

BOOKS

# Jump in the lake, it's a great place to go snorkeling

**Snorkeling Guide to Michigan Inland Lakes**  
By Nancy S. Washburne  
(Nanmar International)

By HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

When you think of snorkeling, do you get images of tropical fish darting about in crystal clear waters as warm as a bath.

Me, too!  
Nancy Washburne, who teaches business at Michigan State University, has done a lot of snorkeling and scuba diving in those warm Caribbean waters, but a camping trip with her son several years ago introduced her to the very different joys of snorkeling in Michigan's inland lakes.

"Snorkeling Guide" is a comprehensive county by county survey of the best lakes for snorkeling, how to get to them and what you'll find when you get there. It is also a guide to the sport of snorkeling and to the fish and flora that inhabit our lakes.

Washburne sets out criteria of visibility, variety of fish, accessibility, scenery and shape for



Nancy Washburne

choosing the score of lakes from the thousands in the state. She has chosen lakes from every part of the state, both upper and lower peninsulas. Many of these

lakes are close to hand in Oakland County, as well as Lapeer, Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

The book explains what equipment you'll need to take to the water, including how to dress, and what you'll need to get the most out of your explorations, including a section on still and video cameras. Washburne also provides a section with drawings of common plant life and fish and how to identify them.

The entries on each lake are based on diaries Washburne took while she explored each one. She covers scores of lakes, so the entries are short but clear and helpful. She also gives detailed information on how to get to

each one.

Here are some of her insights on nearby lakes:

**On Cass Lake:** "Snorkel near the bulrushes, which is out of the way of the boat traffic. The clarity is great and you look out over big beds of conitails, curly pondweed, clara, wild celery and Brazilian eloden. The entrance is wide and the entry area is surrounded by low brush, giving it a wilderness feel. Definitely a lake to come back to and spend considerable time exploring."

**On Loon Lake:** "This lake immediately startled me. I thought for a moment I was in Grand Cayman, the water was so clear. We can thank a multitude of zebra mussels for that as

they are off to the right of the entrance, covering the fallen logs and branches. The whole underwater scene had a brightness and vividness to it that was exceptional."

prospective snorkelers, Washburne includes several color plates of underwater activity. Washburne is signing her books at several local book stores around metro Detroit. See Book Happenings, Page C4.

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For more information, call The City of Southfield Community Relations Department at 248/354-4854.