

# 'Weekend' book shows there's plenty to love in Ohio

By Doug Johnson  
Staff Writer

Mary Quinley of Livonia has turned her love of travel and a childhood habit of keeping journals into her first published book: "52 Ohio Weekends."

"My dad love to travel," she said. "A lot of my love for the adventure of travel came from him."

The "weekends" books are part of a series of books from NTC/Contemporary Publishing in Chicago and include titles for Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Virginia, Florida, Texas and New York, among others.

"I would have liked to do Michigan, but it was taken," Quinley said.

She does recall that her dad took the family to Ohio on vacation several times. She has been to every weekend spot in the book at least once in her life, she said. She has made a special effort to visit most Ohio places during the last five years.

The Ohio weekends that are her favorites?

"One favorite is unusual. I went with my son Jonathan (then 14, now a college student, 18) to the outskirts of Chillicothe (due south of Columbus) to see the play "Tecumseh," about the Shawnee leader. He was impressed and so was I."

From her book:

"The year is 1784. The still, summer evening explodes with howling, screeching voices. A bloody skirmish near the banks of the Ohio River takes place before the hushed crowd. Frontiersmen, caught in an ambush set by the Shawnee Indians, scurry frantically out of sight. As the powerful tale unfolds, galloping horses appear from behind the trees, tomahawks zip across the stage, and a canoe skims the surface of the man-made pond in the background.

"The audience senses Tecumseh's pain and frustration. The young Shawnee leader longs for peace. He simply wants the land that was taken away returned to his people."



PHOTO BY OREGON TRAVEL, 1-800-BUCKEYE

**Slippery slope:** Ice climbing is one of the many outdoor recreational activities in the Hocking Hills area.

The play runs during summer months; call (740) 775-0700 for information.

Another favorite of Quinley's is The Wilds, east of Columbus not far from Interstate 77 near the small town of Cumberland.

Here, there is an impressive outdoor complex for endangered species. The complex can be viewed via bus tours. Call (740) 638-5030 or check www.thewilds.org on the Web.

"I also like all the little islands along Lake Erie like Put-In-Bay and Kelleys, the Marblehead Peninsula with little shops and lighthouse."

Another favorite is Amish country. Amish country in Ohio may not be as well known as those in Pennsylvania and northern Indiana.

"We had a real Amish dinner in Mesopotamia at an Amish home. I would say that it was a



**Charming:** Covered bridges are part of the charm of weekends in Ohio.

very special trip. The man of the house took us for a buggy ride before dinner."

Mesopotamia is a tiny village east of Cleveland and north of Warren.

From the book: "Wife Sara's food disappeared as rapidly as the natural outdoor light slipped away. As darkness surrounded our intimate dinner party, Lester (Amish husband) wandered off, found the torch, and lit the kerosene lamp - the house has no electricity."

The "slice-of-life" travel adventure is typical of the matter-of-fact way author Quinley tells us about Ohio.

You have to call a non-Amish bed and breakfast in the village if you'd like to eat at the Amish home: (440) 693-4186.

Some other Ohio travel spots to consider:

■ The whole Hocking Hills area, a highly recommended outdoor recreation area south of Columbus. "There's hiking here for all abilities, die-hards and beginner" says Quinley. Plenty of caves, rock formations and waterfalls.

■ The U. S. Air Force museum in Dayton - great for all ages.

■ Floodwall art at Portsmouth, a city down on the

Ohio River in south-central Ohio.

■ Toledo, especially the zoo and the "hippoquarium," where you can be "nose to nose with the hippo."

■ The Golden Lamb restaurant in Lebanon, Ohio, an old stagecoach stop. Literary (Charles Dickens) and political figures stayed at the inn. Meals served in one of several Ohio-American inspired dining rooms, are exceptional," Quinley writes.

■ Ohio as the state that produced the most presidents: Both William Henry Harrison and son Benjamin Harrison lived in North East; U.S. Grant was born in Point Pleasant; Warren Harding conducted the "front porch" campaign from his home in Marion; there is a Taft memorial in Cincinnati; the Rutherford B. Hayes center is in Fremont; William McKinley was born in Niles, Ohio, and lived in Canton, Ohio.

■ Quinley is neutral on Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She notes the museum is great for the early history and background of rock and roll. Teenagers may find it not as contemporary as they might imagine.

The book is organized by geo-

graphic regions, and the 52 chapters give you something to do for every weekend. At the end of each chapter are extensive phone numbers, addresses and Web sites, where possible, for the events and places discussed.

The book does have one small map. Anyone looking through the book for something to do will want to have a good Ohio map handy. Many weekend recommendations are a one- or two-hour drive. Those trips that go to the southern reaches of the state may take five to six hours.

From the book:

"The third Saturday in January attracts throngs of hikers to Hocking Hills State Park for the annual Winter Hike. Unpredictable January squalls often-times produce frigid, bone-chilling winds. The ranger-led six-mile trip weaves up, down and through a winter paradise of natural formed bedrock. Take a lunch break at Cedar Falls, the halfway marker. In extreme cold, the 90-foot waterfall at Ash Cave freezes, forming an awesome icicle mass."

A quick peek at this book will be sure to show some of that anti-Buckeye State feeling generated each year by Big Ten football games.

Quinley's book is available at B. Dalton in Westland Mall, Barnes and Noble stores, and Waldenbooks in Livonia. Quinley will sign copies of her book Saturday, Jan. 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Alfred Noble Branch of the Livonia library, 32901 Plymouth Road, Livonia; (734) 421-6600.

The writer makes her home in Livonia with her son and her husband, Fred.

NTC/Contemporary Publishing, is at 4255 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood (Chicago), IL 60712. The state's tourism office is very helpful: 1-800-BUCKEYE.


Doug Johnson is a retired Livonia school teacher who lives with his wife in Plymouth.


## Do you have a good idea for a travel story?

We are looking for stories and pictures about people who love to travel.  
Have you been to any faraway places?  
Been to places a day's drive

from northeastern Michigan?  
Had any funny, unusual or adventurous travel experiences?  
Gone on any notable cruises or group tours?  
If so, tell us about it by con-

tacting assistant managing editor Observer feature group Keely Wygonik by phone at (734) 953-2105; by fax at (734) 591-7279; by e-mail at kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net





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	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays	
5 AM	<b>NEWS &amp; INFORMATION</b>			5 AM
10 AM	<b>MUSIC VARIETY*</b>	<b>BLUES</b>	<b>CLASSICAL</b>	10 AM
12 PM		<b>FOLK</b>	<b>CAR TALK</b>	12 PM
7 PM	<b>NEWS &amp; INFORMATION</b>	<b>BLUEGRASS &amp; ACOUSTIC</b>	<b>MUSIC VARIETY*</b>	7 PM
10 PM	<b>JAZZ</b>			10 PM
5 AM	<b>MUSIC VARIETY</b> <i>*A progressive mix of rock, jazz, blues, folk, electronica and world music</i>			5 AM

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