The Observer & Eccentric

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<u>Water, water everywhere</u>

Michigan's abundant liquid is our greatest recreation resource

By Iris Sanderson Jones special write

ATER. THAT IS the story of Michigan in one word. Wet, warm blue and sometimes frozen water. Because of all that wetness, Michigan has more freshwater shoreline, more state forest and more pleasure boats than any other state in the nation, providing a close-to-home bonanza for Michigan

travelers.

You can see it in full living color on a and our cities run in corridors west to state map — the Lower Peninsula, Lake Michigan and north to Saginaw carved by glaciers during the Great lee Ray into the shape of a mitten, the Up-per Peninsula stretched horizontally trippers. across its fingeritys, both peninsulas still kislands in blue, blue water. Set The islands in blue, blue water.

carves or ganciers ouring use Great ice kay, into the shape of a mitten, the Up-for introduction of the state of the state intermediate set file islands in blue, blue water. "THOSE GLACIENS dug out 3100 "Billos of shoreline, leaving Michael and the state island "Billos of shoreline, leaving Michael and the state island "Billos of shoreline, leaving Michael and the state island "Billos of shoreline, leaving Michael and the state "Billos of shoreline, leaving Michael and the shapest in the "Billos of shoreline and the state island "Billos of shoreline and the state island "Billos of shoreline and the state and the "Billos of shoreline and the state and the "Billos of shoreline and the shore and the "Billos of shoreline and the state and the "Billos of shoreline and the state and the "Billos of shoreline and the state and the streams." Fils-Hashing streams, "Water eventually could an state and main "Water eventually could and streams "Billos of shoreline and streams and "Billos of shoreline and streams and "Billos of the streams and the state and main "Billos of shoreline and streams and streams and and the state and main "Billos of shoreline and streams and streams and and the state and main "Billos of shoreline and streams and streams and and the state and streams "Billos of shoreline and the state and main "Billos of the streams and streams and streams and the state and streams and stre

styward within the limits of metropol-igan Detroit. The Algonquin Indians called this I hand Michigames, 'land of great Lakes shores. With a few exceptions, boaters will land Michigames, 'land of great wa-to be more than I shore miles from a legs.' They were hunting, fishing, trap-safe harbor anywhere in Michigan. Dips and farming it when French fur besame. The "great waters" brought miners, is first-come first-served, with no res-timuter jacks and eventually or boats, readays, manufacturing is our first Some 28 harbors have VHF FM radio findustry and outdoor recreation is see the same. Some 28 harbors have VHF FM radio private pumper parts and nearly 2000 the same and the same set of the same land set of the same set

THE MICHIGAN Harbors Guide, available from the DNR, list 65 protec-tive harbors and public marinas fairly evenly distributed along those 3,100 miles of Great Lakes shores.

The "great waters" brought miners, is first-come first-served, with no rest immberjacks and eventually ore boats is served, with no rest industry and outdoor recreation is sec-fed. THE DEPARTMENT of Natural Re-courses (DNR) logically divides Mich-gua, into three comes: the Upper Perin-sufa, the northern Lower Peninsula and the southern Lower Peninsula and other outdoor recreation information. Ene Bay City-Makegon line). Since three-quarters of our people With southers tormer of the state, 48909.

Michigan presently registers more than 600,000 boats, the highest number in the country. There are 525,000 power boats, so 30,000 sail-boats, 11,500 cances and 3,300 pontoon boats. Thirty percent of the boating is on the Great Lakes and 70 percent on inland lakes and streams. The Michigan Boat Launching Directory, available from the DNR, lists 1,000 launching sites from people hauling boats to inland lakes and streams in Michigan. Some ramps are within metro areas, and some are up to 30 miles from the nearest town.

travel log / Iris Sanderson Jones

... and we get a pat on the back for preserving our public lands

HAVE BEEN researching outdoor recreation in America, and rediscovering the treasures of Michigan along the way. I wonder how many of you realize how rich we are in natu-ral resources for camping, hiking, boating, fishing, fjunting and winter sports. Maybe, like me, you speed a little reminding. The most important thing I can say about recre-fational land in Michigan is that it is green, green, green and we have been wise ough to save it for ourselves and our children.

Curselves and our children. THE GREATEST amound of preserved land is in mational forests - three of them. I am looking at a map in the "Atlas of Michigan." a wonderful book put out by Michigan State University and Eerd-mans Press of Grand Rapids, and I can see national forest green spreading all over both peninsulas. The Upper Peninsula is almost completely spreaded by it, with more than 60 percent of the land spublicly owned. The Hiawatha National Forest de-Serribes two vast green bells across the astern end of the peninsulas, touching lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan. Sufferness rive systems, 32 water-fails and a stretch of virgin land called by Venality Michiganians and thus delivered intact into the 20th Michiganians and thus delivered intact into the 20th Michiganians and thus delivered intact into the 20th Michiganians and thus delivered intact into the 20th

Michiganians and into envire terminate into the form century. • The third, the Humon-Manites State Forest, is in the northern Lower Peninnula. Together, the three provide nearly three million acres of playround for campendities, fishermen, cancelsts and win-ther sportnerm, to say nothing of preserving wildlife • for potential.

TF THAT GIVES you a little prideful swell, read on. you ain't beard the half of it. The second-largest landowner in the state is the National Park Service, with two parks in the UP and one in the northern forcer

which two parks in the UP and one in the northern lower. 'How many of us have actually visited the color-thi rock formations of Pictured Rock National Lak-bahore near Munising, or stood on Jaie Royale, where the national park holds trees in silent wilder-hess 50 miles offshore from the tiny Keweenaw "Peninsula".

More of us have been to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore near Traverse City, in fact one of my environmentally inclined friends say too many of us have been there, especially in dune bug-

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The third-largest landholder, still national, is the Fish and Wildlife Service, especially with Sency National Wildlife Refuge in the UP, which lets you play and even hunt under certain circumstances. The Southeast goi in on that one, with the Shiawaa-Tm only partway through the list, but the pattern should already be obvious. The UP has the most resources and the fewest people. The onthern low-er peninsula has lots of resources and few people, and it's just close enough for the southern hordes to reach in a day, so it is the playground of Michigan.

and it's just choice might of the assamption of Michigan. WHAT I HAVE described so far is only national-public land, but that justy could of Michigan. WHAT I HAVE described so far is only national-public land, but that just's well documented is the state system. Michigan, through the Department of Natural Resources, administers more than 4.25 million acres of forest, part and wildlife lands. About 3.75 million is state forest, the largest state-owned acre-age in the United States. We have nearly 100 state park and recreation lakes, and a quarter of a million acres of state arme and wildlife acreas, mostly in the south. These are statistics, but more than that: The camperound. Discovering a Kirkland Warbler in the spring. Sateblaed, risk silling arrows a crystal lake. Stalking ben ha buckleberry patch, with a camera or a out. Houkleberry patch, with a camera or bust of a tributary stream. Maytime you get depressed by unemployment, welfare statistics or the economy, look north, look on a map, see the riches you own on these two huge painsulas surrounded by water. Hig yourself a little; you're rich.



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