

DINING

Deadwood Bar & Grill mixes traditional dishes with wild game

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER

**R**estaurateurs Victor Dzenowagis and his wife, Linda Egeland, have earned a reputation for their subtlety.

They rely on simple interior designs and word of mouth to promote their restaurants, including Deadwood Bar and Grill, which is celebrating its second birthday.

"We don't need to pound our chests and say, 'Here we are,'" Dzenowagis said with a smile.

Its elusiveness is its charm. Located on a bend on Northville Road near Seven Mile Road, Deadwood's building is tucked back. Upon entry, the music of country artists Brad Paisley and Johnny Cash quietly floats through Deadwood, providing a hip venue for them and others trying to resuscitate the traditional end of the genre.

The decor resembles a northern Michigan cabin. Trees were hollowed and fashioned around support beams. The trunks of saplings were cut into potato chip-size slices and nailed to the wall in random order behind the bar.

"It's a neat little touch. I don't think a designer would think about that," Dzenowagis explained.

Custom-made pool tables from Idaho sit near the patio door, while the rural-looking dining area fills the rest of the building. Snow shoe scones provide a base for lights above the windows.

While subtlety is the key to the marketing campaign and decor, Deadwood thrives on serving hearty food. Dishes like duck tenders, warm grilled chicken salad, road kill grill and Guinness barbecue chicken have won over diners. A page full of specials, primarily consisting of fish



Decor: Victor Dzenowagis has decorated his place in a rustic way like his other establishments.

dishes, changes daily.

Like the couple's other restaurants - Beaver Creek in Westland, the Moose Preserve in Bloomfield Hills, and Camp Tiemogeron in Troy - the menu is heavy on game. Wild things in Dzenowagis' menu include appetizers including spicy venison sausage, rabbit ravioli, duck tenders, whitefish pate and barbecue buffalo balls. The Montana Broll features Michigan farmed venison steak marinated in red wine and ginger, topped with grilled mushrooms on a bed of game sauce.

More familiar dishes make the cut: smoked turkey waldorf salad, filet mignon, ribs, burgers and sandwiches.

The drinks also possess subtle nuances. A "bloody moose" is a mixture of Pertsova, Stoli Limonnyaya and the house bloody mary mix poured into a spic-rimmed glass. A bleu cheese

being pretentious."

The crowd evolves throughout the day. Business people stop in for lunch, while families and couples eat dinner. A 25-35-year-old bar crowd fills Deadwood between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Mondays bring in football fans to watch Monday Night Football.

The duo, former Westland residents who now live in Metamora, have had a successful run with their four restaurants.

Of the two, Egeland is the "creative person," while Dzenowagis described himself as the "crack the whip" behind-the-scenes employer. Egeland did all the decor herself, purchasing pieces out west, in upstate New York and the Adirondacks.

"It's substantial. It's here to stay just like we're here to stay."



Hearty: Victor Dzenowagis owner of Deadwood Bar & Grill serves up venison brochette (left front), black & blue filet (left back), a porcupine mountain sundae (back right) and campfire whitefish (right front).

**Deadwood Bar and Grill**  
Where: 18730 Northville Road, Northville, (248) 34-RIFLE  
Open: Noon to 11 p.m. Sundays; 11 a.m. to midnight Mondays-Wednesdays; 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays-Saturdays  
Seating: 134 inside  
Menu: Emphasis on wild game dishes with a generous helping of steaks, chicken and seafoods. Credit cards: Visa, American Express, Mastercard, Diner's Club.

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