## You can still find solitude in Michigan

"I never found the companion," wrote Thoreau, "that was so companionable as solitude."

He could find plenty of company in Michigan this winter, even in the populous southern lower peninsula. winter, even in the populous southern lower peninsula, where a 30-minute drive would bring him face - to -face with the serenity of a snow - snuggled state

Parts of 16 state parks and recreation areas—total-ing 75,312 acres—have again this winter been designed "quiet" areas by the Department of Natural Resources. The designation reserves these areas for such relatively silent recreational pursuits as bird watching, snowshoeing, hiking and cross country sking; by prohibiting use of snowmobiles and other off-road vehicles.

The DNR launched the quiet area program last win-ter, responding to requests from "young and old alike, who asked for an opportunity to enjoy nature in as pure a form as possible," says O.J. Scherschligt, Parks Divi-sion chief.

The quiet areas drew moderate use last winter, and Scherschligt expects them to be used even more this year – especially those in southern Michigan – because of the energy shortage

"The mood of the country seems to support a re-turn to simpler things of days gone by, and I suspect that many people will rediscover the recreational value the just plain fun — of a walk in the winter woods,"

Nine of the 16 areas are in the southern lower peninsula:

2. Apple Mt., 4535 M. River Rd., Freeland, 48623 . 1. Sear Mt., Box 297, Grayley, 49733

- Waterloo, 5.700 acres northeast of Jackson.
  Pinckney, 3.900 acres northwest of Ann Arbor.
  Highland, 1,400 acres west of Pontiac.
  Warrern Dunes, 1,350 acres near Bridgman in the southwest corner of the state.
  Warren Woods, 312 acres near Warren Dunes.
  Fort Custer, 1,300 acres near Battle Creek (includes Whitford Lawler lakes, Jackson Lake and lands fronting the Kalamazoo River):
  Yankes Springs, 1,200 acres west of Hastings.
  Proud Lake, 1,100 acres north of Wixom.

Michigan's 63 skiing areas

The 45,280 - acre plot in the Upper Peninsula's Por-cupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is the largest of the quiet areas, and Tahquamenon Falls State Park contains a 4,686 - acre quiet area.

All of these parks and recreation areas, excepting Warren Woods, also have large areas open to snow-mobiling, which sometimes causes problems though it need not.

"There are points where snowmobile and quiet areas adjoin, and last winter there were several reports from quiet area visitors who saw or heard snowmobiles in quiet areas," says Scherschilgt, noting that boundaries sometimes are hard to distinguish.

"Those in doubt about where to go to 'do their thing' need only ask a park ranger, who will give them precise directions" he says, noting that this advice is as sound for snowmobile enthusiasts as for those wanting to stay as far from the machines as possible.

All state game areas are closed to motor vehicles unless posted for such use, and a number of state for

ests contain designated quiet areas and pathways closed to motor vehicles. These are:
Sink Holes quiet area, 2,600 acres in Black Lake State Forest, Presque false County.
Sand Lakes quiet area, 2,800 acres in the Fife Lake and Kalkaska state forests, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska counties.

kaska counties.

Resy Lake natural area, 14,137 acres in Lake Superior State Forest, Luce and Chippewa counties.

Besser natural area, 134 acres in Thunder Bay State Forest, Presque Isle County.

Pathways developed for non - motorized use-are:
Muncie Lake Trail and Lost Lake Nature Trail in Fife Lake State Forest, Grand Traverse County; Bells

Bay Trail and Spring Brook Pathway in Jordan River State Forest, Charlevoix County: Shingle Mill, Trail in Pigeon River State Forest, Otsego County: Green Pine Lake Pathway in Chippewa River State Forest, Clare County: Chippewa Hills Pathway in Thunder Bay State Forest, Alpean County; Chain - O - Lakes Pathway in Betsie River State Forest, Benzie County. State Forest pathway and area maps are available from the Forestry Division Department of Natural Resources, Lansing 48905 County maps, also beful in Josephine 18905 County maps, also

sources, Lansing 48926. County maps, also helpful in lo-cating state forest lands, may be obtained from the DNR Publications Room, Suite 102, Commerce Center, Lansing 48937. A limit of six county maps is available at no charge.

## Why not ski closer to home this year?

Skiers should be able to pursue their sport this win-ter if they take steps now to reduce non - essential car fuel consumption, according to Automobile Club of

the invariant of the decision of the decision

ness will be affected this winter because of the uncer-tain fuel situation.

"The current fuel crisis will require sacrifices by the skier to reduce fuel consumption," states Joseph Ratke, Auto Club touring manager. "Unless skiers help save gas, federal regulations could result that will sev-erely limit all recreational travel." Ratke suggests that skiers take these steps to help eliminate the need for gas rationing and higher taxes, or both:

Car pools for all ski trips.
 Car pools for all ski trips, but longer stays at lodges to compensate.
 Forming groups and closs to utilize buses for ski

lodges to compensate.

Forming groups and clubs to utilize buses for ski trips.

Ortiving 55 miles per hour or slower on the high-ways at all times.

Outing farevel near home by making fewer shopping trips and consolidating other trips.

National AAA was told by federal energy advisors that if motorists could voluntarily cut gas consumption 25 per cent, rationing would not be needed.

"It skiers utilize car pools to and from work and substantially reduce the number of non - essential family trips near home, enough gas can be saved so that trips to lodges are possible, 'states Native.

The current gasoline crisis is the second adverse blow that ski lodge operators have received during the past year. The first setback was the mild winter last season that reduced Michigans skalable days up to 25 per cent.

Law winter, many of the state's ski areas were set back financially by the unseasonable warm spell and fand during January and March.

Lodges in southern Michigan that normally bad 100.

Lodges in southern Michigan that normally had 100 ski days dropped to 80 operational days while those in the north that expected 130 ski days were fortunate to

have 100 days.
Atthough not directly attributable to the brief ski season last winter, there are four lodges — all located in West Michigan — not re-opening this winter.

West Michigan - not re-opening this winter.

Two of the closed lodges - Big M, near Manistee, and
Chimney Corners, near Frankfort - had too few patrons
to continue. Both areas are in the process, of converting
to private lodge to private lodge.

Binder Park, near Battle Creek, and Briar Hill, near
Cadillac, found making needed improvements to meet
state requirements for lifts too costly.

Despite those four closings lears of fuel shortages and cubacks in expansion at some lodges due to last winter's warm, weather, skiers, will find improvements at 30 of the state's 63 ski areas open to the general public.

Michigan has 95 ski lifts in operation this winter, two more than a year ago. There are 52 bar lifts as compared with 40 last winter, and the number of runs has increased from 667 to 675. The number of lodges with heated outdoor pools has jumped from nine to 11.

Three of the nine ski areas in southeast Michigan have made improvements to their skiing facilities.

Irish Hills Sports Park, near Onsted, is opening a new area serviced by a one - half - mile - long chairlift. Mc Grampian. near Oxford, has revamped much of its ski area and has added cross - country sking. Mt. Brighton, near Brighton, bas added two new slopes and a naved narking lot.

A complete listing of all facilities available at the state's \$\text{S}\$ major ski lodges are contained on the accompanying guide. [When this year's guide is compared with last year, improvements are noticeable in every section of the state.

Nine of the 23 ski areas in West Michigan bave made notable improvements.

Boyne Mountain has just opened a Convention and Ski

Boyne Highlands has moved about one-half million yards of dirt to create a new Katherine Run. It will be serviced by a four - place chairlift. In addition, the

## Dress is important

The Michigan Marine and Snowmobile Dealers Association advises that snow-bobliers dress warmly and confortably enjoy the sport.

The chill factor increases with the speed of the snow-mobile in very cold weather, making frostbite a very real possibility.

Special waterproof clothing

utilization of the 80-room addition to the main dobge will be made.

Schuss Mountain, near Mancelona, has also added slephing rooms and its now able to accommodate 800 guests, compared, with 500 last season. Shanly Creek, near Bellaire, has revamped some of its slopes and added more snow - making equipment.

One lof the big improvements at Sugar Loaf Village, near Cedure, is the addition of four indoor tennis courts. Sugar, Loaf also has doubled its snow - making capacity. Nearby TimberLee Hills, just west of Traverse City, has also added indoor tennis and urgraded its snow - making equipment.

Leading with improvements in southwest Michigan are Carousel Mountain, near Macatawa, and Cannonsburg.

New equipment nearly doubles the snow production.

Olympic Run has been improved and the ticket sales area in the cafeteria building has been increased by 300 per cent. Also, this is the first season that the complete utilization of the 80-room addition to the main lodge will

New equipment nearly doubles the snow production over last year at Carousel. The chair - lift, T-bar and J-bar have been revised to increase their operation and capacity. Also, the 22-unit motel at Carousel has been remodeled.

Jean have been revised to increase their operation and capacity. Also, the 22-unit motel at Carousel has been remodeled.

Also, spent \$80,000 as nowmaking equipment this summers are to for Grand Rapacity. Also, the 22-unit motel at Carousel has been capacity and the skable area at the lodge has been consistent and the skable area at the lodge has been doubled.

The biggest news this year at Canonsburg is addition of a triple chair lift and a new hill it services billed as 'one of the highest and longest runs in the southern half of lower Michigan.'

Royal Valley, near Buchanan, is the most southern half of lower Michigan. The shaded was 'now and the skable area at the star at the s reased its snow - making capacity 50 per cent. Quaal, near Ishpeming, has added a new electric double rope tow on its main slope.



SOME 6,000 of Michigan's 15,000 state park campsites will come under /a new, experimental reservation system in the May 1-Sept. 30 period because nearly 60,000 camping families had to be furned away from state-parks the last two seasons. Reservation forms are available from the state Dept. of Natural Resources' Parks Division Office, Lansing, regional DNR offices; the DNR's Detroit office; and tourism offices. Send a \$2 reservation fee and advance payment for camping charges directly to the park for which you seek a reservation. SOME 6,000 of Michigan's 15,000 state park

