

TRAVEL

Readers share personal stories about Up North

They were seated in the boat, Nick in the stern, his father rowing. The sun was coming up over the hills. A bass jumped, making a circle in the water. Nick trailed his hand in the water. It felt warm in the sharp chill of the morning. In the early morning on the lake sitting in the stern of the boat with his father rowing, he felt quite sure that he would never die.

— Ernest Hemingway, in the short story "Indian Camp"



Creekside: Darryl Weber (Cynthia's brother) with his nephew, J.J. Wilkinson (Cynthia's son), have fun near Lewiston.

Lisa during high tea in the ballroom of the Grand Hotel. The following year we spent our honeymoon on the island. We're looking forward to going up to the island again. Maybe someday we'll have stayed at every bed and breakfast on the island.

Sue Albright, Plymouth

In June this year my parents rented a cottage in Pentwater on Bass Lake. My dad and I love to fish a lot and we sure caught the "big ones" this year. Each one was mounting size plus and right off the dock. I used worms and dad used blue gills for bait. We caught more than 20 fish in one week... I enjoyed every day. Mom took all the pictures and Dad got a new name: "Dog Fish Dave."

Al C. Cooper, Farmington

Summer at my cabin means taking my son's boat to the Hardy Dam Pond for water fun with all the grandchildren. Fall is brilliant in the Manistee Forest for long walks and for bows and arrows. Then winter softly slips in and the birds and the deer make sure I notice them with food. This is hill sledding time with squeals and hot chocolate. Then all of a sudden wildflowers are everywhere in the forest and it is a lovely spring. What a place to be!

Cynthia Weber (Wilkinson), Redford.

Weekends are filled with trying to do all the extra chores and get errands in that you couldn't fit in during the week plus the never-ending housework. But to escape Up North... it's an opportunity to slow down, to talk, really talk with your family, take a hike, take a nap. It's all fair game because you're Up North. My family has always gone to Lewiston to a cottage in the woods and sharing memories of how it was then and seeing it now with my 10 year old son has been wonderful. We have shared many adventures:

- Hiking down the sandy, tree-canopied roads that we used to sled down to the crystal clear creek... a creek we used for our drinking water when I was a kid.
- Following the power lines trails looking for deer and catching them watching you; their innocent eyes, trusting and motionless; then they quietly bound off again with their white tails waving goodbye.
- Picking blueberries and blackberries along the path, eating them off the bushes and collecting more for pancakes in the morning.
- Seeing the forest transform itself, after sections have been cut clear of trees for miles.
- Being part of nature and how it used to look many years ago. It is easy to imagine Indians walking along deer trails.
- Listening to the birds, and to the wind in the pines. Oh, the birds: wild turkey, yellow finch and ruby-throated humming-



The three sisters: Brenna, 6, Colleen, 1, and Clare, 4 at the Shortal camp site, Leelanau State Park. Brenna is stretching after a long ride from Plymouth.



Happy anglers: Sue Albright, Plymouth and her Dad, Dave Albright, Livonia, love it Up North near Pentwater. Mom (Marlene Albright) took the picture.

birds. Up North doesn't have the malls, theaters and numerous amusements but sometimes that's not what you need when you have paradise.

Ann Durack, Livonia.

Each summer I look forward to spending a few days up north with my sisters. One sister owns a 100-year-old farmhouse on a small lake between West Branch and Tawas. We have a wonderful time just relaxing, shopping, walking and playing Cuthroat Scrabble. We always make at least one visit to Sherni's candy factory in Whittemore. It is a great place to stop and smell the chocolate.

Brianna Bertoia, Troy (8 and 1/2 years old)

I wanted to share my Up North story with you. Our family got a small cottage in Harrison about two years ago. We go up there a lot and have a lot of family fun. We go to the "Putt R Golf," have camp fires, go fishing, swimming and tubing, and go out for ice cream. My favorite thing is when my Dad and I fish in the morning and Mom brings us breakfast on the dock. Sometimes my cousins come up too. I think the best thing about going up north is being with your family.

Kate Shortal, Plymouth

Winding up the peninsula along (Michigan) Highway 22 our eyes were constantly teased by glimpses of iridescent green and blue water and cherry trees burdened with fruit. At our destination, Leelanau State Park, we were not disappointed. Our rustic camp site was nestled between the teetering cedar pines and the white, stony shore of Lake Michigan.

My family spent the days exploring the unspoiled environs for wildlife and wildflowers, swimming in pristine bays and collecting Petokey stones. In the evening we sat in the shadow of the Grand Traverse lighthouse and watched the sunset. This is our favorite Michigan vacation spot to date.

Eva Thomas, Livonia

With living in the Upper Peninsula for most of my life, I have encountered many beautiful places. One of my favorites is Burnette Park. Burnette Park is located between Lac LaBelle and Gay, Michigan. My family and I would go to Burnette Park as often as we could, seeing that it is such a beautiful and peaceful place to be. It is a quiet park but it is well kept up.

Henry and Lisa Baxter Argasinski of Harper Woods

(Henry is a Bloomfield Hills area property manager and Lisa owns a business in Grosse Pointe.) Our favorite "Up North" spot is Mackinac Island, hands down. We love the unique character and atmosphere of the island. For us, Mackinac Island is our "Special Place." I proposed to



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