanana! I have the coolest one!" It is unique, it is special, and it is mine! It's kind of like going to the ice cream store—everyone else gets the standard

flavors, but you venture out and get the unknown. Then everyone else wants a taste of yours!

For the serious rock collector the challenge can be the variety of the collection. The internet has contributed a large part to this. It is the hunt that lures and keeps them. They are always looking for the rare unique specimens in the collection. For some the challenge is the adventure of finding that spot where no one else knows, getting off the beaten path, and then the real challenge is carrying the rocks back from that place. The other challenge in the hobby can be convincing the other kind of people that "YES, the car will handle this much weight and NO, I don't want to put any rocks back."

Over my past 37 years of collecting it may be best summed up with a simple picture—the caterpillar. (I do notice things other than rocks!)



Companionship and compassion go hand in hand. Just like any sport, whether it be hiking, kayaking, hunting, etc., it is ultimately sharing with another that makes it so rewarding. Enjoy the brilliance of nature and share it—be it a rock or a bug.

Being a member of our local rock club (tcrockhounds.com) which is part of the Midwest Federation of Rock Hounds, I have made more life time bonds than any other club. Those who share this passion always have a good story, are willing to share a campfire, and generally enjoy life. I highly encourage you to join up with a local club. If you do not have one in your area, share the passion and start your own! ✦

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Small Town

Manton • Wexford County
by Natalie Davis

At the junction of M-42 and Old 131, just north of Cadillac, you will find the bustling town of Manton. Its vibrant downtown is home to the Railroad Park and Manton Station Pavilion which hosts a wide variety of events throughout the summer season. Manton's charm is unsuspected and inviting. Stay for a while and explore for yourself.



Heritage Gourmet Greens 8223 E. 20 Road • (231) 824-9500

Many people hunger for fresh-from-the-garden tomatoes during the long months of winter. Their desire only increases with the coming of spring – for those residing up north, gratification must wait until well into August, if we are lucky. But harvest of these delectable fruits will come in June for Jenny and Troy Totton, owners of Heritage Gourmet Greens.



The Totton's four greenhouses are located on E. 20 Road in Manton. They erected the first greenhouse last July and harvested the first clipping of "spring greens" in August. All of the greenhouses were built by the Totton family (their four children, Jenny's mom Nancy and her husband Willard Be-craft) using locally made or obtained materials. Jenny admits they did have a little help. "We have received so much support from friends and family coming to help, volunteering their time. The support from the Manton community has been incredible."

It is that sense of family and community the Tottons hope to foster in their children, along with the love of growing fresh food. "We do everything as a family. The business benefits both households (hers and her mother's) and provides structure for the kids. When we asked them about starting a busi-ness like this, they were all gung-ho," Jenny said.

The Tottons have an extensive list of produce grown in their year-around greenhouses, all of which is grown naturally. The soil in each green-house was amended with 40 yards of locally-made compost. The seedling pots Jenny makes by hand by rolling and gluing newspaper.

Heritage Gourmet Greens is open to the public. The Tottons welcome the chance to share their passion. Jenny and Troy are sure you will taste the farm-fresh difference. To find out what is growing, call 231-824-9500.



Emerald Vale Golf Course 6867 E. 16 Rd. • (231) 834-9390

Driving out of Manton on West M-42, nestled among the rolling hills and towering pines, you will find an unexpected gem—Emerald Vale Golf Club, an 18-hole, par 72 Bruce Matthews III designed course spanning over 300 acres.

Emerald Vale Golf Course is the lustrous achievement of a host of golf enthusiast and a dedicated community. Jim Baggett, Course Supervisor, has been working the course since the beginning of construction in 1997. “There has been big community support in the development of the course; everyone was involved,” shared Jim.

With that kind of collaboration, it is not surprising then the club gives back to the community by hosting charity outings. On May 22nd, Emerald Vale will hold the Manton Rangers Outing—proceeds help support Manton School’s athletic programs. Member Bob Colvin organizes the Manton Schools Outdoor Education Outing, held on August 14th. This year marks the 25th anniversary for the event which fully

funds the cost of camps for students grade 5-7. Over 225 people participate in the outing.

The course is open to the public with reasonable rates throughout the season. Baggett and Colvin agree, “The course is very playable for the average golfer and challenging

for the experienced. It is a beautiful course with lots of trees and elevation changes.” Emerald Vale Golf Course is a full service facility with driving range, restaurant, bar, and pro shop. Tee time reservations can be made by calling 231-834-9390. ✦



Night Sky

Early spring in Northern Michigan is not the most comfortable time of year to sit out and look at the sky. The chilly temperatures drive most people to a bright campfire shortly after sunset. On the positive side, we do not have many flying insects forcing us indoors as in June and July. Because many of us will find ourselves huddled around campfires on chilly nights, our starry nights are a great source of wonder—and May offers a handful of bright planets.

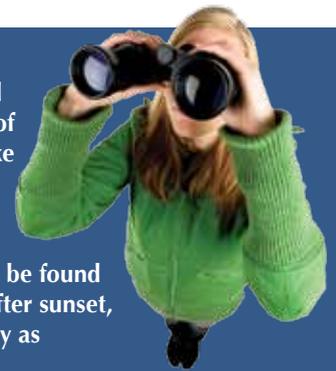
Throughout the month, Venus can be seen as the sun is setting. It will be a spectacularly bright white star climbing higher in the western sky as the month progresses. Venus will be bright enough this month to be mistaken for an aircraft or other unrecognizable flying object and will be so bright that it can be seen through a thin layer of high clouds giving the illusion that it is a brightly lit craft and will appear to get brighter at dusk as the sky darkens. Within an hour after sunset, Venus will slip below the horizon.

High in the night sky, Mars also puts on a color show for us this month. Our planetary neighbor can be seen bright and crimson in the early night sky. It’s easy to understand why this planet was named after the Roman god of war, its fiery red looking almost angry in the night. As with all

planets, it is easily distinguished from other red stars by its lack of twinkling; no planets twinkle like stars. To find Mars, look in the western sky about halfway to Zenith, the part of the sky directly above your head. It can be found at this point all month shortly after sunset, slowly settling in the western sky as the evening progresses.

The other planet we can see this month is Saturn. It has a noticeable yellow hue and can be easily identified by its brightness in the southern sky. This yellow color will differentiate Saturn from Spica, which is the brightest star in the constellation. Virgo is also seen in the south this month. If you have a small telescope, the rings of Saturn can be easily spotted. This year, the rings are very flat when viewed from Earth, giving the appearance that Saturn is bisected by a single thin line rather than circled by layers of rings. We only get the opportunity to see the rings this flat once every eleven years so it is worth taking a telescope for a glimpse if you have the chance.

So while gathered around a campfire this month trying to keep warm, gaze up in the sky for a few moments to find these bright planets. A colorful celestial show awaits you! ✦



Camper's Choice ~ Birchwood Resort

by Natalie Davis

In 1991, Pat and Harold Fairbrother came to Cadillac to go snowmobiling with friends living in the area. They found the location much to their liking with so much to offer outdoor enthusiasts.

While vacationing from their home in Rochester Hills, they stayed at the Birchwood Resort and Campground. Seven years later, the opportunity to buy the resort presented itself – the Fairbrothers took the leap and never looked back.

Birchwood has accommodation options to suit most any lodging inclination. Located in West Cadillac, Birchwood offers motel room and cabin rentals, as well as full hook-up RV camping. Its location is ideally suited for visitors interested in fishing, boating, hiking, biking or hitting nearby ORV trails.

Situated on five wooded acres along the shore of Lake Cadillac, the resort has three docks at which

guests may moor their own boats. For guests finding themselves without a boat, but with a hankering to get on the water, Birchwood has a pontoon for rent. There is, of course, a fish cleaning hut for those taking advantage of the great fishing Lake Cadillac offers.

The cabins, each unique in design, sleep from 2-7 people. All are equipped with kitchen, TV and DVD – a couple cabins also have fireplaces. There is a common outdoor area with picnic tables and fire ring. The camp sites all have water, sewer, electric, and cable TV hook-



up. The Birchwood has a heated bathhouse which is open all year, but is essential for winter campers. Many of the Fairbrothers' guests are more like family than clients. Bill and Sandy, for instance, have been coming to the Birchwood since 1995. As Bill tells it, "We drove our new trailer up here on its first 'shake down' trip. The kids loved the resort. Fifteen years later, the trailer only has 300 miles on it." This summer, Bill and Sandy's family, complete with new grandchild, will join them and stay in the cabins. For Bill and Sandy, and many others, vacations at the Birchwood are a family tradition.

Pat and Harold invite you to enjoy all that Birchwood has to offer. For reservations, call 866-775-9101. ✦

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16. Juicy plants
17. Massage
18. Theater areas
19. Beneficiary
21. They're opposite points
23. Red or Yellow
24. Hulks pump it
25. Loutish fellow
28. Spot of brandy
30. Melon variety
35. Act the butterfly
37. Margarita flavoring
39. Like LXVI
40. Bona ____
41. Iditarod entries
43. Extinct flightless bird
44. Makes level
46. Go postal
47. Word heard on December 31
48. Caught some z's
50. Cause of a bad air day
52. 'The Catcher in the ____'
53. Butler, for Gable
55. Wharf pest
57. Examine by touch
61. Stops
65. Provide with gear
66. Bluto's assent
68. Warehouse
69. Tutu material
70. Stitch up
71. Plumber's fitting
72. Cause of a Macy's riot?
73. Grass in a loft
74. Brings in at harvest time

DOWN

1. Flipped fish fancier
2. Golfer Irwin
3. Bug-eyed
4. Pug's problem
5. Checked out
6. Hand-held harp
7. Vichy water
8. Barbecue leftover
9. Abbott & Costello; Burns & Allen

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				
72						73				74				

10. Strongly advise
11. Dirty look
12. Minus
15. Two-dimensional
20. Viscounts' superiors
22. Gigantic 'Arabian Nights' flyer
24. More than big
25. Bidder's amount
26. Kicking partner
27. Bona ____ (good faith)
29. Feels poorly
31. Soft drink
32. Love affair
33. Severely
34. Battery terminal
36. Camp sight
38. Cheese with a red coat
42. Germ cell

45. Sonora shawl
49. Morse code component
51. Joke that causes a belly laugh, e.g.
54. Spot checker?
56. King or queen
57. Spot and Fido
58. Water color
59. Peaceful period
60. Fortune
61. Moist
62. Buckwheat noodles of Japan
63. De ____ (too much)
64. What Wendy does to reattach Peter's shadow
67. Senate vote



Answers on page 27

The Northern Boater

Ah . . . the start of another boating season and enjoying one of Michigan's greatest resources, the water. It may seem to some that we just put the boats

away or to others that it has taken forever for the lakes to become ice-free. Whichever group you are in, it's time to get ready for another season of fun. If you're like me, you have been thinking about this since the boat came out last fall.

We like to call our first time out with the boat our "Shakedown Cruise." Those of you old enough may remember the song of the same name by Jay Ferguson (Thunder Island album circa 1978). Although we are not "rounding the horn" we do want to make sure everything goes as smooth as possible.

While we need to take care of the obvious things like clean and wax the hull, check or change the oil and fuel filters, check the batteries and cooling system, there is one more often overlooked item that needs attention—the personal flotation devices (PFDs).

PFDs, while they may not be the most fashionable, they do save lives; even our dogs where them So before you trailer up, make sure and check the condition of your PFDs. Following are a few facts that will keep you up to code with boating safety and more importantly, ensure the safety of your crew and guests.

Who must wear a PFD in Michigan?

Children less than 6 years of age must wear a Type I or Type II PFD when riding in the open deck area of a boat.

Each person 12 years of age or older operating, riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft (jet ski) must wear a Type I, Type II or Type III PFD (that is not an inflatable device).

Each person less than 12 years of age riding or being towed behind a personal watercraft (jet ski) must wear a Type I or Type II PFD.



What type of PFD do I need to carry on my boat in Michigan?

Vessels less than 16 feet (including canoes and kayaks) must be equipped with one Type I, Type II, Type III or Type IV PFD for each person on board.

Vessels 16 feet and longer must also carry (in addition to the Type I, II or III for each person on board) one Type IV throwable device (canoes and kayaks over 16 feet are exempt from this requirement).

All PFDs should be ready at hand and not enclosed in plastic bags or containers. Remember, Life Jackets Float, You Don't! ✦

Source: www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/
www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_10884-37313--,00.html

Bait Shop North

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Lake City, MI 49651

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UNPUZZLER

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

Sudoku

(Page 9)

Crossword (Page 25)

Editor's Note: To make it a little harder to cheat, answers are in reverse . . . Gotcha!

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

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Saturday, June 26

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Wednesday, June 30

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July 1-4 & July 8-11

The Capitol Steps

Saturday, July 3

Taj Mahal w/Shemekia Copeland

Thursday, July 8

Choo-Choo Soul with Genevieve!

Friday, July 9

World Youth Symphony Orchestra w/David Shtirn

Sunday, July 11

Interlochen "Collage"

Tuesday, July 13

Post Comedy Theater

Wednesday, July 14

Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile with Loudon Wainwright III

Saturday, July 17

Peter & Paul: A Tribute to Mary & 50 Years of Music & Friendship

Wednesday, July 21

The Oak Ridge Boys

Thursday, July 22

Paul Taylor Dance Company

Friday, July 23

Leanne Morgan, comedienne

Saturday, July 24

World Youth Symphony Orchestra w/Philippe Quint

Sunday, July 25

Parker String Quartet

Monday, July 26

Cloud Cult

Tuesday, July 27

"Aida" High School Musical Theatre Co.

August 5-August 8

Lyle Lovett

Monday, August 9

Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion "Summer Love" Tour

Tuesday, August 10

David Sanborn

Friday, August 13

Enso String Quartet

August 16, 18 & 21

Foreigner

Thursday, August 19

Josh Turner

Friday, August 20

Brandi Carlile

Tuesday, August 24

Interlochen Guitar Festival

August 26-28

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Campground Directory



Camper ~ Please visit northerncamper.com for links to campground web sites.

Campgrounds ~ To complete your free listing, visit our web site and fill out directory form.

Antrim County

COUNTY

Barnes Park Campground • 231-599-2712
1298 Barnes Park Rd., Eastport, MI 49627

Directions: junction US-31 & M-88, west, approx. 3/4 mile.
Facilities: tents & RVs/62, electric, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, wheelchair accessible, beach, Wi-Fi.

Craven Park • Bellaire

Facilities: rustic/20, electric/30, toilets, showers, boat launch.

Thurston Park • Village of Central Lake

Facilities: electric/36, toilets, showers, beach, boat launch.

Wooden Shoe Park • Banks Township

Directions: East of Ellsworth at Rushton and Pleasant Hill roads.
Facilities: rustic/15, electric/40, toilets, showers, beach, boat launch.

STATE

Graves Crossing Forest Campground • 989-732-3541

Directions: 10 miles north of Mancelona via US-131 and M-66.
Facilities: tents & small trailers/10 sites.

Pinney Bridge State Forest Campground • 989-732-3541

Directions: 5.5 miles NW of Alba via 620 & Cascade Rd.
Facilities: tents/15 sites.

PRIVATE

Chain O' Lakes Campground • 231-533-8432
7231 South M-88 Hwy., Bellaire, MI 49615

Directions: Routes 88 between Mancelona & Bellaire.
Facilities: tents, RVs, cabins, electric, water, sanitation station, toilets, showers, reservations, pool, store, laundry, Wi-Fi, rec. room.

Wieland's Whistling Pines • 231-544-6348
7143 Rushton Road, Ellsworth, MI 49729

Facilities: 14 sites.

Grand Traverse County

TOWNSHIP

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

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

STATE

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

Directions: 10 miles SE of Traverse City via Garfield Rd., Potter Rd., 4 Mile Rd. & North Arbutus Lake Rd.
Facilities: rustic/30, boat launch.

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

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

Lake Dubonnet State Camp • 231-922-5280

Directions: 4 miles NW of Interlochen via M-137, US-31 & Wildwood Rd.
Facilities: rustic/50, boat launch.

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

Directions: 4.5 miles NW of Interlochen via M-137, US-31 & Wildwood Rd.
Facilities: rustic/200 people, reservations.

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

Directions: 12 miles SW of Williamsburg via Williamsburg Rd., Supply Rd. & Brown Bridge Rd.
Facilities: rustic/30, boat launch.

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

Directions: 12 miles SW of Williamsburg via Williamsburg Rd., Supply Rd. & Brown Bridge Rd.
Facilities: rustic/200 people, reservations.

Traverse City State Park • 231-922-5270

1132 US-31 North, Traverse City, MI 49686

Directions: US-31 between 3 & 4 Mile Rds.
Facilities: tents & RVs/343, cabins/2, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, beach.

PRIVATE

Holiday Park & Campground • 231-943-4410
4860 US-31 South, Traverse City, MI 49684

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

Honcho Rest Campground • 231-264-8548
8988 Cairn Hwy., Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Facilities: 95, electric, water; cabins/2; toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, beach, Wi-Fi.

Ranch Rudolf • 231-947-9529
6841 Brown Bridge Rd., Traverse City, MI 49686

Facilities: tents, RVs/25, electric, water, sanitation station, toilets, showers, reservations, pool, store, laundry.

Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort • 231-947-2770
4050 Hammond Rd., Traverse City, MI 49686

Facilities: RVs, cabins, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, pool, store, laundry, Wi-Fi, rec. room.

Traverse Bay RV Resort • (231) 938-5800
5555 M-72 East, Williamsburg, MI 49690

Facilities: RVs, electric, water, sanitation station, toilets, showers, reservations, pool, laundry, Wi-Fi, rec. room.

Lake County

STATE

Bray Creek State Forest Campground • 231-775-9727

Directions: 1.5 miles northeast of Baldwin via M-37, north of St. Merriville Rd. & 40th St.

Facilities: rustic/9, boat launch.

Carrieville State Forest Campground • 231-775-9727

Directions: 3 miles west of Luther via Old M-63 & Kings Hwy.

Facilities: rustic/31 sites.

Leverentz Lake State Forest Campground

Directions: 2 miles East of Baldwin via US-10 & Forest Dr.

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

Lincoln Bridge Rustic Campground • 231-775-9727

Directions: 7 miles north of Luther via State Rd. & 10 Mile Rd.

Facilities: rustic/9 sites.

Silver Creek Rustic Campground • 231-775-9727

Directions: 5.5 miles of north Luther via State Rd.

Facilities: rustic/26 sites.

PRIVATE

Irons RV Park and Campground • 231-266-2070
4623 West 10-1/2 Mile Rd., Irons, MI 49644

Directions: M-37 north, left on 10 Mile Rd.; 10 Mile turns into 10 1/2 Mile; 5 miles from M-37 & 10 Mile Rd.

Facilities: tent & RV/33, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, wheelchair accessible, store, laundry, Wi-Fi.

Leelanau County

STATE

Leelanau State Park • 231-386-5422

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

Directions: 9 miles north of Northport, follow road to park.

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

PRIVATE

Lake Leelanau RV Park • 231-256-7236

3101 Lakeshore Dr., Leelanau, MI 49653

Facilities: rustic & RVs/196, electricity, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, beach, boat launch, Wi-Fi.

Wild Cherry RV Resort • 231-271-5550

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

Directions: M-22 north to Suttons Bay, M-204 west towards Lake Leelanau; approx. 2 miles from Suttons Bay, Horn Road north.

Facilities: tents, RVs, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations.

Missaukee County

CITY

Maple Grove • 231-839-4429

Directions: 4 blocks from Lake Missaukee, east end of Union St.

Facilities: 32, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations.

COUNTY

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

PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651

Directions: 16 miles east of Lake City on M-55, Muskegon River.

Facilities: rustic/17 sites. **SEE AD PAGE 8.**

Crooked Lake Park • 231-839-4945

PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651

Directions: South edge of Crooked Lake near Jennings.

Facilities: 37, electric/15, toilets, shower, sanitation station, reservations, beach, boat launch. **SEE AD PAGE 8.**

Missaukee Lake Park • 231-839-4945

PO Box 800, Lake City, MI 49651

Directions: north shore of Lake Missaukee.

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

SEE AD PAGE 8.

(continued on page 30)



Missaukee County (continued)

STATE

Goose Lake • 231-775-9727

Directions: 2.5 miles from Lake City, south of M-42, Al Moses Rd.
Facilities: rustic/54, boat launch.

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

Directions: 5.5 miles north of Arlene via M-42 & Lucas Rd.
Facilities: rustic/16, 108 people, reservations.

Long Lake State Forest Camp/Missaukee • 231-775-9727

Directions: Lake City, M-42 north to Randall Rd., west 1/2 mile to Almoses Rd., north 1/4 mile to Goose Lake Rd., west 1.5 miles, Green Rd., north to camp.
Facilities: rustic/ 20, boat launch.

Reedsburg Dam • 989-275-4622

Directions: 5 miles northwest of Houghton Lake via M-55 & Co. Rd. 300.
Facilities: rustic/38, boat launch.

Spring Lake State Forest Campground • 231-775-9727

Directions: 1.5 miles southwest of Fife Lake via US-131.
Facilities: rustic/32, boat launch.

PRIVATE

Rustic Rafters • 231-229-4433

9446 N. Nelson Rd., Moorestown, MI 49651

Facilities: tents & RVs/17 sites; 5 log cabins; electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations. **SEE AD PAGE 13.**

Osceola County

CITY

Rambadt Memorial Park • 231-832-2245

227 E. Lincoln Ave., Reed City, MI 49677

Facilities: tents & RVs/13, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station.

COUNTY

Crittenden Park • 231-734-2588

3641 S. 50th Ave, Sears, MI 49679

Directions: East of Ewart on US-10 to 50th Ave., south 2 miles.
Facilities: rustic/20, RVs/70, electric, water; toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, wheelchair accessible, beach, boat launch, store, rec. room.

Rose Lake Park • 231-768-4923

11726 Youth Dr. • LeRoy, MI 49655

Directions: east of Tustin & LeRoy off US-131 on Rose Lake.
Facilities: rustic & RVs/160, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, wheelchair accessible, beach, boat launch, store, rec. room.

STATE

Sunrise Lake • (231) 775-9727

Directions: 6 miles East of LeRoy via Sunrise Lk. Rd. & 15 Mile Rd.
Facilities: rustic/17, boat launch.

PRIVATE

Blodgett Landing • 231-832-4410

605 East Third St., Hersey, MI 49639

Facilities: tent & RVs.

Cadillac Woods • 231-825-2012

23163 M-115, Tustin, MI 49688

Directions: M-115, 6 miles southeast of US-131, 8 miles southeast of Cadillac.

Facilities: tents & RVs/50, cabins/6, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, pool, laundry, store, rec. room.

Old Log Resort • 231-743-2775

12062 M-115, Marion, MI 49665

Directions: M-115, Muskegon River, between Clare & Cadillac.

Facilities: tents & RVs/20, cabins/8, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, wheelchair accessible, store.

River Country Campground • 231-734-3808

6281 River Rd., Ewart, MI 49631

Directions: US-10 Ewart, north 1 block east of light; 1 1/2 miles on River Rd. to "Y," right 2 miles

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

Roscommon County (West)

STATE

Houghton Lake • 989-275-4622

Directions: 6 miles northwest of Houghton Lake Heights via West Shore Dr.

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, toilets, showers, reservations, wheelchair accessible.

North Higgins Lake/West • 989-821-6125

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

Facilities: tents & RVs/92, cabin, electric, toilets, showers, reservations, wheelchair accessible.

South Higgins Lake • 989-821-6374

106 State Park Dr., Roscommon, MI 48653

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

PRIVATE**Houghton Lake Travel Park • Private • 989-422-3931
370 Cloverleaf Ln., Houghton Lake, MI 48629**

Directions: 1 block east of US-127 & M-55.

Facilities: tent & RVs/85, cabins/3, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, pool, store, laundry, Wi-Fi, rec. room.

**West Houghton Lake Camp • 989-422-5130
9371 Houghton Lake Dr., Houghton Lake, MI 48629**

Directions: 1 mile east of US-127 & M-55, 1/2 mile north on Houghton Lake Dr.

Facilities: tents & RVs/128, cabin, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, store, laundry, Wi-Fi, rec room.

**Wooded Acres Family Camp • 989-422-3413
997 Federal Ave., Houghton Lake, MI 48629**

Directions: exit US-127 at M-55 east, 2nd light (Loxley Rd.), 1 1/2 miles.

Facilities: tent & RV/84, cabins/3, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, pool, 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: tent & RV/48, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, beach, boat launch.

STATE**Baxter Bridge Campground • 231-775-9727**

Directions: 12 miles northwest of Manton via M-42 & 31 Rd.

Facilities: rustic/25, boat launch.

Long Lake/Wexford • 23-775-9727

Directions: 8 miles northeast of Cadillac via US-131 to Long Lk. Rd.

Facilities: rustic/16, boat launch.

**Mitchell State Park • 231-775-7911
6093 E. M-115, Cadillac, MI 49601**

Directions: between Lake Mitchell & Lake Cadillac, west on M-115.

Facilities: tent & RV/221, electric, toilets, showers, reservations, beach, boat launch.

Old US-131 Campground • 231-775-9727

Directions: 7 miles north of Manton via US-131 & Old US-131.

Facilities: rustic/25, boat launch.

FEDERAL**Hemlock Campground • 231-723-2211**

Directions: from Cadillac, west on M-55 for 1.3 miles, right, north on S. Mitchell Lake Dr. 1.4 miles.

Facilities: rustic/19.

- **Peterson Bridge • 231-723-2211**
- **940 S. State, Route 37, Cadillac, MI 49601**
- *Directions:* off M-37, 1.5 miles north of Wellston.
- *Facilities:* rustic/30, boat launch.

PRIVATE**Birchwood Resort & Camp • 231-775-9101
6545 E. M-115, Cadillac, MI 49601**

Directions: 2.3 miles west of US-131.

Facilities: RVs/33, cabins/6, electric, water, toilets, showers, reservations, wheelchair accessible, Wi-Fi. **SEE AD PAGE 24.**

**Camp Cadillac • 231-775-9724
10621 E. 34 Rd. (Boon Rd.), Cadillac, MI 49601**

Directions: US-131, Exit 183, east 1 mile.

Facilities: tent & RVs/115, cabins, electric, water, toilets, showers, reservations, pool, store, laundry, Wi-Fi. **SEE AD PAGE 19**

**Cedar Creek Camp/Liberty Park • 231-824-9318
9696 12 3/4 Rd., Manton, MI 49663**

Facilities: tents & RVs, cabins, electric, toilets, reservations, store.

**Chippewa Landing/Oak Grove Camp • 231-313-0832
10420 Chippewa Landing, Manton, MI 49663**

Directions: 15 miles north of Cadillac, 30 miles south of Traverse City off US-131.

Facilities: tent & RVs/40, electric, water, sanitation station, toilets, showers, reservations, beach, boat launch, store.

**Coolwater on the Pine • 231-862-3481
9424 W. 48 1/2 Rd., Wellston, MI 49689**

Directions: 2 miles south of M-55 & 2 miles east of M-37.

Facilities: tent & RV/65, cabins, electric, water, toilets, showers, reservations, laundry.

**Kestelwoods Campground • 231-862-3476
10860 W. 48 1/2 Rd., Wellston, MI 49689**

Directions: 2 1/2 miles south of M-37 & M-55 crossroads on M-37 & 48 1/2 Rd.

Facilities: tent & RVs/96, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, pool, store, Wi-Fi.

**Northern Exposure • 231-885-1199
285 Manistee River Rd., Mesick 49668**

Facilities: tents & RVs/260, electric, water, toilets, showers, sanitation station, reservations, boat launch, beach, .

**Pat's RV Park • 231-885-1056
2981 North 7 Rd., Mesick, 49668**

Directions: Hoodenpyle Dam on the Manistee River.

Facilities: tents/RVs/87, cabins.

**The Campground LLC • 231-824-9111
10330 E. M-45, Manton, MI 49663**

Directions: US-131, exit 191, east 1/2 mile on M-42.

Facilities: tents & RVs/30, electric, water, reservations.



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Regional Office ★ 231-269-3135