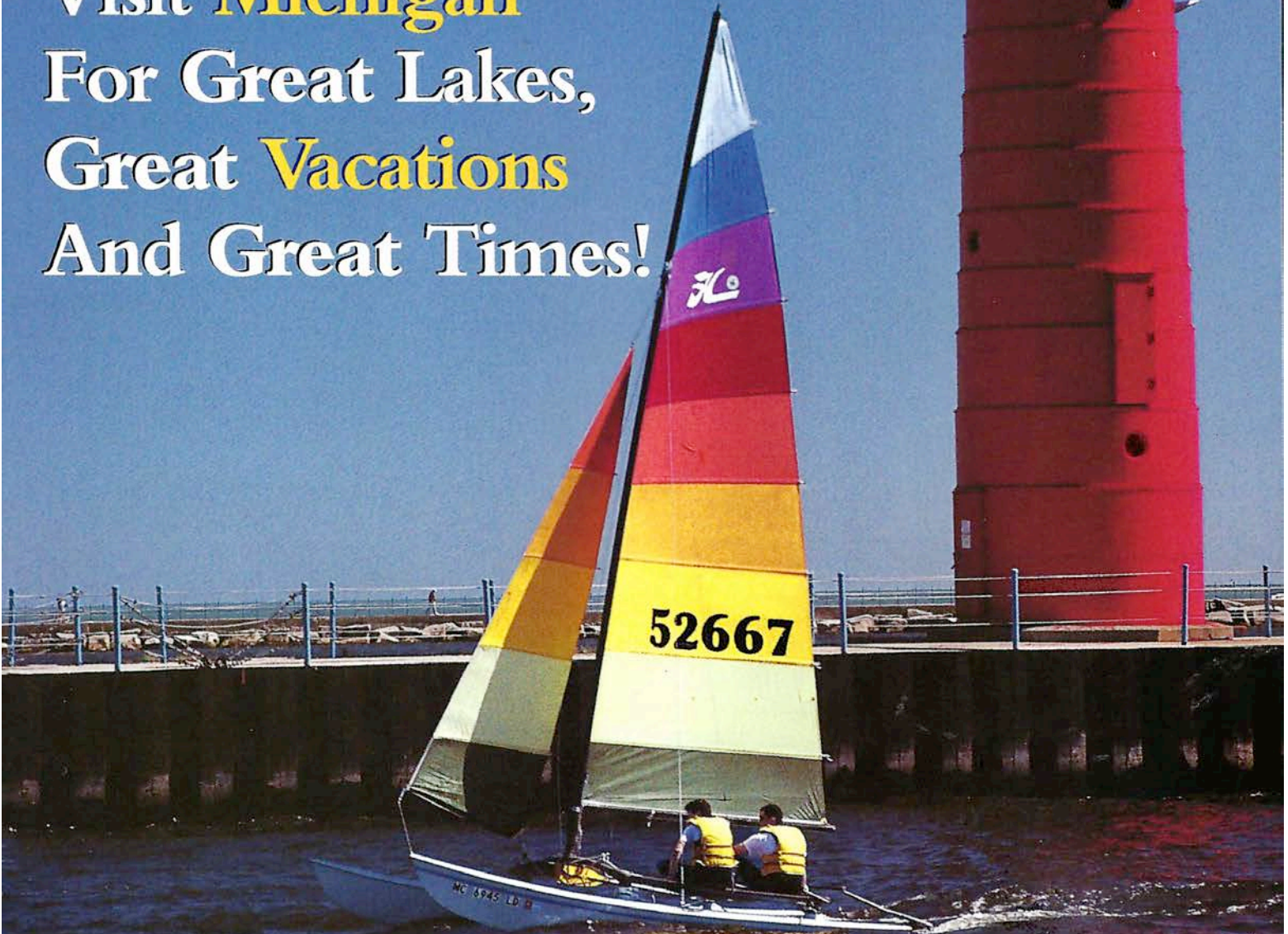


# MICHIGAN

## *Travel Ideas*<sup>®</sup>

Visit **Michigan**  
For Great Lakes,  
Great **Vacations**  
And Great Times!



Midwest Living<sup>®</sup>

**WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE**

Muskegon makes a splash with new attractions at Michigan's two largest water parks.

An expansion last summer doubled the size of Michigan's Adventure, which combines watery fun and amusement rides, including three roller coasters. The park now boasts 2 dozen water slides, in addition to three wave pools, and a lazy river you can float (616/766-3377).

At Pleasure Island (pictured, right), you'll find bumper boats—a recent addition—as well as 10 towering slides and a floating stream on 25 parklike acres. Bring a snack to munch in the shaded picnic area (616/737-8300).

For area information, contact: Muskegon County Convention & Visitors Bureau (800/250-WAVE).

**TOP BILLING IN DETROIT**

The marquee of more than a dozen restored show houses light up Detroit's theater district in a corridor that follows Woodward Avenue northwest of downtown. Check these theaters for upcoming productions:

*Alley Theatre*—Resident company producing modern plays, classics and small musicals (313/963-9339).

*Bonstelle Theatre*—Wayne State University students presenting Broadway shows (313/577-2960).

*1515 Broadway*—Cozy productions of children's shows and alternative plays; also dance and films (313/965-1515).

*Detroit Opera House*—Michigan Opera Theater and touring Broadway shows (313/874-SING).

*Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall*—Home of Motor City's renowned



JOHN STRAUSS

Take a plunge at Pleasure Island water theme park in Muskegon.

orchestra (313/833-3700).

*Fisher Theatre*—Musical productions in a 2,200-seat hall (313/872-1000).

*Fox Theatre*—Musicals, dance, family shows and more (313/983-6611).

*Gem Theatre*—Cabaret productions in a new Madison Avenue location (313/963-9800).

*Hilberry Theatre*—Performances by Wayne State's repertory company (313/577-2972).

*Masonic Temple Theatre*—Dance productions and other shows (313/832-2232).

*Second City*—Comedy shows featuring resident troupe (313/965-2222).

*Music Hall Center*—Family shows, concerts and dance productions (313/963-7622).

*State Theatre*—Concerts and shows in a 1925 hall (313/961-5450).

**MIDLAND'S DOW LEGACY**

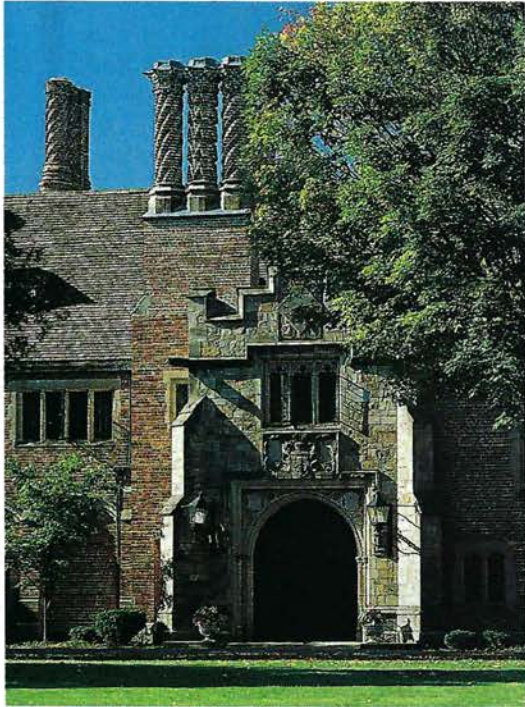
After studying with Frank Lloyd Wright, architect Alden B. Dow, son of the chemical company founder, returned to Midland to pursue his vision.

Using innovative materials, including copper roofing and new plastics from his father's company, the architect won acclaim for the churches, public buildings and more than 60 houses he designed in his hometown.

Visitors can join every-other-weekend tours of the architect's home and studio. Midland also celebrates Dow with an annual fall festival (October 2-4, 1998).

For that event, buses depart from the Dow home and take guests past 35 Dow designs and stop at two buildings open for interior tours. Alden B. Dow Home and Studio (517/839-2744).

Things  
to  
See  
&  
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In Michigan



For a glimpse of how one of Detroit's auto pioneers lived, tour the Dodge family's Meadow Brook Hall.

Dodge Wilson, oversaw completion of the Tudor-style manor, which became the centerpiece of Oakland University in Rochester, a Detroit suburb.

Knole Cottage, a playhouse for 12-year-old Frances Dodge, was the first all-electric home in the area. Meadow Brook Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309 (248/370-3140).

Fisher Mansion—Lawrence P. Fisher, founder of the Fisher Body Company,

gilded his Mediterranean-style villa with gold and silver leaf. Fisher also commissioned ornate stone and marble walls, doors and arches of carved Indian and African woods, and parquet floors of black walnut and rosewood. Fisher Mansion, 383 Lenox, Detroit, MI 48215 (313/331-6740).

Also contact: Historic Homes of the Auto Barons (313/421-3660).

### GRAND HOME TOURS

The auto barons who made Detroit into the Motor City also built the city its most impressive homes. Four of these palaces are open for tours (call ahead for tour schedules and prices):

**Edsel & Eleanor Ford House**—Stroll lavish grounds in Grosse Pointe Shores along Lake St. Clair, where you'll find gardens, a pool and pool house, the garage housing Eleanor's 1952 Lincoln and daughter Josephine's playhouse. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236 (313/884-4222).

**Henry Ford Estate**—Henry Ford employed 800 masons, woodcarvers and other artisans to build his Fair Lane Mansion 2 miles from the farm in Dearborn (now a southwest suburb) where Ford was born. Ford Estate, 4901 Evergreen Rd., University of Michigan, Dearborn, MI 48128-1491 (313/593-5590).

**Meadow Brook Hall**—John Dodge died shortly before construction began on this 100-room 1929 mansion (pictured, above). His widow, Matilda

### KALAMAZOO'S FLOWER POWER

Garden ideas are guaranteed to bloom in Kalamazoo, when you attend the 15th annual Kalamazoo County Flowerfest the third weekend in July (July 17-19, 1998).

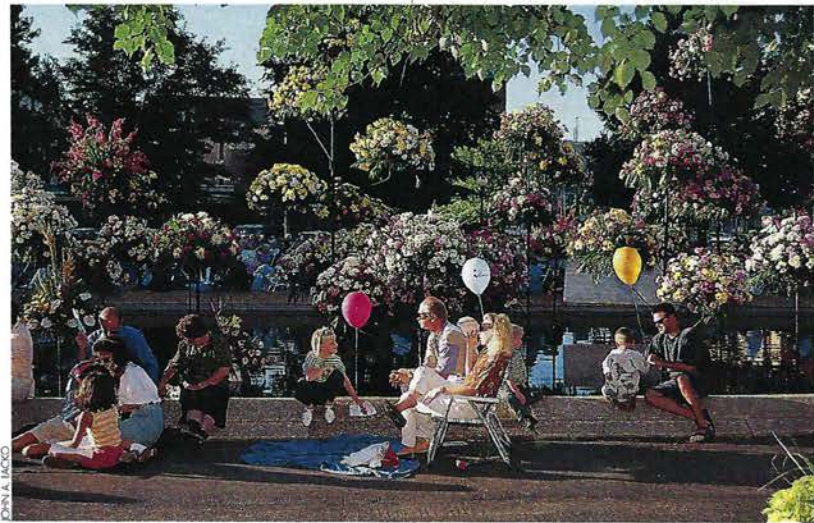
For the event, this southwest Michigan city of 81,000, where growers produce millions of bedding plants, becomes a giant garden. Volunteers plant 155,000 blooming annuals—45 varieties—in Bronson Park downtown (pictured, below) and in other locations across the city and the surrounding county.

The park's "Flowers in the Fountain" display shows off more than 7,200 carnations and 240 bunches of pompons. A floral peacock stands 10 feet tall and spreads its colorful tail feathers to 38 feet.

Festivalgoers also can join tours of area gardens and listen to free concerts in Bronson Park.

Bring your bicycles, too. On Sunday, the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club leads 15-, 31- and 62-mile rides over the area's country roads past farm fields. Riders make occasional stops at area greenhouses and nurseries. Kalamazoo County Flowerfest (616/381-3597).

Florists work with thousands of blooms to create displays in Bronson Park for Kalamazoo's annual Flowerfest.



# MICHIGAN'S BOUNTY

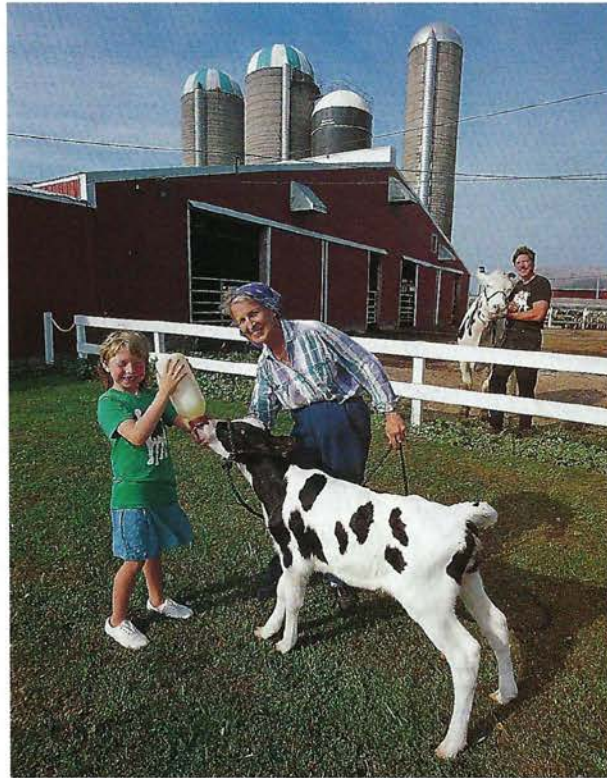
It's easy pickin's across Michigan's green "Thumb" (the farm country north of Detroit), and in the fruit- and vegetable-growing region that covers the state's southwest corner.

Both areas yield bountiful harvests, and plenty of opportunities for visitors to visit farms and pick their own fruits and vegetables.

Across the fertile Thumb, dairy farms, orchards, and thousands of acres of corn and beans flourish.

You can tour Gary Protzman's dairy operation (pictured, right) April through September (517/856-4446). Other farms offer tours during the annual Farmer's Festival in Pigeon (July 21-26, 1998).

Peggie and Ted Leipprandt welcome visitors in autumn to their orchard near Pigeon (43 miles northeast of Bay City). From Labor Day through mid-December, the orchard's 32 varieties of



Visitors can tour Gary Protzman's dairy operation in the Thumb's farm country.

pamper the area's more than 60 orchards and vineyards, most of which are open to visitors.

The season starts when thousands of acres of orchards bloom in early May. The whole area celebrates with the week-long Blossomtime Festival (April 26-May 3, 1998), Michigan's oldest festival.

At Wicks' Apple House in Dowagiac (20 miles southeast of St. Joseph), you can load up in spring on hand-picked asparagus. Fall brings apples by the bushel and cider pressed in

the Wickses' century-old press. Sample pies made from Grandma Marian's recipe in the cafe (616/782-7306).

apples ripen at different times. Depending on when you show up, you can take home fresh McIntoshes, Jonathans or even Jonagolds, the orchard's most popular apple. Sample Leipprandt's cider and an "apple delight"—wedges of apples topped with warm caramel, whipping cream and nuts (517/453-2851).

Strawberries star at Claerhout Greenhouses near Sebewaing (28 miles northeast of Bay City). For only a couple of weeks in mid-June, you can pick your own berries from the nursery's more than 4 acres of plants.

In September, plump berries in owner Don Claerhout's half-acre of new raspberry bushes are ripe for picking (517/883-3135).

Also contact: Huron County Visitors Bureau, 250 E. Huron Ave., Bad Axe, MI 48413 (800/35-THUMB).

In southwest Michigan, lake breezes

the Wickses' century-old press. Sample pies made from Grandma Marian's recipe in the cafe (616/782-7306).

Owner Herb Teichman takes visitors on wagon tours of his sprawling Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm, one of the area's largest, in nearby Eau Claire. Be sure to get Herb's recipe for applesauce (616/782-7101).

Miller Orchards & Old Barn Market in Coloma (10 miles north of St. Joseph) sells cider and apples, as well as peaches and sweet corn, in an 1865 structure that owners Jim and Patty Miller restored (616/468-8132).

Farms around the lively harbor town of South Haven grow the largest concentration of highbush blueberries in the world. There's no stooping when you pick at farms such as DeGrandchamp's (616/637-3915).

Also contact: Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council (616/925-6301).

Things  
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In Michigan

## CITY NIGHTS

The Corktown Inn celebrates Detroit's history and art, and still manages to make guests feel at home.

For restoration of the 1850 Federal-style row house, owners Richard Kokochak and Chet Allen commissioned only artisans who live and work within the Motor City limits. Now, their bed and breakfast is an oasis of elegance in a struggling downtown neighborhood that's the city's oldest.

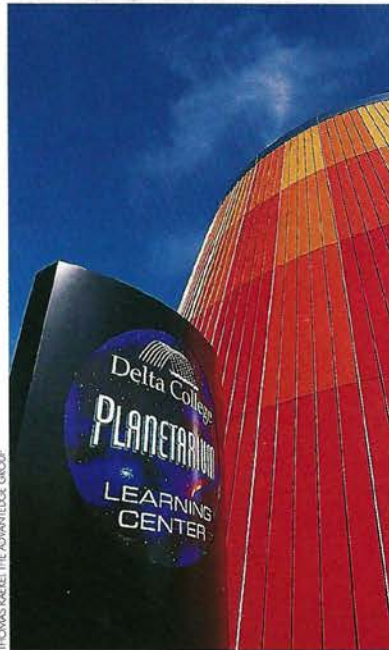
The artisans' work left the three-story bed and breakfast with new architectural treasures. Stairs of intricately wrought iron spiral upward. Delicate shamrocks are etched in glass, and a mural painted to show the sky's changes from dawn to dusk decorates a bedroom. Over the great room fireplace, a striking brick sculpture depicts the Detroit skyline.

Richard and Chet scoured the area's antiques shops to decorate the four guest suites, named after the elements of earth, air (with the sky mural), fire and water. Look for the desk that once belonged to Abraham Lincoln's secretary of war, and you might sleep in a bed that reputedly was used by Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Each of the rooms has a private bath, and two have whirlpool tubs.

In the morning, you'll find fresh coffee and juice waiting outside your door. Guests head downstairs to the great room or outside for breakfast in the courtyard garden.

The morning meal features favorites of the surrounding immigrant neighborhood. Guests sample specialties such as Irish oatmeal, Greek toast soufflé and "huevos Corktowneros," an omelette made with cactus, avocado, cheeses and other ingredients fresh from nearby Mexican groceries. Stop in the kitchen for a bedtime snack; Chet and Richard make sure the cookie jar is always full.

Doubles from \$125. Corktown Inn, 1705 Sixth St., Detroit, MI 48226 (313/963-6688).



## STARGAZING BY THE BAY

Galaxies far, far away come a little closer to home, thanks to the new Delta College Planetarium and Learning Center in Bay City.

The striking red-domed building, which was built with funding from NASA, resembles a spaceship parked on the corner of Center Avenue and Water Street downtown.

The planetarium seats more than 130 people and uses the latest digital graphics to project three-dimensional images on the domed ceiling.

This state-of-the-art equipment takes you on simulated outer-space journeys in rotating rocket ships. Stargazers also can see what the sky looked like viewed from Stonehenge thousands of years ago, or what it will look like from Bay City thousands of years from now.

The planetarium stages two to six shows per day and new programs every 3 months, often coinciding with actual astronomical events. A multipurpose room houses traveling exhibits about astronomy and space travel.

Tickets \$3.50 for adults, \$3 for under 18 and over 60. Call for show times or more information (517/667-2260).

The new Delta College Planetarium and Learning Center shines in Bay City.

## ALL ABOARD FOR MINING HISTORY

Exploring the tunnels isn't the only thrill at the historic Quincy copper mine on the Keweenaw Peninsula just north of Hancock (110 miles east of Marquette). A new "cog" railway takes visitors down the side of the mountain to the entrance to the mine, one of the world's largest.

The train—a 28-seat trolley on a rack-and-sprocket system similar to a bulldozer track—runs from the old mine buildings on the mountain top, down the side to the long-closed copper mine's seventh level. You then board tractor-drawn wagons for the half-mile trip into the mountain.

Inside, 400 feet beneath the surface, you see methods and working conditions in the mine's pre-Civil War heyday. After the tour, the train carries visitors back to the top.

There, the main attraction is the world's largest steam hoist, which once raised and lowered men, equipment and ore into and out of the 9,200-foot-deep mine. Exhibits surrounding the hoist tell the story of the mine. Visitors can view the rail cars and rock carriers that negotiated 90 levels of tunnels where the ore was chiseled.

The old supply building houses a gift shop. Quincy Mine Hoist Assoc., 201 Royce Rd., Hancock, MI 49930 (906/482-3101).

The mine is one of 13 sites in the area that are part of the new Keweenaw National Historical Park. Other sites you can visit in the park, one of the nation's newest preserves, include: Coppertown Mining Museum in Calumet; Houghton County Historical Museum in Lake Linden; Delaware Copper Mine near Copper Harbor; and Old Victoria, a re-created mining village.

Contact: Keweenaw Tourism Council, 1197 Calumet Ave., Calumet, MI 49913 (800/338-7982).

# Things to See & Do ..... In Michigan

## A KALAMAZOO SHOWPLACE

**I**t might be the view of the acre of formal gardens that keeps diners lingering over breakfast coffee at the Stuart Avenue Inn in Kalamazoo. But owners Thomas and Mary Lou Baker like to think their guests are settling into the pace of a more gracious era.

Two homes, both restored to their early 1900s grandeur, and a carriage house make up the bed and breakfast.

A newspaper publisher built the ornate teal Queen Anne-style Bartlett-Upjohn House (pictured, right). Dr. James T. Upjohn, one of the founders of the Upjohn Company, bought the home in 1907. An attorney, Fred Chappell, built the sprawling 1902 Colonial-style home next door.

Tom and Mary Lou have added authentic touches to the inn's 19 rooms such as four-poster beds, hand-painted wallpaper and Belgian lace curtains. All the rooms have private baths and five have fireplaces. Some suites have whirlpools.

Doubles from \$59 (800/461-0621).

## BEEF AND BREW ON THE UP

**W**hen you arrive at Hereford & Hops, you had better be ready to roll up your sleeves and get to work.

At this restaurant in downtown Escanaba (on the Upper Peninsula 65 miles south of Marquette), diners grill their own steaks from beef raised on the owners' nearby farm. Of course, sipping beer brewed on the premises and tips from a grill chef, who is on hand to help, make the job a bit easier.

Owners Don and Becky Moody and Jack and Sharon Mellinger restored the 1914 Delta Hotel, a downtown landmark. They opened the ground-floor restaurant and brewery in 1994. Black cherry wainscoting and 14-foot-high windows give the eatery the warmth of an old English pub.

Lounging by the fireplace before dinner, you can start your evening with a sample of one of seven beers that Hereford & Hops brews. Try Wolverine Wheat Beer, which arrives in a frosty 14-ounce mug.

Select your cut of meat from a display cooler. Choices include fillets, thick T-bones and sirloins from Don and Becky's farm. You also can select

skewers threaded with seafood or savory chicken kabobs.

Sample an appetizer of shrimp steamed in the pub's own Whitetail Ale or the "brewer's bloomer," a sweet Vidalia onion dipped in beer batter and deep fried. Then, you step up to one of the two red-brick grills.

As your dinner sizzles, hickory smoke and conversation fill the air. A chef standing by in a white apron helps make sure your choice is cooked just right. Entrées from \$8.95. Hereford & Hops (906/789-1945).

## NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL TREK

**O**n the North Country Trail, you could hike all the way from North Dakota to Pennsylvania. Some of the trail's most scenic stretches—almost 900 miles total—travel across Michigan.

The route follows Lake Superior on the Upper Peninsula's north shore and then heads south on the Lower Peninsula along Lake Michigan.

Hikers discover some of the trail's best vistas in the Huron-Manistee National Forest on the Lower Peninsula's west side. Near the Victorian-era town of Manistee, the trail winds through 130 miles of dense woodlands.

To reach one 13-mile stretch with particularly lofty overlooks, begin at the Marilla trailhead about 30 miles northeast of Manistee and trek southwest to the Dilling Road trailhead.

The narrow path crests sandy hilltops, and sweeping views open between the trees. East of the trailhead, hikers can pitch tents at the Seaton Creek Campground.

Contact: Huron-Manistee National Forest (616/775-2421).

Step into another era at the Stuart Avenue Inn, a bed and breakfast in Kalamazoo.



JOHN STRAUSS

# GREAT LAKES LIGHTHOUSE LORE

More than 100 lighthouses still guard the Great Lakes State's shores; 35 are accessible to the public—more than in any other state. Following is a sampling of lighthouses you can visit. For a list of Michigan lighthouses, turn to the Travel Guide section beginning on page 135.

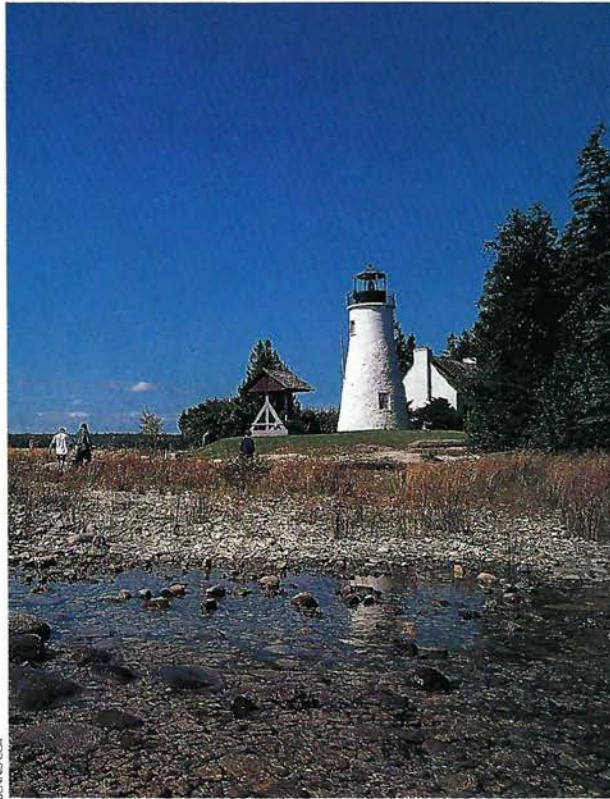
## LOWER PENINSULA

*Grand Traverse Lighthouse, Northport*—Commanding the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula (40 miles north of Traverse City), the light station known as Cat's Head Light rises over the roof of a handsome 1858 brick home, the light-keeper's quarters. Now a museum, the home displays antique toys, photographs and other memorabilia. Climb a spiral staircase into the tower (616/386-9145).

*Point Aux Barques Light, Port Hope*—A park surrounds this 89-foot white brick tower, which presides over the tip of the "Thumb" where Lake Huron swings into Saginaw Bay.

The light-keeper's house contains a museum devoted to the ships that went down off this dangerous point. Scuba divers explore the shipwrecks, now part of an underwater preserve. The lighthouse beacon still guides craft through surrounding waters (800/35-THUMB).

*Presque Isle lighthouses, Presque Isle*—Built in 1870 and rising to 113 feet, the "new" Presque Isle Lighthouse (30 miles north of Alpena) is the tallest lighthouse along the Great Lakes. Its automated light still guides mariners.



The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse presides over the Lake Huron shore.

Superior's shores. A 15-minute boat ride takes visitors to the light's island location, now part of Fort Wilkins State Park. You also can tour the authentically furnished light-keeper's house (906/289-4215).

*Eagle Harbor Coast Guard Lighthouse Station, Eagle Harbor*—Also on the Keweenaw Peninsula, this 44-foot tower (28 miles north of Houghton) is Michigan's only Lake Superior station with an operating beacon. The Keweenaw County Historical Society now operates this working lighthouse as a museum.

You can browse the red-brick keeper's home, which dates to 1871, and two assistant keepers' homes. Visitors can also view a display of artifacts culled from shipwrecks (906/296-2561).

*Sand Point Lighthouse, Escanaba*—Visitors can climb the 40-foot tower of this 1867 lighthouse into the cast-iron lantern room. The light-keeper's quarters are furnished as they were during the late 1890s (906/786-3763).

*Seul Choix Point Lighthouse, Gulliver*—On a spit of land jutting into Lake Michigan's northern reaches, this 79-foot lighthouse still helps freighters negotiate shipping lanes. The 1895 station's grounds are a park, and the tower houses a museum. The two-story red-brick living quarters hold artifacts such as a light-keeper's uniform (906/283-3169).

One mile south, the old lighthouse, which dates to 1840, also is open to the public. New Presque Isle Lighthouse (517/595-9917). Old Presque Isle Lighthouse (517/595-2706).

*White River Light Station Museum, Whitehall*—This 1875 lighthouse in Whitehall (18 miles north of Muskegon) guided parades of 19th-century ships loaded with lumber. Today, exhibits recount the region's history, as well as the light station's story. Visitors see the original lighthouse lens and climb a wrought-iron spiral staircase to the 38-foot tower's top (616/894-8265).

## UPPER PENINSULA

*Copper Harbor Lighthouse, Copper Harbor*—Built in 1866 in Copper Harbor at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula, this 42-foot copper-topped tower is one of the oldest along Lake

# BLOOMING GOOD TIMES



CHEN STRAUSS

Whether you're looking for gardening ideas or just a peaceful escape, Michigan's public gardens make the perfect stop. Here's a sampling:

**Dow Gardens, Midland**—Dow Chemical founder Herbert Dow began planting the 110-acre gardens in 1899 for his family. Today, dozens of beds of brilliant annuals and hundreds of roses bloom amid grassy paths, pools, bridges and waterfalls (517/631-2677).

**Fernwood Botanic Garden, Niles**—Eighty species of ferns thrive in the fern conservatory, and more than 10,000 ferns flourish outside. Those are just part of this 105-acre garden about 60 miles southwest of Kalamazoo. Daffodils bloom in April, lilacs perfume the May air, and roses, hostas and irises star in summer. Kids love the Amazing Maize Maze (616/695-6491).

**Hidden Lake Gardens, Adrian**—The Harper Collection of Dwarf and Rare Conifers is a highlight of this 755-acre Michigan State University preserve in Adrian (60 miles southwest of Detroit). The pines, spruces, firs and other evergreens grow only a quarter of an inch a year (517/431-2060).

**Leila Arboretum, Battle Creek**—Modeled after grand formal European gardens, the 72-acre arboretum contains some 3,000 trees and shrubs. In autumn, the preserve blazes with fiery foliage (616/969-0270).

**Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids**—Michigan's largest conservatory rises five stories over this garden, one of the state's newest. The building houses 2,000 plants from five continents, from African palms to South American orchids. On the surrounding

Gardens bloom amid the trees at Leila Arboretum in Battle Creek.

grounds, paths meander among spreading trees and renowned sculptures (616/957-1580).

**Saginaw-Tokushima Friendship Garden, Saginaw**—A path winds among pine and cherry trees, over a bridge spanning a quiet stream, and along Lake Linton's shore. At the adjacent Japanese Cultural Center and Tea House, visitors can experience an authentic Japanese tea ceremony (517/759-1648).

**Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, Detroit**—Under an 85-foot dome on Belle Isle, giant palms rise over a verdant jungle in one wing, and desert plants and ferns flourish in another area. The conservatory also claims one of the nation's largest publicly owned collections of orchids (313/852-4064).

**More Michigan Gardens**—Cranbrook House and Gardens, Bloomfield Hills (248/645-3000). Matthaei Botanical Gardens (313/998-7061) and Nichols Arboretum (313/763-6632), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Michigan State University gardens, East Lansing (517/355-0229).

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In Michigan



### ART BENEATH THE PINES

Spirits soar, along with the music that swells among the pines at northwest Michigan's internationally acclaimed Interlochen Center for the Arts (16 miles southwest of Traverse City).

Every year, Interlochen attracts the top names in music, dance, theater and the other arts to share stages with the students and their professors in more than 750 concerts, plays, dance productions and art exhibits.

The list of luminaries who have conducted orchestras here includes John Philip Sousa. Last year, stars such as the Moody Blues, Willie Nelson and Tony Bennett performed. Past guest artists have included Itzhak Perlman, the Chicago Symphony and folk singers Peter, Paul and Mary.

Students and others perform onstage at The Interlochen Bowl, an open-air amphitheater built in 1928. The theater's rustic green park benches seat an audience of 5,000.

Visitors also can tour the 1,200-acre campus, which includes 450 buildings, ranging from 70-year-old log cabins to the imposing 4,000-seat Kresge Auditorium.

Students practice in fieldstone huts that tuck among the trees. Almost every hut has its own piano, and you'll hear notes played across the campus come together in a sort of impromptu concerto.

During the school year, more than 400 high school students from 45 states and 20 countries take up residence to study music, art, drama, dance and creative writing. The center's summer camp program accommodates another 2,000 participants ages 8 to 18 from all 50 states and 29 countries.

The camp runs from mid-June to early September, but the center also produces performances by students, staff and visiting artists year-round.

Contact: Interlochen Center for the Arts, Box 199, Interlochen, MI 49643-0199 (616/276-6230).

### CRUISING LAKE MICHIGAN

Once, vacationers traveled in style to Michigan's Great Lakes ports aboard posh steamers. Those grand days of lake cruising are returning.

Last year, the German luxury liner *MS Columbus* sailed four sold-out cruises departing from Sault Ste. Marie, Chicago, Montreal, Toledo and other Great Lakes ports. At least five cruises are planned this year.

On Lake Michigan trips, the 472-foot ocean-worthy ship with space for 420 passengers stops at Beaver Island and Mackinac Island.

Passengers can book 134 outside cabins, 63 inside cabins and eight suites. Spend your days lounging on the sun deck around the pool or enjoying the *Columbus'* other comforts.

The ship features entertainment, a library, salon, and a dining room large enough to accommodate all passengers in a single seating.

Passage on the *Columbus* starts at \$200 per person per day double, including meals. Contact: Mariport Group Ltd., 41 Park Hill R.d. E., Box 1758, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada N1R 7G8 (800/319-9997).

### SWEET DREAMS IN WHITE CLOUD

Nobody goes to bed hungry at the Shack Country Inn in White Cloud (45 miles north of Grand Rapids). Owners Marv and Janette Deur always send their guests off to bed with heaping banana splits.

"It brings back a little of the kid in us, I guess," Marv says.

This log lodge overlooking Robinson Lake certainly doesn't qualify as a "shack." But that's the nickname locals gave to the original house, once a furniture mogul's rustic retreat.

The Deurs have modernized and expanded the complex. Three buildings now house 34 guest rooms, individually decorated with quilts and log furniture. Each has a private bath and many have whirlpools and fireplaces.

Friday and Saturday nights, guests enjoy dinner and dessert in the lodge dining room. Spend your days relaxing on the porch. Or you can work up an appetite paddleboating on the lake, and hiking the trails that wind through 100 acres of surrounding woods.

Doubles from \$50 (616/924-6683).

Marv and Janette Deur dish up bedtime treats at the Shack Country Inn.





**B**ob Begin and his daughter, Marie-Chantal, greet guests at Château Chantal, a bed and breakfast at the family's vineyards.

more than 40 wines (616/657-5568).

Lemon Creek Winery near Berrien Springs (15 miles southeast of St. Joseph), has won acclaim for 11 white wines, nine reds and two sparkling varieties. Now, the winery is the first producer of a cabernet made with Michigan grapes (616/471-1321).

Chardonnay grapes thrive around Grand Traverse Bay. Leelanau Wine Cellars in Omena (23 miles north of Traverse City) makes two award-winning varieties (616/386-5201).

More Michigan wineries you can visit: Boskydel Vineyard, Lake Leelanau (616/256-7272). Château Chantal, Traverse City (pictured, left; 616/223-4110). Château Grand Traverse, Traverse City (616/223-7355). Fenn Valley Vineyards, Fennville (616/561-2396). Good Harbor Vineyard, Lake Leelanau (616/256-7165).

Also: Heart of the Vineyard, Baroda (800/716-9463). L. Mawby Vineyards, Suttons Bay (616/271-3522). Tabor Hill Winery, Buchanan (800/283-3363). Warner Vineyards, Paw Paw (616/657-3165).

### A TOAST TO WINE COUNTRY

**M**ichigan's two grape-growing regions produce wines that have won international acclaim.

Wineries clustered in the Lower Peninsula's southwest corner and around Grand Traverse Bay use only Michigan grapes to create an array of reds, whites, merlots and sparkling wines. Visit these Great Lakes State wineries for tours and tastings:

St. Julian Winery, Paw Paw (25 miles west of Kalamazoo), the state's oldest (1921) and largest winery, produces

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STEVEN HUTSEHONG

### OLD WORLD FRANKENMUTH

**I**n 1845, when German missionaries founded Frankenmuth (86 miles north of Detroit), they brought Old World traditions that still endure in this village's Bavarian architecture, foods, crafters' workshops and shops selling authentic German imports. Some favorite shopping stops:

- **Bronner's Christmas Wonderland**—Year-round Christmas store the size of four football fields, with thousands of ornaments and trimmings imported from all over the world.

- **Covered Bridge Leather Shop**—Leather toolers at work making belts, purses, toys and clothes.

- **Frankenmuth Clock Company**—Featuring a large selection of German cuckoos and other clocks.

- **Frankenmuth Woolen Mill**—Factory and store filled with hand-made sweaters and wool-filled comforters. You can watch the mill in action.

- **Frankenmuth Woodcarving Studio**—Georg J. Keilho sculpting woodcarvings for churches and architects, as well as for his Main Street shop. Visitors also may observe carving classes.

- **Schnitzelbank Woodcarving Shop**—Woodcarving demonstrations.

Top off a day of shopping with a

hearty meal. The Alpine-style Bavarian Inn, which takes up most of a block downtown, and white frame Zehnders across the street serve family-style chicken dinners that have become a favorite with generations of visitors.

For a complete list of shops, restaurants, lodgings and other attractions, contact: Frankenmuth Convention & Visitors Bureau (800/386-8696).

**A**n army of imported nutcrackers stands at attention at Frankenmuth's Bronner's Christmas Wonderland.

# TRAVERSE BAY TERRITORY

The stage was set eons ago for one of Michigan's most popular vacation areas in the Lower Peninsula's northwest corner. Glaciers carved peninsulas, wide Lake Michigan bays and dozens of inland lakes. Then, wind and water sculpted majestic sand dunes that rise over the shore.

Nineteenth-century lumber barons left behind their grand mansions. Soon came wealthy vacationers, who gave the area its gingerbread-trimmed summer homes and resort towns.

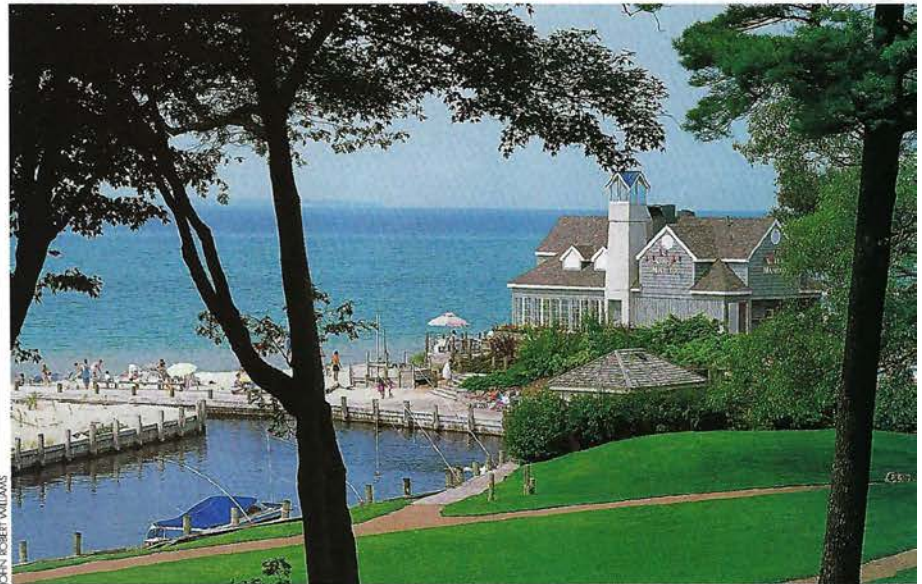
Now, visitors enjoy these legacies, along with championship golf courses and dozens of resorts.

The region's hub, Traverse City, curves around the foot of Grand Traverse Bay. On the lakefront, visitors lounge on the sand and gaze out over the marina at sailboats skimming the bay's calm waters. It's an easy stroll from the bay to the center of this lively town of 21,200. Downtown buildings house some 100 specialty shops and cafes.

In nearby Acme, the 17-story glass tower of Grand Traverse Resort—the area's largest vacation retreat—rises over 1,400 acres of championship golf courses, tennis courts, pools, beaches, shops and restaurants (800/748-0303).

The hilly ridges of the Old Mission Peninsula extend 18 miles into Grand Traverse Bay from Traverse City. State-37, which eventually leads to an 1870s lighthouse on Old Mission Point, meanders past grand houses, sailboats bobbing in harbors, cherry groves and vineyards.

State-22 circles the Leelanau Peninsula, which forms the west shore of Grand Traverse Bay. The route takes you through onetime fishing villages such as Suttons Bay, site of Bahle's dry-goods store, a fixture here since 1876.



Near the peninsula's north end stands Northport. The village's 1860s-era buildings house antiques shops and boutiques. A historic lighthouse still guards the tip of the peninsula.

Turn southwest along the Lake Michigan shore toward Leland. Here, restored weather-grayed shanties of this 1880s fishing village sell ice cream and cheese. Charter fishing captains string up passengers' catches on harbor docks.

To the south stretches Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, a 71,000-acre preserve of towering sand hills, flower-filled meadows and beech and maple forests. Next to the lakeshore in Glen Arbor, The Homestead is a posh condominium resort where you can play golf or tennis, hike timbered ridges or bury your feet in the beach's sugar-fine sand (616/334-5000).

Nearly 20 arts and crafts shops cluster around the villages of Benzonia and Beulah southeast of the dunes.

Returning to Traverse City on US-31 takes you through cherry orchards, which bloom beginning in early May. In the pine-canopied landscape around Spider Lake, Al Capone hid out at

The Homestead, a Traverse Bay area resort, stands near Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

L'DaRu Resort. Today, you still can rent the 1923 rustic lakeview cottages—each with a 14-foot fishing boat—and splash along the resort's 450 feet of sandy beach (616/946-8999).

Driving northeast from Traverse City on US-31 takes you between Grand Traverse Bay on the left and the long lakes—Elk, Torch and Charlevoix—on the right. You'll soon come upon Little Traverse Bay, a favorite among Victorian-era tourists, who arrived in steamships docking at Harbor Springs.

Their fanciful summer houses still stand in Wequetonsing just east of Harbor Springs. Nearby, Boyne Highlands resort lulls guests with a relaxed atmosphere, comfortable condominiums, four golf courses and three swimming pools (800/462-6963).

Contact: Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau (800/872-8377). Petoskey/Harbor Springs/Boyne Country Visitors Bureau (800/845-2828).



#### UP SNOWMOBILING

On Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP), snow is measured in feet, not inches, and the white stuff dependably blankets thousands of square miles of scenic wild country for months. That makes for great snowmobiling across 2,500 miles of trails—one of the most extensive networks anywhere. Check out the following trail systems:

**Keweenaw Peninsula**—On the double-decked bridge crossing the canal that divides the cities of Houghton and Hancock at this 100-mile-long peninsula's center, cars drive the top level and snowmobiles use the bottom, a onetime rail bridge.

Two hundred miles of groomed and marked trails lead north through jack pine and hardwood forests to Copper Harbor along Lake Superior, Michigan's northernmost point.

Contact: Keweenaw Tourism Council (800/338-7982).

**Munising to Manistique**—Across the UP's narrow waist, you can snowmobile to a half-dozen frozen waterfalls in the Munising area. Head south to Chatham and visit the ice caves where

water oozing from limestone freezes into stalactites of ice.

Buzzing south toward Manistique, a 90-mile loop takes you through Big Spring State Park. Ride the raft across the bubbling spring that stays at 55 degrees year-round. This year, the Munising and Marquette clubs are adding new trails to expand the 250-mile network already lacing the area.

Contact: Alger County Chamber of Commerce (906/387-2138).

Things  
to  
See  
&  
Do  
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In Michigan

Snowmobilers can cruise hundreds of miles of scenic trails crisscrossing Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

**Hessel-Cedarville-Les Cheneaux Islands**—Along the Lake Huron shore, riders can zoom miles of forest trails painstakingly maintained by local clubs. Check with members. If conditions are right, you can ride trails that lace the channels among the 36 islands.

Contact: Les Cheneaux Islands Area Tourist Assoc. (906/484-3935).

#### VISIT MICHIGAN ON THE NET

Now you can check out Great Lakes State destinations without leaving home. Just visit Michigan's World Wide Web site (<http://www.michigan.org>).

You'll find pictures and information about activities from golf to camping and canoeing. A touch of the computer keyboard calls up a list of lodgings organized by regions. Revisit the list of events often; it's updated frequently.

The "Michigan Cities" list contains 898 towns. With the "travel planner," you can enter a destination, lodging choice and places you want to visit. The Web page provides an itinerary that you can print out and take along.

Turn to the Travel Guide section beginning on page 135 for more Web sites and check out these internet addresses for Michigan information:

- <http://www.visitdetroit.com>—An interactive guide highlighting the Motor City's attractions.
- <http://www.MIsunriseside.com>—Information on the Lower Peninsula's northeast corner.
- <http://www.swmichigan.org>—Travel tips from the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council.
- <http://www.wmta.org>—Information from the Lower Peninsula's West Michigan Tourist Association.
- <http://www.michiweb.com>—Attractions around Cadillac and north.
- <http://visit-usa.com/mi/marquette>—Information about the UP's largest city.



DENNIS COX

### FARM FARE WITH FLAIR

Don't be surprised if you look out the bay window at the Farm Restaurant near Port Austin (67 miles northeast of Bay City) and see one of the chefs in the garden picking ingredients for your meal.

The owners, award-winning chef Jeff Gabriel and his wife, Pam (pictured, above), tailor their menu to the harvest from the 3-acre plot.

Diners approach the 100-year-old white frame house about 5 miles east of Port Austin through the farm fields of Michigan's "Thumb," the fertile region north of Detroit. Many are hoping for hearty, old-fashioned dishes that might have come from the home's original farm kitchen.

Jeff doesn't let them down. He prepares comforting foods with artful twists, such as "Grandma Lizzie's chicken and lemon-thyme dumplings." It's a boneless breast poached in wine with a sauce inspired by his grandmother's recipe.

Jeff's farmer's-style Swiss steak is a braised sirloin in red wine sauce. Vegetables fresh from the garden star at the salad bar. Pam creates irresistible desserts such as rhubarb cobbler served with homemade ice cream. Entrées from \$8.95 (517/874-5700).

### EASY FLOATS NEAR BIG RAPIDS

Great blue herons nest along the shore, while beavers go about their work. But floaters on the lazy waters of the Muskegon River only need to concentrate on having fun.

A 54-mile stretch of the river, perfect for carefree drifting, flows south to Big Rapids from Duggan's Canoe Livery (517/539-7149) along State-61 near Temple (about 35 miles southeast of Cadillac).

The clear stream meanders through forests of maples, basswood and ash. After a short portage just south of State-115, the river shows hardly a hint of human presence, except for the floaters themselves.

Reaching 75 feet wide along some stretches, but never deeper than 5 feet, the river travels at a relaxed pace that is safe for all skill levels. You can paddle canoes or kayaks, or grab an inner tube and let the current do the work.

In addition to canoes and kayaks, Muskegon River Camp & Canoe (616/734-3808) near Evart rents single inner tubes, double tubes for two people, tubes with bottoms and tubes to hold drink coolers.

Floaters beach at the river's many sandbars for picnics, or stop at one of the landings along the stream such as

Owners Jeff and Pam Gabriel create fresh-from-the-garden dishes at the Farm Restaurant near Port Austin.

the Old Log Resort campground and livery (616/743-2775) along State-115; Crawford Park at State-66; the city park in Evart or Hemlock Park in downtown Big Rapids.

Sawmill Canoe Livery (616/796-6408), with one of the state's largest fleets of tubes for rent, occupies a restored 100-year-old sawmill next door to a renovated carriage house.

Contact: Mecosta County Convention & Visitors Bureau (800/833-6697).

### TAKE A PLANT TOUR IN THE CAR CAPITAL

For the first time in more than two decades, visitors can watch as General Motors' Lansing Car Assembly Plants build shiny new Oldsmobiles, Buicks, Pontiacs and Chevrolets.

Free tours of the body plant and chassis plant, which together produce more than 400,000 vehicles per year—more cars than any other plant in the country—take 1½ hours each.

You can sign up for the tours (three at each plant Mondays-Fridays) separately. Or take both in 1 day and follow automobiles from the drawing board to the end of the assembly line, where new vehicles roll off ready to go to dealers across the country.

To see the entire auto production process, start with a morning tour at the body plant and watch as state-of-the-art robots transform raw metal into car bodies.

After lunch, you can follow the new vehicles through the chassis plant, where motors, seats, interior trim and other features are added. At the end of the day, for the final step, watch as computers rev up finished cars in mock road tests.

Children must be at least 12 years old to take the tours. Reservations are required (517/885-9676). ■