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Grand Traverse Autumn, published by the Traveres City Record-Eagle, describes just a few of the many attractions in the Grand Traverse region during the colorful fall season.

In addition to those listed here there are many special events, seminars and exhibits.

Area clubs and organizations frequently invite the public to their programs.

For more information on area events and attractions, contact the Grand Traverse Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-TRAVERS or 616-947-1120 and check the Record-Eagle daily while visiting in the Traveres City area.



Was there ever a prettier time of year for hunters and dogs to be outdoors roaming the brilliant woodlands? At such times it doesn't really matter if you come

home with an empty game bag, although that rarely happens.

Hunters can find plenty of seasonal action in GT

By GORDON CHARLES
Record-Eagle outdoor editor

Whether bangin' or twangin', hunters find plenty of autumn action in the Grand Traverse region.

It's a season when hardwoods are a riot of color and pleasantly pungent odors lend extra pleasure to one of the finest times of year to be outdoors. Whether toting a gun or a bow, hunters consider the fall months among the best of the enjoyment to be found here.

Hunting seasons are generous, often much longer than most care to hunt. First to go afield are those seeking ruffed grouse and woodcock. Using a dog helps considerably, especially during early days when foliage is heavy. The bird season opens here Sept. 15 and continues through Jan. 1 for grouse, except for the Nov. 15-30 period when deer are being hunted.

Squirrels are also popular in this area and the skillful hunter will often end up with a bag containing gray, black and fox squirrels. All are abundant in this part of Michigan, particularly where beech and oaks provide the favored nuts for food. The season on bushytails opens on Sept. 15 and continues on through Jan. 1.

Sept. 15 also sees rabbit hunting opening for cottontails and snowshoe hares, with that season running through March 31. A good dog can be a help at this time of year in bringing bunnies out into the open but most hunters tend to wait until a little later

on when heavy frost or even a light skiff of snow has managed to mat down the ground cover somewhat.

Bowhunters have all they can do to wait for the arrival of Oct. 1. That's when the archery deer season gets underway. It also runs until Jan. 1, although there is time out during the Nov. 15-30 gun season on deer. Archers believe they have the very best season of all, especially at the beginning. Hardwoods are at their peak of color and if the whitetails manage to avoid coming into fair range, who cares? It's still a lovely time of year to be outdoors.

Oct. 1 also sees the raccoon season opening in the northern Lower Peninsula areas. Coon hunters enjoy running the ringtails with hounds until they finally tree. Since coons frequently raid cornfields, hunters are welcomed by most farmers as one method of cutting down on crop damage. Raccoon season runs through Jan. 31.

There are several other game species which can be hunted in the Grand Traverse region, although the ones mentioned are most important to most hunters. For those looking for heavy excitement, Antrim and Kalkaska counties are among the areas open for fall bear hunting. Gun hunters can chase the bruins with dogs from Sept. 19-25. Bowhunters have their own hunt from Oct. 3-9 but have to make do without help from dogs.

Colorful woodlands, uncrowded at any time, and a chance to perhaps find a little excitement with gun or bow. That's one phase of Autumn in the Grand Traverse region.