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# Upstate Summer Fun

2010



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# Summer Fun - Right In Your Own Backyard

Teresa Farrell

Welcome to Upstate New York, where you can find summer fun around every bend. Explore the Adirondack mountains, lakes, rivers and streams; the Thousand Islands, and all its opportunities for recreational fun on the sparkling St. Lawrence River; the Finger Lakes, land of wine, lakes and gorges; or Central New York where beaches, festivals and special events will keep you smiling through Labor Day.

All over Upstate you'll find peaceful and tranquil countrysides, quaint villages and towns, and vibrant cities offering a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment choices. And the best news is, you don't have to venture far from home to take advantage of any or all of these great destinations. In fact, there are tons of exciting adventures waiting to happen right in your own backyard.



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**Special Thanks** to our promotional partner YNN for all the support they have provided so far, and will continue to provide throughout the summer, and to our loyal advertisers without whom this guide would not exist.

As Upstate Summer Fun continues to grow we look forward to providing our readers with the most informative and helpful guide possible. If you have suggestions for next year's edition, please send them to [submitfun@upstatenyfun.com](mailto:submitfun@upstatenyfun.com).

We wish you safe travels and hope you take advantage of all the fun that Upstate New York has to offer this Summer!

-John Farrell, Publisher

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Vacation is what summertime was made for. The long days and warm sunshine make it easy to spend a day, a weekend, or even a few weeks exploring your favorite things—or finding new ones. This issue is packed with ideas for summer fun that you might never have tried—or even thought about trying. How about kayaking or stand up paddling on the St. Lawrence River? Or hopping into a raft or tube for the type of adventure some only dream of: a whitewater trip?

Spend some time in the Finger Lakes where you can tour wine country, or set out on foot to explore state park gorges that seem to be untouched by time.

In the Adirondacks you'll find hiking trails that will please both outdoor-loving and wilderness-wary family members.

Fish the teeming waters of Lake Ontario and catch the big one, or grab a blanket and hit the sand for some much needed relaxation on the shore.

Cut your costs and double your memories by pitching a tent; there are camping opportunities at every turn. Or make it a day trip: wherever you live, there's sure to be something exciting nearby. You'll find that whatever you like, you can do it in Upstate New York. So go out and enjoy the summer and don't forget to keep Upstate Summer Fun close at hand. It's your premier source of things-to-do and places to go in 2010.



Find unexpected fun right down the road this summer!

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# Upstate NY Summer Events 2010

The days are longer, the weather's warmer, and the spirit of summer is all around. It's the time of year for all sorts of events and festivals in Upstate New York. Fireworks, concerts, county fairs and field days, craft fairs, art shows, antique shows, festivals, historical commemorations, races, car shows, boat shows—the list goes on and on. Here's a sampling of what's happening.

The Great American Irish Festival will celebrate Irish and Celtic culture again this summer. The festival runs from July 24-26 and features three stages of music as well as shopping opportunities, competitions and a 5K run.

Oswego is home to Harborfest July 22-25. Harborfest is fun for the whole family—between nationally-known entertainment, fabulous shopping opportunities, a midway, and a children's stage and activity area. The famous Harborfest fireworks show is sure to be one of the highlights of the summer; one of only 7 like it in the Northeast, the show may be the most famous part of Harborfest.

The Sterling Renaissance Festival is taking place July 3 – August 15 this year. The event features jousting, feasting, rides and games, an arts and crafts fair, in-costume performers, and 12 stages of entertainment—a fully interactive experience that feels much further away from home than it really is

Summer's the perfect time for music, so check out a concert or music festival. The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra tours throughout the summer, and the Earlville Opera House is hosting a wide range of acts to please all musical tastes.

In Central New York the Stockbridge Valley Balloon Rally will be held July 23-25 in Munnsville and the annual New York State Fair runs from August 26 through September 6 in Syracuse.

Sackets Harbor hosts the 39th Annual Can-Am Festival July 17 & 18 featuring music, a craft fair, parade, magic show, fireworks and more. On July 31 the North American War of 1812 Grand Tactical, an entire week of living history, interpreted by over 800 re-enactors from across the US and Canada comes to town.

The Thousand Islands is home to a seemingly endless list of great events starting with Clayton's brand new River Fest - a celebration of all things related to the St. Lawrence River, and ending in Alexandria Bay with The 10th Annual Blues in the Bay September 2-6. In between is the 46th Annual Antique Boat Show in Clayton, July 30- August 1, Bill Johnston's Pirate Days August 6-15 in Alex Bay, and much more.



Antique Boat Show, Clayton



War of 1812 Encampment, Sackets Harbor

In the Finger Lakes the Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival & Cardboard Boat Regatta takes place June 18 & 19, The Finger Lakes

Wine Festival is July 16 in Watkins Glen, and The Cobblestone Farm Winery hosts it's 6th Annual Cherry Festival June 26 & 27 in Romulus.

With so much to do in Upstate New York this summer, we encourage you to take a look at the following websites for calendars and event schedules.

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Saturday, July 24th  
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# Summer Fun for a Good Cause

As you enjoy your summer fun this year please remember those who need a helping hand. There are a number of fun events that raise money for worthy causes. Races, walks, performances, shows, auctions, special sales and more can be found in communities across Upstate New York. So walk, run, paddle, sail, shop, bid, buy and have fun. Below are few good causes, but don't stop there. At home or on vacation, if you look, you'll find many more ways to get involved and make a difference in someone's life.

**A Quilt for the Cure Fundraiser, Clayton, NY** in support of breast cancer research is planned for June 11-13, 2010 at the Biannual North Country Quilt Guild Quilt Show at Recreation Park Arena in Clayton, NY. Some of the mini-quilts that Guild members are making range in size from 8 inches to 30 inches Final bids on the mini-quilts will be taken at the June 11-13 show in Clayton with the auction on Sunday, June 13.



**Old Forge Paddle Classic** Old Forge Kiwanis is sponsoring the Old Forge Paddle Classic on Saturday June 26, 2010 at 9 AM.

There will be three races: a 6 mile course , a 12 mile course and The Kids Fun Race ( 9 years and younger). All races start from Pine Knoll dock on Old Forge Pond.

Registration will be at the Hemmer Cottage on the corner of South Shore Rd and Park Ave from 7:30 to 9:00AM. There will be prizes for each adult racing class. The Kids Fun Race will also feature prizes.

The fee for the race will be \$25.00 per adult racer and \$5.00 for each child. There will be food available. The race is being held to benefit the Kommunity Youth Activities Center in Old Forge. Registration will be limited to the first 125 boats total in the adult division. For more information please contact the Old Forge Information Center at 315 369-6983.

## Paddling for a Cure, Alplaus, NY



Photo by Paula L Symanski

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Paddling for a Cure", hosted by the Alplaus Ladies Auxiliary July 18, 2010.

Canoe and kayak enthusiasts of all abilities collect pledges for the American Cancer Society, then paddle up to 1.5 hours on the Mohawk River in Schenectady County NY. All money raised goes to the ACS to support their work related to breast cancer research, awareness and support. Over the past four years, Paddling for a Cure has raised over \$50,000.

Afterward, prizes, refreshments and T-shirts will be available. This is a fun and inspiring event that your whole family will enjoy, whether or not they paddle. Spend the morning on the shore of the Mohawk River and

cheer on all the paddlers. Are you a breast cancer survivor? A limited number of VIP survivors are invited to join the paddlers on the water aboard our "Survivor Pontoon Cruise". In addition, we are holding a raffle to win a 2010 Hurricane Santee 115 Kayak package valued at \$1029, made possible by The Boathouse.

Mark your calendar for July 18, 2010. Registration is from 8 – 9 AM, with a group launch at 9 AM from the docks of the Burnt Hills Rowing Association boathouse on Maritime Drive in Alplaus NY.

Registration is \$10, which covers the cost of insurance. Paddling for a Cure is sanctioned and insured by the American Canoe Association. Registration forms are available at [www.Alplaus.org](http://www.Alplaus.org). Don't have a canoe or kayak? Reasonably priced rentals are available at The Boathouse in nearby Niskayuna (518-393-5711).

For further information, raffle tickets, or registration forms contact Shawna Thompson at 518-399-0490 or Kathy Boyle at 518-399-0421. Check out our facebook page at Kathy Boyle Shawna Thompson.

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17th Annual Regatta  
Hospice Charity Cup

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[www.hospicecharitycup.org](http://www.hospicecharitycup.org)

# Try Something New This Summer!

Teresa Farrell

**H**alf the fun of traveling is trying new things. Each new location has unique foods to sample, special sites to see, and different festivals and events to attend. What many people don't realize is that when they're on vacation - whether in a spot they visit often or somewhere they've never been before - is that there are also lots of opportunities to learn how to do something new. In fact, there are opportunities all over Upstate New York.

In almost any destination, there are certified professionals waiting to teach you their specialty. Scuba lessons, sailing lessons, and water skiing lessons are popular, but there's more. Whatever you choose to do, learning something new this summer will make your trip more interesting and could even open up a new hobby.

Upstate New York is teeming with opportunities to do something bold and adventurous this summer. Even if you don't imagine yourself as the thrill-seeking type, trying a new experience can spice up a vacation. There's a thrilling activity fit for just about everyone.

## Horseback Riding

A more mellow activity, horseback riding is a way to get up close and personal with nature without setting out on foot. And, as many people realize when they saddle up - it can be pretty exciting to see things from this perspective. Don't forget to bring your camera!

## Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a great way to get some exercise and get your heart pounding. Explore with a guided tour, or go it alone; either bring a bike or rent one, but always make sure you have reliable maps. You can get lost easily in the woods. This a great alternative to hiking.

## Jet Boating

Riding on a jet boat is just pure fun. Sylvan Beach's 2,000 horsepower *Screamer* speeds across Oneida Lake



at 40 miles per hour—while that wouldn't seem like much on land, it's incredibly fast on the water. The ride lasts half an hour, and will cost around \$18 per person; well worth it for the adrenaline rush. You'll feel exhilarated long after you get back on land.

## Water Skiing/Wakeboarding/Tubing

Water skiing or wakeboarding is one of the original good-weather on-water traditions for thrill seekers. Zipping behind the

boat, gliding atop the water, feeling the spray on your face; few things come closer to pure joy. It's fairly easy to learn, though balance-challenged family members may want a little extra instruction to get them up on their feet. With a bit of practice, water skiing and wakeboarding can be a fun way to spend a day together. Bonus: family members who don't want to ski can relax in the boat and enjoy the ride while the rest take turns. Tubing is a fun alternative for those who choose not to ski. There's no learning curve - just get on the tube, hold on tight and enjoy the ride.

## Parasailing

You've probably driven by a lake or spent the day at the beach and seen someone high in the air behind a speedboat, dangling from a parachute. While it looks precarious, parasailing is actually one of the milder versions of up-in-the-air fun. If you choose to do it, you'll be harnessed in and lifted off into the sky for an amazing ride and unparalleled views. The sensation is more like floating than flying, so this activity is good for those who want the feeling of soaring.

## Scuba Diving

Scuba diving provides a different kind of experience. Rather than the intensity of high speeds or the distance of flight, scuba's fun comes from the element of exploring a world that looks like it belongs on a different planet. Sunken ships and underwater seascapes are more than fulfilling to the scuba diver. After all, exploring shipwrecks isn't something you do every day.

## Jet Skiing

Jet skiing feels like riding a motorcycle on the water. Climb atop a jet ski and you'll find an adventurous and versatile alternative to boat rides, one that allows you to play around with friends as well as see things from a different perspective. Easy to ride and easy to race, jet skis are available for rental at many marinas. And getting the hang of it is no problem.



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## Whitewater Rafting

Few things provide the same thrill as slamming your rubber raft into a wall of whitewater and coming out the other side drenched, scrambled, and in one piece. Though many trips aren't that intense—whitewater is an activity that can be fun for families and thrill seekers alike—the promise of an exciting time is a constant.

Trips are available in most regions, from an excursion of a few hours to an outfitted expedition of a few days, and intensity level changes depending on course, time of year, and water level. At the very least, it'll be a day of fun; at the most, it'll be a wild ride; but either way, a day of whitewater rafting is a day you'll never forget.



### Sky Diving

Skydiving has a reputation for being the ultimate in thrills for crazy adrenaline junkies. But it doesn't have to be that way. While this activity's not for everyone, there are professionals who will be happy to introduce anyone that fits the safety parameters (over the age of 18, in fairly good physical shape, etc) to the ultimate thrill of parachuting from a plane. With a mandatory safety briefing and tandem jump with an instructor, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

### Seaplane Rides

The feeling of being in a small plane is unlike anything else in the world. The aerial views are unparalleled, Seaplane rides combine all

the fun and the opportunity to get an intimate look at the wilderness with a licensed and experienced guide. The water landing is a thrilling experience in itself.

### Hot Air Balloon Rides

The floating ride in a balloon's basket is second to none when it comes to an up-close-and-personal experience in the air. Your guide will direct your course so that you travel over landmarks and enjoy gorgeous unobstructed views. Hot air balloon rides have long been a favored activity for couples—some places offer packages that allow you to sip champagne on your romantic ride. Stop and see our friend Dwight Cramer at Airborne Adventures in Munnsville, 315-495-6544 [www.flyairborne.com](http://www.flyairborne.com), and don't forget your camera; this is a once-in-a-lifetime photo op for sure.



# Experience the thrills of Whitewater Rafting



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# Thousand Islands Summer

*Teresa Farrell*

Something about the atmosphere of the Thousand Islands calls to a person. For centuries people have been awed by the breathtaking scenery. There is a sense of timelessness here; visitors find themselves wondering how the area has withstood the weathering of progress and change without losing its pristine grandeur and its air of tranquility. Along the riverbank dwells a spirit of home, a sense of well-being, belonging, and peace that always seems just out-of-reach in the hustle and bustle of

can't be erased or removed. It beckons to you when you're away, and it fulfills you when you return.

This region was referred to by the native people as the Garden of the Great Spirit. A more appropriate title could not have been bestowed upon it. Its natural beauty is enhanced by the stately homes dotting the shoreline and islands. Its rich history is woven through the maze of islands and shoals, awaiting discovery. Board a tour boat for an afternoon of relaxation while the guide regales you with the tales of a bygone era.

If you prefer a more personal experience, rent a boat or kayak from one of the areas many marinas and enjoy the beauty of the Thousand Islands in perhaps the most gratifying way possible - as your own river pilot. Stop for a swim or cast out a line. These pristine waters are home to a wide variety of fish, and you're sure to make a catch. For anglers craving the full experience of the St. Lawrence, guides are readily available. Most packages include a shore lunch, a decades-old river custom that makes use of the freshest fish and the most experienced hands to deliver a one-of-a-kind dining experience you won't want to miss.

For those who prefer to stay dry, the villages and towns along the St. Lawrence are brimming with activities and events. The area even boasts its own wine trail, a 78-mile stretch featuring four great wineries with tours and tastings available at each stop.

Keeping a cork on the vino? Stop into Alexandria Bay or Clayton for shopping, dining, and special events. The Bay even has a miniature replica of the Thousand Islands Bridge that you can cross on foot to Casino Island. Don't forget to wave to the tour boats as they pass by!

There's no shortage of things to do at The River. But who says you have to do everything in one visit? This is vacation! Resist the urge to stay in constant motion, and you'll discover a wealth of relaxing opportunity from your beach towel or lawn chair. Spend a day on the riverbank. Enjoy the golden sunshine. Soak in the splendor of the blue-green water, vibrant and bursting with crystalline sparkle as it flows lazily past. As the day winds to a close and sun slowly sets, the sky turns a brilliant array of colors; bright red, subtle pink, vivid orange, and light purple replace the daytime blue. Enjoy your front-row seat to one of the most dazzling sunsets you're likely to find not only in New York State, but anywhere.

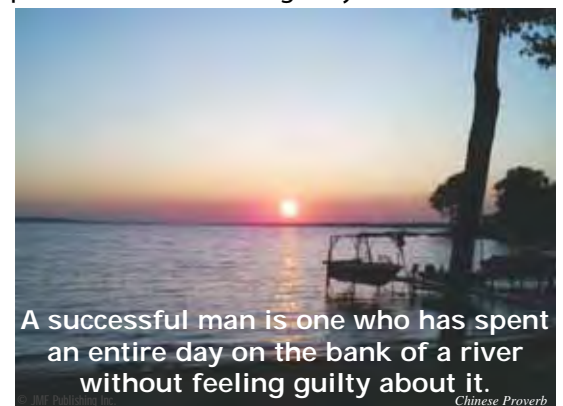
After the sun goes down, The River's splendor doesn't stop. Spend an evening around a blazing campfire, trading stories and roasting hot dogs and marshmallows with your closest friends and family, or head down to the riverbank and enjoy the awe-inspiring stargazing. With unobstructed views far from city lights, the stars look like diamonds sprinkled over black velvet. It's just one more reason why a Thousand Islands vacation is one of the most enjoyable experiences a person can have.

For more information or to plan your own St. Lawrence experience, visit [www.alexbay.org](http://www.alexbay.org), [www.1000Islands-Clayton.com](http://www.1000Islands-Clayton.com), [www.capevincent.org](http://www.capevincent.org), or [www.visitthousandislands.com](http://www.visitthousandislands.com). A thousand possibilities are waiting for you!



everyday life. A vacation in the Thousand Islands deeply affects a person. It's so refreshing and relaxing that just one taste of the region inspires people to return for years to come. Time spent here is truly unforgettable, regardless of how that time is passed.

The sensation is universal. It is impossible to visit the Thousand Islands without experiencing its magic. No matter who you are, where you come from, whether this is your very first St. Lawrence experience or you've been spending your summers here for years, there is a quality about "The River" that connects you with the countless others that have fallen in love with this place. The first time you set eyes on it, the first time you jump into that clear and cool water, the river becomes a part of you. It's something that





© TI Adventures

*Teresa Farrell*

When most people think of paddling and kayaking in Upstate New York, they usually imagine the endless rivers, streams and lakes of the Adirondacks. Indeed, that region is teeming with opportunity, but paddling enthusiasts and first-timers alike will be surprised and excited to discover a different paddling play land in Upstate New York: the Thousand Islands.

The Thousand Islands is famous for its natural beauty, buzzing tourist spots, romantic islands, and fishing and boating opportunities that are second to none. But the size of the St. Lawrence River, as well as boat traffic and the St. Lawrence Seaway,



© TI Adventures

mean that many people never consider the beautiful paddling opportunities that the region has to offer.

The Thousand Islands region is full of little surprises—quiet channels, inlets, and bays that are primed for exploration by a sleek, maneuverable craft small enough to fit through tight spots yet versatile enough to handle varying depths of water.

Jan Brabant, owner and operator of Thousand Island Adventures, has been renting kayaks, giving tours and educating people about paddling in the Thousand Islands for over 23 years, with 40 years experience in paddling. Still, Jan says, there's more to learn—and more to discover—about paddling this gorgeous region.

**USF:** What makes this area different from the Adirondacks?

**JB:** First of all, we have no bugs. [laughs] And within close proximity, I have to say: we have the best paddling in the eastern United States.

**USF:** Wow, that's incredible. Most people don't associate kayaking with the river. They think oh, there's boat traffic, there's a lot of high waves, there's so much going on, I can't paddle up here. But that's not true.

**JB:** It's not. You stay away from the boat traffic, but the high seas are a good thing. That's what makes us unique over the Adirondacks: we can go right up against those ocean paddlers. On Lake Ontario the waves are closer together, and that makes them more intense. We have water conditions for every level of paddling experience, but this area hasn't been marketed as a ocean kayaking area. It's largely untapped. And, if the wind's

blowing and you don't want to be out on the river you can paddle French Creek, Crooked Creek, or Chippewa Creek. There are marshes for bird watching. A half mile up French Creek there's a big wide open area called the Flat. It's about a foot and a half deep. Peregrines and terns fish that area. Just paddle out there, sit and chill for 10 minutes and the show will start. There's mink and muskrat, snapping turtles. You never know what you'll see.

Right here is a paddling paradise. It really is untapped. It is a jewel.

**USF:** That's really something special, because you don't find a lot of places where you can paddle so many diverse waters. That's a big deal.

**JB:** It is a very unique area. I think it has a lot to do with being able to go out and paddle the islands. On the Canadian side we have St. Lawrence Islands National Parks. On the American side Both Burnham Point and Grass Point State Parks have a designated site for kayakers only right down by the water. There's also Sugar Island, you can camp there if you join the ACA. Avoid the last week of July and the first week of August and almost nobody goes to Sugar Island. The diversity of the undiscovered in the area is really appealing.

**USF:** So what's the protocol with Canadian islands? There's some great kayaking over there, but would you have to go through customs?

**JB:** You're fine as long as you don't touch ground. As soon as you touch the ground, you're in Canada, and you have to register. You can go over to Misty Isle and report in. They give you a number and record how many days you'll be in Canada.

**USF:** So, you're the expert. Where would you send someone, a fairly new paddler, let's



© TI Adventures



say—where on the river would you suggest they start out?

**JB:** If you're a beginner, I'd say try Cedar Point to Clayton. What's unique is you paddle alongside the shore there, so it's better for a novice paddler. Between Cedar Point and Burnham Point you'll find a lot of big seas, so I'd say that's more advanced. If you set in at Tibbets Point Lighthouse in Cape Vincent, you can get real big seas. That's probably an



expert area. Further upriver, some people recommend putting in at Keewaydin, but you have powerboats everywhere. Once you get away from that concentrated area, down around Chippewa Bay, it's gorgeous. You could go to Fisher's Landing, even—anywhere from Grass Point down river is all unique. For the simplistic trips it's nice to do Eel Bay over to Cat Point. The going across can get to be a pain, but you can also start this trip from Wellesley Island. There's a good trip from Grass Point to Rocky Island. Or try the head of Grindstone down the backside to the beach. It really is a smorgasbord.

**USF:** Is there anything you would suggest for more advanced paddlers?

**JB:** If the wind's blowing, you can go up to Cape Vincent, off Tibbet's Point, to surf and play in the waves. If somebody wants to do the big expeditions, there's Galoo Island on Lake Ontario. There'll be a designated camping and nature observation site on the head of the island. There's also an observation area and campsites on Main Duck Island, which is about 20 miles out into Lake Ontario. I wouldn't recommend these trips to very many people, though. They've been very intense when we've done it. We've caught storms and high winds more than once, and it took 8 ½ hours to finish the trip. There's no place to stop—when you're in a kayak and a storm comes, there's not much you can do. You hunker down and throw your sea anchor out, and just make sure you stick together, because with the wind blowing, you can't even hear the person right next to you.

**USF:** That sounds intense! How about day trips? Is there anywhere you suggest people go?

**JB:** There's an easy trip down river a little. Put in at The State Park Nature Center on Wellesley Island (there is a fee) and do a short 2 mile paddle across Eel Bay to Canoe Point. It's a short trip, so it's good for kids, and there's hiking and all sorts of stuff you can do on the island. There's another day trip, Eel Bay based out of Fishers Landing. You can do a tour of the lighthouse.

**USF:** So obviously you send a lot of people out on trips. Which kayak in your lineup would you say is most popular up here?

**JB:** When you talk the river, you want length. For awhile I was the largest ocean kayak dealer in New York State. I sell a lot of sit on tops.

**USF:** Would you say that's the best kind to use?

**JB:** I would recommend a sit on top. A lot of places don't talk safety, the way the market's going. But when you're at a place where they sell kayaks from a safety perspective, a lot of people have sit on tops. Safety is our theme: I don't sell dark colored kayaks either.

**USF:** Is flipping over a concern?

**JB:** I always say, "What if?". If you have a ship bearing down on you and you're in a

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kayak that's full of water, you're not getting out of there. But if you have a sit on top you can crawl back up on it and get out of there. People say, "Oh, I want a sit inside so I can paddle early in the season". But when it's cold you should dress for the water. If you get thrown off, big deal, hop back on and go for the gold again.

**USF:** What type of trip would you suggest with a sit-on-top?

**JB:** You can do French Creek, or do a nice little jaunt from Grass Point to Rock Island and have lunch. That's where you want the sit on tops so if you flip over you can get right back on top. You're on the edge of the main narrow shipping channel, because you're in a cluster of islands. The ability to self rescue with a sit on top is paramount.

And I don't know if you know this, but we're offering a new sport: stand up paddle boarding. Some of the best paddle boarding is on the stretch from Cape Vincent to Clayton. What makes it neat is you can go into Cape Vincent, have a little lunch, and hop back on your board. On a windy day, with the way the prevailing winds blow, you can go off on a little stretch down there. You



© TI Adventures

could do Burnham Point to Cedar Point, and then it's 6.5 miles to Clayton.

**USF:** Besides the paddling, I know there's great fishing on the St. Lawrence. But would it be possible to go fishing from a kayak?

**JB:** The fishing potential is here, for sure. We have some of the best bass fishing in the country. Some of the biggest muskies in the US have been caught right here in 40 acres. What people don't understand is this river is

so big, there's room to do everything. People who have never been here sometimes have never seen a river this big. They refer to it as the lake.

But either way, just being out on the river is a great experience. It's beautiful. And to be in a kayak or on a paddleboard and watch a ship go by really puts things in perspective.



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## EXPLORE CLAYTON:

Clayton is the quintessential river village, a jewel of a peninsula surrounded by the magnificent St. Lawrence River. Come soak up the small town atmosphere. You'll find quaint shops and galleries, museums and outdoor activities ranging from hiking to kayaking to fishing and golfing.

One of your first stops should be the Chamber of Commerce, located on Riverside Drive. The friendly staff will answer all your questions and help with maps and guides and anything else you may need.

Do you love old boats? Check out the Antique Boat Museum (abm.org) home of the finest collection of nautical memorabilia in America. Take a step back in time at the Thousand Islands Museum (TIMuseum.org) and discover the history and heritage of the area. At the Thousand Islands Arts Center (TIArtsCenter.org) peruse the textile resources or arrange for a pottery class. In the evening reserve a seat for a performance at the Clayton Opera House (ClaytonOperaHouse.com). Performances range from classical concerts to bluegrass the theater production.

Summer sunsets provide a breathtaking backdrop for Clayton's Waterfront concerts at Frink Park on Riverside Drive any Thursday night in summer. Jazz, brass ensembles, military, country and contemporary music are featured at these popular evening events. The natural beauty of the River has inspired artists for centuries, so its no wonder that Clayton is home to a number of galleries. Perhaps you'd like to tour one of our local wineries. Clayton's climate, combined with the constant moisture flow from the St. Lawrence River is a perfect match for growing cold hardy grape vines. Coyote Moon Vineyards, located in Clayton, is making wine from four varieties. Open daily year round it hosts many festivals throughout the year.


There is no better way to experience the beauty of the St. Lawrence River than from a boat. Clayton Island Tours offers daily excursions from the village dock on Riverside Drive (ClaytonIslandTours.com). Travel to nearby Alexandria Bay and Boldt Castle and around the islands into Canada. It's easy to get your boat into the water too. The village provides a public launch, and docking at many points along the river. Clayton also has a number of well-equipped marinas where you can buy gas, supplies or dock for the evening. You can also rent kayaks and canoes, and small fishing and pontoon boats.

For two centuries Clayton has been the center of 1000 Islands fishing action. The clear waters of the St. Lawrence provide a fishing experience second to none. USA Weekend recently named Clayton and the Thousand Islands the number one bass fishing spot in the country. Local guides have boats equipped with the latest fishing tackle, electronic equipment and safety gear. Fishing maps, along with plenty of bait, tackle and advice, are available at local bait and tackle shops.


Kayaking is very popular in Clayton, and exploring the islands is an exhilarating experience. Venture by canoe or


# 1000 Islands • Clayton, NY

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kayak into the wilderness and wonders of the French Creek Wildlife Mgmt. Area (WMA). Small game and songbirds are found in here in open meadows and hardwood uplands. The WMA is also suitable for hikers and biking.

There are a variety of accommodations available in Clayton. Stay in a charming bed and breakfast in the village or camp at one of the scenic local campgrounds that line the river. Pamper yourself at a luxury resort, settle in at a family friendly motel or spend the week in one of the many cottages located along the river shores.

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# The Clayton River Festival

## June 24-27



Spend the weekend exploring the gorgeous and historic village of Clayton, NY at the Clayton River Festival, happening June 24-27, 2010! This festival weekend will focus on the natural features of the Thousand Islands Region. We want to highlight the many recreational opportunities on and near the River, and promote the many great organizations and businesses around Clayton. Clayton Island Tours is organizing the event in partnership

with local organizations and businesses, including the Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund, the Thousand Islands Land Trust, the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, Cross Island Farms, the Hawn Memorial Library, the Thousand Islands Art Center, Save The River, Plein Air Painters Thousand Islands Region, Coyote Moon Vineyards, and others.

The Clayton River Festival weekend's activities include Nature Boat Tours, live painting by Plein Air Artists, bird watching TILTreks with ornithologist Gerry Smith, a traditional Shore Dinner on Grindstone's Picnic Point, kayak



tours, free afternoon entertainment and a farmer's market in Frink Park, and an organic farm tour at Cross Island Farms on Wellesley Island. At Cross Island Farms, kids can meet the animals and learn about how they are raised on this special farm. The Minna Anthony Common Nature Center at Wellesley Island State Park will be hosting a Birds Of Prey presentation at their outdoor arena, featuring hawks, owls and eagles.

The Hawn Memorial Library will host a children's activity Saturday morning as part of their Children's Only book sale that weekend. There will be crafts, a book reading, and snacks available at the library. Stop by the Thousand Islands Arts Center and see what they have to offer for the family this summer. Visitors can see a hands on wheel throwing demonstration in the Pottery Studio, check out the current exhibit in the main building, and make a stop at the Gallery Store on James Street.

Saturday night will feature a concert by the Great Lake Swimmers with a presentation by photographer Ian Cristine, hosted by the Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund at the Clayton Opera House. The Great Lake Swimmers are a Canadian band with



strong ties to the Thousand Islands. They filmed a music video for their song Palmistry on the tall ship Fair Jeanne as it sailed through the islands last year. Ian Cristine is a long time fan of the band, and he will join them at the Clayton concert event to debut a multimedia presentation of his photos with their music. Ian will be signing his newly released fifth and final book, The Very Best of Ian Cristine's 1000 Islands, after the concert.

Free transportation and shuttle busses will be available all weekend, provided by the Freeman Bus Corporation. A shuttle will be running from the Cerow Recreation Park Arena, where there is plenty of free parking available, and dropping passengers at various places around downtown Clayton. Another free shuttle will provide transportation from Clayton to Wellesley Island for the special events happening there on Saturday.



The Clayton River Festival weekend is packed with events and activities, and thanks to the strong community support, there is something for everyone to do. Many thanks go out to all of our event sponsors so far: Clayton Rotary Club, American Legion Post 821, Clayton Lions Club, Cross Island Farms, JMF Publishing Inc, and Freeman Bus Corporation.

For a full schedule of events, please visit the Clayton Island Tours ecology website, [www.1000islandecology.com](http://www.1000islandecology.com), and click on the "Clayton River Festival" page. Call the Clayton Island Tours office at 315-686-4820, or email [islandtours@verizon.net](mailto:islandtours@verizon.net), for more information.

# Summer Eco-Tours

Star Carter

There is a place where cool, swift water flows through a generous sprinkling of lush green islands. It is a unique place, located far north of the equator, and hundreds of miles from the ocean coast. Here, the water and islands are teeming with an abundance of wildlife and natural beauty that has enticed people for hundreds of years. Welcome to the Thousand Islands Region of the St. Lawrence River.

The greatest way to experience the Thousand Islands is from the water. Each hidden channel, quiet cove, and marshy bay holds little secrets and treasures that smaller boats can uncover. At Clayton Island Tours, our pontoon boats hold forty-nine passengers and have shallow drafts, allowing guests to sit closer to the water and get closer to the islands for a very personal experience. We offer specialized tours that are fully narrated by our enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides, including an Island History Tour, and the popular Boldt Castle Tour. This past summer we were happy and very proud to launch our Nature and Ecology Program, which proved to be a resounding success.

## The Wilder Side

Dave Kay, owner of Clayton Island Tours, spends part of each year as the Captain of the National Geographic *Sea Bird*, an eco-cruise ship that tours the gorgeous waters off Alaska and Baja.

He was inspired by the beauty in his own backyard of Clayton, NY, to create a boat tour program that highlights the natural features of the St. Lawrence River. Dave approached Save the River! and the Thousand Islands Land Trust with his idea, and asked for their help and expertise to make the tours factual and educational. Together, they created a boat tour program that focuses on the ecology, habitats, wildlife, and environmental issues that are unique to the River.

In July, Dave brought me on as the staff naturalist to guide the ecology tours and expand the program. We were also very fortunate to have a naturalist from the *National Geographic Sea Bird* visit for a week to lend her knowledge and skills to make the program even stronger.

The Nature and Ecology Tour is a three hour boat tour that includes a nature walk on Grindstone Island. While on board the boat, we cruise by the nesting areas of several bird species including Ospreys and Common Terns. We are very conscious of keeping a respectful distance, especially during the nesting season when the adults are nervous and the young are vulnerable.

Though we would love to get as close as possible, scaring the adults off their nests could give predators an easy opportunity, and we want to observe the birds without agitating them. As the hatchlings get older, we can bring the boat in closer without disrupting the adults. We drift into a marsh cove that is home to an active beaver lodge, and where we often see painted turtles sunning on a submerged log and red-wing blackbirds flitting through the cattails. Halfway through the tour we dock at Picnic Point and enjoy a pleasant thirty minute walk on the Grindstone Island Nature Trail. The trail winds through state park land and property belonging to the Thousand Island Land Trust Island Preserve.

This is a wonderful opportunity for guests to see migratory songbirds in the forest preserve, amphibians and reptiles along the trail, and to learn about the Thousand Islands Land Trust's conservation efforts in the Thousand Islands Region. I spend a



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considerable amount of time talking about the environmental issues concerning the St. Lawrence River, including invasive species, seaway expansion, winter navigation, and wind turbines. Guests are often concerned about these issues, and after experiencing the beauty of the River, many have expressed interest in learning more and becoming involved. This is a wonderful opportunity to direct guests to Save the River! and the Thousand Island Land Trust, both located right next to our dock, where there are always opportunities for eager volunteers. We wanted to create a fun and educational program that inspired people to care about the Thousand Islands, and we have certainly succeeded.

## The River at Twilight

My absolute favorite tour is our Twilight Bird Watching Tour. The boat leaves the dock at six-thirty in the evening for a very special



hour and a half tour of the River. Twilight exposes the beauty of the River and the Islands in a way I have never seen before.

On very calm evenings there is a magical moment, after the sun sets, when the sky and the water are the same tranquil hue and one melts seamlessly into the other. The birds and mammals are very active in the coolness of the evening, and we observe many species fishing. This past summer we saw a loon pair with their young in the same location on nearly every Twilight Tour. Often, we heard them before we could see them. There is a primitive stirring, buried in an ancient piece of your soul, that is awakened by the wail of a loon at dusk. I saw it time and time again on the delighted faces of guests when the loons called. Our boat Captain would cut the engines, and as we drifted slowly past the loon family, we watched as the adults taught the young how to fish and dive. Being able to get so close to these beautiful birds and watch the young grow up was the highlight of my summer, and I know I will never forget the experience.

I would like to thank the people at the Thousand Islands Land Trust and Save the River!, whose continued help and support will expose people to the Thousand Islands Region, and educate them about this special and unique place. I hope to see you on the boat this summer!

Star Carter is the naturalist for Clayton Island Tours. Originally from Hawaii, she is now a permanent resident of northern New York. Always drawn to water and wildlife, she feels lucky to be working on the beautiful St. Lawrence River. Star has a degree in Animal Science from the University of Hawaii, and has recently started her Masters program at Penn State.

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# Thousand Islands Fishing Paradise

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*James G. Kolwaite, D.C.*

Mention the Thousand Islands to any vacationer who has been there and inevitably the topic of fishing comes up. Why? Because the region is known as one of the premier fishing destinations in the country. A 50-mile stretch of the St. Lawrence River from Cape Vincent to Ogdensburg, the Thousand Islands (over 1,700 islands) provide a fisherman with an endless variety of opportunities to catch some of the most popular game fish in the U.S.

From pan fish to musky, fish of every kind can be found here. The best part is, anyone can fish and do it successfully in the Thousand Islands. Often with no boat or fish-finder required!

Fishing from the shoreline is probably the easiest way to fish, especially with kids. Simply a worm on a hook can attract numerous species including perch, sunfish,



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bass, bullhead, and even northern pike. Fishing off of rock outcroppings and docks can give one access to deeper water and hence more variety of fish. If possible cast towards other exposed rocks, floating tree limbs or other docks as fish tend to congregate in these areas where they can hide from predators. Try casting a small floating lure into lily pads and other weeded

areas and retrieve slowly, oftentimes a lunker bass will be lurking just below the surface. No need to be an expert here. Bring a child fishing even if you don't know how - The reward you get from hearing a child yell, "I got one, I got one!" will make it worthwhile.

For beginning anglers removing the hook from the fish can be intimidating. Here are some tips. First bring the fish close to you hands, with one hand grab the fish around the fins below the gills. If the fish jumps let go of it and try again. (Some fish have teeth and sharp fins, which can cut!) Try to back the hook out the way it went in, use pliers if needed. If the hook is swallowed try to gently back it out with pliers. If you can't get at it or are planning to keep the fish, then simply cut the line. The fish can survive with the hook still in it.

Fishing from a boat is probably the best way to truly feel the essence of the Thousand Islands. There are a number of boat rentals throughout the Thousand Islands to make this a reality. The scenery alone is enough to justify an all day experience on the water. Surrounded by dozens of islands at any given point, one has endless coves and bays to duck in and out of to try their luck. The use of a depth finder (navigation charts are a must!) is highly recommended due to the number of shoals and shallows in the river, but is not always necessary for finding fishing spots. With the recent influx of algae eating invasive species such as the zebra mussel, the once murky St. Lawrence River has become one of the clearest fresh-water ways in the country. It is possible to see the bottom from 60+ feet! While this "clearing" created havoc with fishing in the 1990's, it has made the St.

Lawrence River safer for shoal wary boaters and can be to your benefit while looking for places to fish. If you want to fish in 10 to 15 feet of water and don't have a depth finder just simply look down to the bottom to gauge the depth!

While I have my favorite places to fish in the Thousand Islands almost anywhere will do. Anyone can catch fish in about 8 to 15



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feet of water that contains a weed bed. On a clear day weed beds are easy to spot from a distance by looking for large darker than usual areas of water. (Wearing polarized sunglasses makes this easier) On an overcast day you may want to stay closer to shore for a better chance of finding weed beds. When you get close to the weed bed look and see if the weeds rise up from the bottom at least 3

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to 6 feet. If they don't rise at least 3 feet then move on to another bed. Predator fish need tall weeds tend to hang out in while they wait for unwary prey fish to swim by. When you find a suitable spot, stop the boat upstream from the weed bed so you drift toward it while you fish.

A rod and reel with 10 to 12 lb test line will be adequate for any larger fish that may bite. A simple jig with a plastic worm or spinner bait is all you need. Cast the lure or bait toward the weed bed and let it sink about 2 to 3 seconds (to keep it above the weeds) and reel it in. If you are snagging weeds then you are letting the lure sink too much. Just "bumping" the weeds by feeling slight tugs on the lure as you're reeling is the best way to present your bait to curious fish. Have your net ready! You do not have to do any of this perfectly to get a bite. A little trial and error and anyone can enjoy the rush of catching a fish. By the way, if you go a long time without a bite you may need to reel a little faster.



A vacation to the Thousand Islands just would not be complete without some fishing. It doesn't matter if you're an expert or a beginner, a little practice, a little luck, and a worm and hook are all you need!

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NE OF THE 1000 ISLANDS BRIDGE CALL 482-2021

# OTTER CREEK WINERY

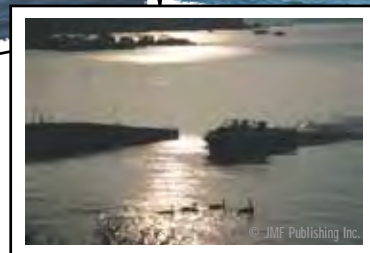
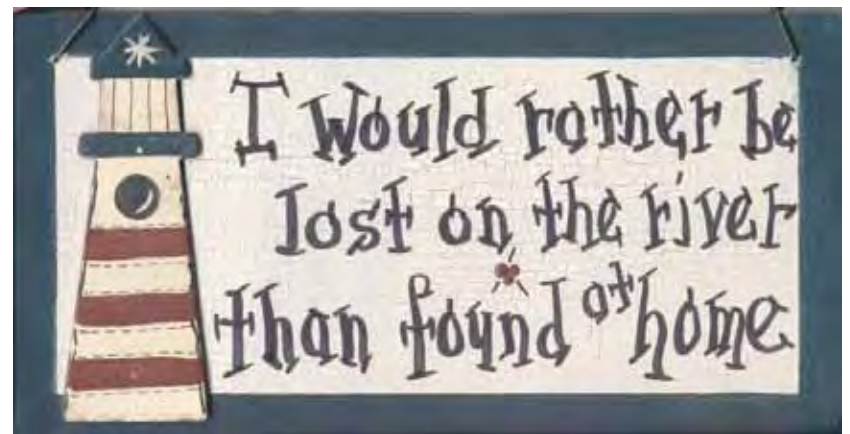
"Otter Creek Winery, named after the creek it overlooks, is found in New York's newest grape growing region. Located on a farm just outside of Philadelphia, it opened in April of 2007 and currently produces 5,000 gallons of twelve different kinds of wine. Philadelphia was originally famous for the birthplace of cream cheese, now it will add wine to its distinguished list of historic accomplishments. Come and pick your favorite wine, while you enjoy the beautiful view from the tasting room situated on a knoll, overlooking the vineyards, with sheep grazing below. Kyle Hafemann is proud to be New York's youngest winery owner. He takes pride in his dedication to offering great tasting wines and scenic views at Otter Creek Winery."



Directions: From State Rte 11 take State Rte 26 North at the light in Philadelphia. Then take the second right onto County Route 28. Turn at the first left onto Rudes Road. Follow signs.

Rudes Road, Philadelphia, NY  
315-642-0622

[www.ottercreekwinery.com](http://www.ottercreekwinery.com)





# Alexandria Bay

## Heart of the Thousand Islands!

Welcome to Alexandria Bay, located in the heart of the 1000 Islands Region. "The Bay" is the perfect place to make memories this summer. There are 1,864 islands throughout the St. Lawrence River and the most famous islands are located near or in Alexandria Bay.

Famous Boldt Castle, built by George Boldt for his wife Louise, is located directly in the heart of Alexandria Bay on Heart Island. Down river 10 miles is Singer Castle, built by the sewing machine magnate Frederick Gilbert Bourne. Both castles are a must to see.

The highlight of the summer is our events series, sponsored by the Alexandria Bay Chamber of Commerce. 2010 events include:

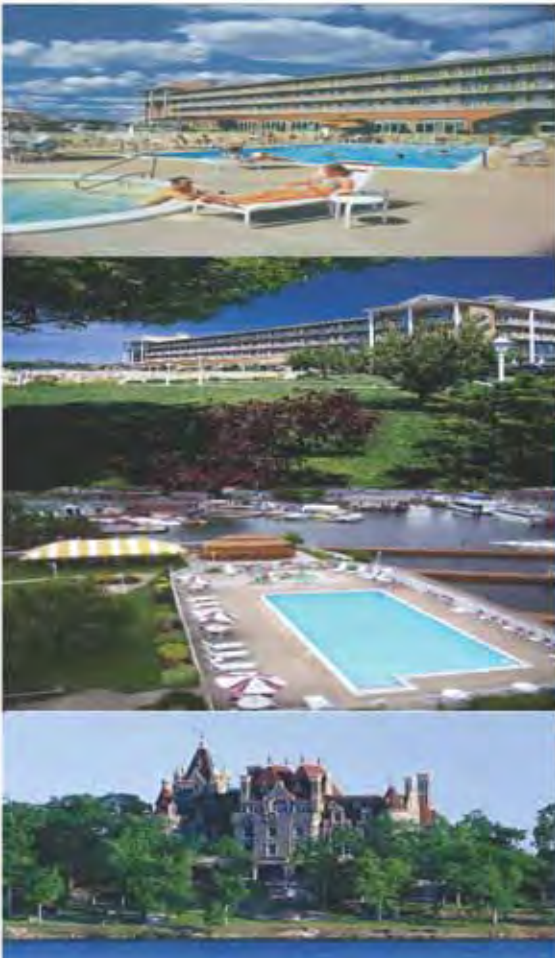
- The 33rd Annual Blessing of the Fleet (May 30);
- Village Wide Yard Sales (June 5 & September 11);
- Alexandria Bay Poker Run (June 18-20);
- Thousand Islands River Run Motorcycle Rally (June 25-27)
- Independence Day Fireworks over Boldt Castle (July 4);
- Craft Fairs (July 17-18, Sept 4-6)
- Bill Johnston's Pirate Days (August 6-15)
- Rockin' The Bay (August 27-29) (New Event)
- Blues in the Bay (Sept 2-6)
- Free concerts in the park every Wednesday

- Farmer's Marketplace every Friday

Our summer events become more popular year after year and all our events are FREE to the public. All you need to do is come and join in the fun!!!

Alexandria Bay is a true family destination that offers something for everyone:

- Boat Tours of the Islands (including Millionaires Row, Boldt Castle, and Singer Castle)
- Fishing (Northern Pike, Walleye, Black Bass & the mighty Muskie). Fishing Guides are available to take you out for an enjoyable day of fishing
- Hotel Accommodations (from Bed & Breakfast to 5 Star Hotels)
- Dining (32 restaurants featuring a variety of cuisines)
- Shopping (there are over 20 shops to find that perfect memento of your stay)
- Entertainment (there are local pubs & restaurants featuring live entertainment nightly)
- Running & Biking trails along NYS Route 12 marked as the Seaway Trail
- Nature Trails for the serious hiker at the Minna Anthony



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# Alexandria Bay

THE ♥ OF THE 1000 ISLANDS, NY



**Visitor Guide 2010**

[www.alexbay.org](http://www.alexbay.org)

To get your **FREE** 2010 Visitor's Guide

Call 1-800-541-2110 or  
visit our website at  
[www.alexbay.org](http://www.alexbay.org)

**Alexandria Bay Chamber**  
**7 Market Street**  
**Alexandria Bay, NY 13607**  
**info@alexbay.org**

**Your Guide To**  
**Shopping, Restaurants, Taverns,**  
**Entertainment, Lodging,**  
**and much more!**



- Nature Trails for the serious hiker at the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center at Wellesley Island State Park
- The Thousand Islands-Seaway Wine Trail
- State Parks and RV Parks
- Scuba Diving (view the the St. Lawrence River's intriguing shipwrecks)
- Conference Centers at our major resorts



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- Wedding sites available for both the ceremony and/or reception
- Golf Courses throughout the region (9 hole Municipal Course or 18 hole courses)
- Family Activities (mini golf, aquarium, maze, batting cages, beach, play area) all within an easy drive or walk from your hotel.

Alexandria Bay is the destination for families to visit in the 1000 Islands-Seaway Region. Come visit and take home memories that will last a lifetime.

Alexandria Bay Chamber of Commerce  
7 Market Street Alexandria Bay, NY 13607  
Free local visitor guide  
800-541-2110, or 315-482-9531 [www.alexbay.org](http://www.alexbay.org)

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10:00AM - 6:30PM  
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OPEN TILL 5:30PM  
OCT. 4-11, 16 & 17

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& FARMERS MARKET  
SAT. SEPT. 15

Boat tours from both  
the U.S. and Canada stop at  
Heart Island. Extensive docking  
is available for private water craft.  
A shuttle from Heart Island  
provides access to the  
Boldt Castle Yacht House.

Boldt Castle is owned and  
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The Thousand Islands  
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of the Capital Corridor  
([www.thecapitalcorridor.com](http://www.thecapitalcorridor.com))  
and is a major link between  
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and Highway 401 in  
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N 44°20.680' x W 075°55.350'  
**BOLDT CASTLE DVD**  
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**ASK FOR OPERATOR 10**

**Boldt Castle** is the most popular attraction in the Thousand Islands, boasting over 230,000 visitors from May to October each year. The timeless love story of George and Louise Boldt has been a favorite for generations of people. The beauty of the structure and its setting make it a fun and interesting tourist destination not to be missed on any visit to the Thousand Islands. Boldt Castle stands as a remembrance to the magnificence of a bygone era.

Kids will love exploring the castle, especially Astler Tower, the Boldt children's playhouse. This four-story structure includes a bowling alley, swimming pool, billiards room, ballroom and plenty of space to play.

Visit Heart Island, imagine the magnificence that might have been. Wander through Boldt Castle and let your thoughts take you into another world. This romantic Island provides the setting for the saddest love story ever told.

The Boldt Yacht House on Wellesley Island, is the new home to the 1892-built Kestrel, a 63-foot steam yacht similar to those that were popular on the St. Lawrence River at the turn-of-the-century.

Boldt Castle is located on Heart Island in the 1000 Islands, Alexandria Bay, New York 13607. Boat tours from both the U.S. and Canada stop at Heart Island. Extensive docking is available for private pleasure craft. A shuttle from Heart Island provides access to the Boldt Castle Yacht House. For more information please call 1.800.847.5263.



ON HEART ISLAND · ALEXANDRIA BAY, NY 13607 · 1-800-847-5263 · [WWW.BOLDTCASTLE.COM](http://WWW.BOLDTCASTLE.COM)



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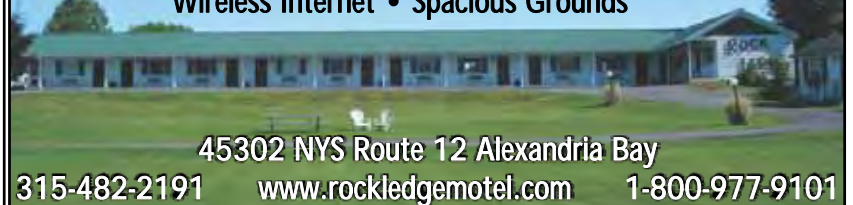
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# Thousand Islands Wine Trail

Teresa Farrell

Imagine a place where lush, rolling farmland and gorgeous blue skies are a regular part of the landscape; where the summer sun drenches the countryside; where fields of luscious grapes sit ready to be made into some of the nation's award-winning wines. The kind of place where you want to roll down the windows and let the warm breeze wash over you. The kind of place where even the air smells sweet.

No, it's not California.

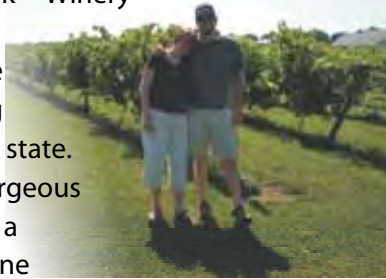
It's the Thousand Islands!

Surprised? Come see for yourself! The Thousand Islands region has always been home to some of the most breathtaking scenery and unique vacation opportunities in Upstate New York. The Thousand Islands Seaway Wine Trail opened in 2007. With nineteen vineyards, four wineries, and one

grape nursery, this trail provides an excellent variety and favorites of Thousand Islands Wine.

Coyote Moon Vineyards, Thousand Islands Winery, Yellow Barn Winery, and Otter Creek Winery

produce some of the best tasting wine in the state. Offering gorgeous views and a variety of wine



for tasting, the best part is this: wherever you are in the Thousand Islands, you can get to at least one winery, regardless of how much time you have. Although not all of the vineyards are open to the public, the Seaway Cold Hardy Grapes & Vineyard in Evans Mills is. Stroll through and witness the process of

grape growing and all the work that goes into these fantastic Thousand Islands wines..

Otter Creek Winery overlooks the rolling vineyards while the sheep graze below. Coyote Moon overlooks a view of the farmland surrounding it, and Thousand Island Winery lies on the banks of the Saint Lawrence River. Yellow Barn Winery - true to its name - is enclosed in an old-fashioned barn complete with antique charm.

The Thousand Islands-Seaway Wine Trail winds through 78 miles of the most beautiful and historic land in Jefferson County. Museums and galleries are plentiful and offer events, concerts, fireworks and special weekends throughout the year. Parks and picnic areas—whether within a state park or just at a scenic spot along the way—are a fun way to eat outdoors.

This is one of the premier areas in the



Thousand Islands Winery



43298 Seaway Ave Alexandria Bay, NY (315) 482-9306  
**FREE WINERY TOURS & WINE TASTINGS DAILY**  
 OPEN YEAR ROUND: 1 Jan - 13 April 10AM-5PM  
 4 April-15 June 10AM-6PM • 16 June-9 September 10AM-8PM  
 10 Sept-31 Dec 10AM-6PM

**2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| May 29th 12-8pm.....Grape Blossom Festival  | July 10th 4-8pm.....Winery Birthday Bash |
| September 4th 2-6pm.....Blues at the Winery | October 2nd 12-8pm.....Oktoberfest       |

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[www.newyorkwines.org](http://www.newyorkwines.org)

Check out [www.thousandislandswinery.com](http://www.thousandislandswinery.com) for more information on winery events, online shopping, directions & general info.



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[www.coyotemoonvineyards.com](http://www.coyotemoonvineyards.com)

This is one of the premier areas in the state where climate, rich soil, and moisture in the air combine to create a perfect environment for growing cold-hardy grapes. These varieties were developed at the University of Minnesota, and were specially designed to stand up to the colder weather of the Northeast to create bold, complex, flavorful wines. The end product is more than 43 varieties of high-quality, unique and delicious wines to choose from.

The wineries offer variety to please any taste from dry to sweet, red to white and everything in between. Tastings are available at all four wineries. Stop into Coyote Moon to sample their wine slushy: a delicious combination of grape juice and sweet red wine. Whatever you choose, be sure to bring home a few extra bottles to serve over the winter, when memories of your sweet summer wine tour come pouring back.

# OTTER CREEK WINERY

"Otter Creek Winery, named after the creek it overlooks, is found in New York's newest grape growing region. Located on a farm just outside of Philadelphia, it opened in April of 2007 and currently produces 5,000 gallons of twelve different kinds of wine. Philadelphia was originally famous for the birthplace of cream cheese, now it will add wine to its distinguished list of historic accomplishments. Come and pick your favorite wine, while you enjoy the beautiful view from the tasting room situated on a knoll, overlooking the vineyards, with sheep grazing below. Kyle Hafemann is proud to be New York's youngest winery owner. He takes pride in his dedication to offering great tasting wines and scenic views at Otter Creek Winery."



**Directions:** From State Rte 11 take State Rte 26 North at the light in Philadelphia. Then take the second right onto County Route 28. Turn at the first left onto Rudes Road. Follow signs.

**Rudes Road, Philadelphia, NY  
315-642-0622**

[www.ottercreekwinery.com](http://www.ottercreekwinery.com)

# YELLOW BARN WINERY

**Open 11-6 7 Days a Week  
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315-782-1824  
[www.yellowbarnwinery.com](http://www.yellowbarnwinery.com)**

**Call for hours after Columbus Day**

**Directions:** I-81 exit 45, west on Route 3 to to the yellow light, junction Rt. 3 & Rt. 180, turn left onto Salt Point Rd.(Co. Rt 66). Winery is one mile on left.

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# Welcome to Sackets Harbor

## YELLOW BARN WINERY

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[www.yellowbarnwinery.com](http://www.yellowbarnwinery.com)

Call for  
hours after  
Columbus Day

Directions: I-81 exit 45, west on  
Route 3 to the yellow light,  
junction Rt. 3 & Rt. 180, turn left  
onto Salt Point Rd.(Co. Rt 66).  
Winery is one mile on left.

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Over 200 Animals • Mini Golf  
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Ride the Moo-Town Trolley for a fun, fascinating  
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Sackets Harbor, NY

[www.OldMcDonaldHasAFarm.com](http://www.OldMcDonaldHasAFarm.com)

### Westcott Beach State Park

is located just minutes outside the  
village of Sackets Harbor  
on NYS Route 3.  
Swimming, picnicking, and camping  
are available.



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## Welcome to Sackets Harbor, New York - a "Harbor of Destiny"!

Sackets Harbor is a charming, quaint and historical community nestled on the shores of eastern Lake Ontario, with its harbor on beautiful Black River Bay.

Begin your journey at the Visitor's Center, the home of our founder Augustus Sacket, where there are exhibits, brochures, a video on the history of Sackets Harbor and information regarding tours. The Visitor's Center is located at 301 W. Main St. You may call ahead at 315-646-2321 or go to [www.sacketsharborny.com](http://www.sacketsharborny.com) We're proud to be one of New York State's Heritage Areas, and we think you'll agree our village is the perfect place to come for your next vacation.

Sackets Harbor offers a multitude of fun activities and events for the entire family as a weekend getaway or a year-long stay.

Visit the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site, historic Madison Barracks, the Seaway Trail Discovery Center and our historic Military Cemetery. Shop at a variety of specialty stores, or dine at local restaurants (indoors and out). Enjoy waterfront concerts, catch a comedy/show at Lake Ontario Playhouse, taste fresh on-site ales at a brew pub. Dock at one of our well-equipped marinas or our municipal day time docking. Choices abound for entertainment in and around our village. Within 2 miles there's Yellow Barn Winery, Westcott Beach State Park, a children's interactive farm

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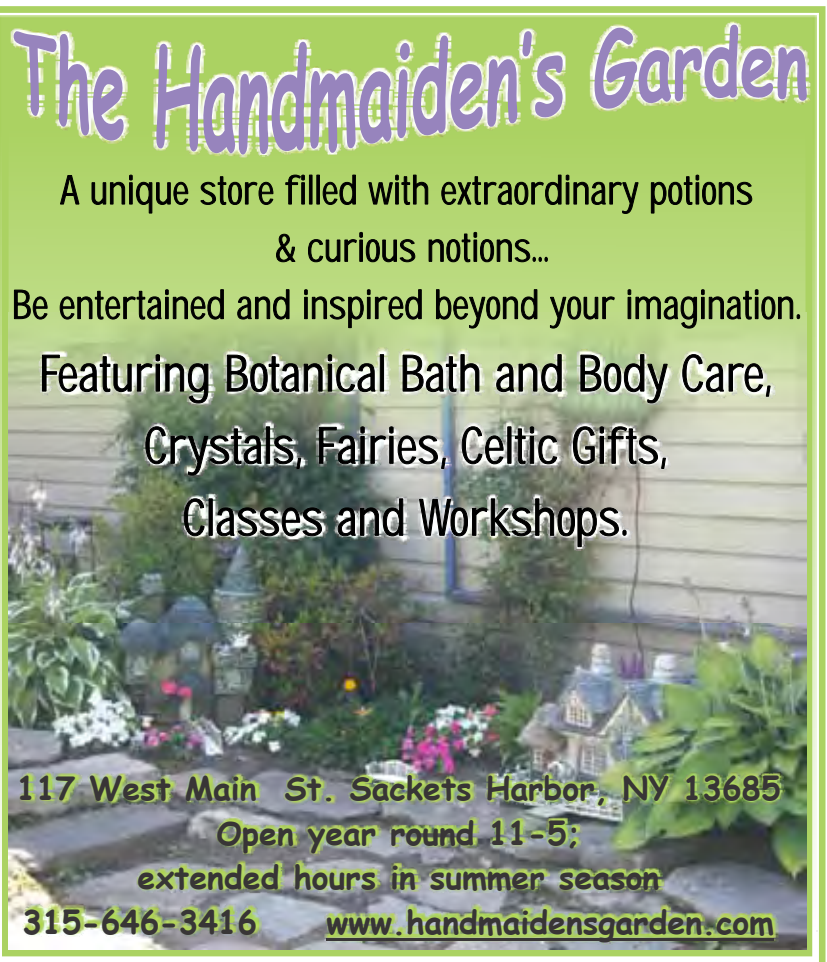
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# A Short Drive to Summer Fun

## SACKETS HARBOR 2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SAT- MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> 8-4 pm **YARD SALE DAY**

SAT JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> '1812 **BEER & WINE FESTIVAL**'

SAT JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> 'CAR SHOW'

**FOURTH OF JULY "Fireworks"**


Held at the Sackets Harbor State Historic Site

JULY 17 & 18<sup>TH</sup> "39<sup>th</sup>" **CAN AM FESTIVAL**

Enjoy the huge parade at 11:00 am, shop at our greater than ever Craft Show, and eat at our food vendors. Musical events throughout the day to include 'FRED & THE EDS' performing in the evening on Saturday prior to the gigantic FIREWORKS!

JULY 31 & AUG 1<sup>ST</sup> 'GRAND TACTICAL'

AUG 7<sup>TH</sup> 'TASTE OF NY'




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[www.sacketsharborny.com](http://www.sacketsharborny.com)

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Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site  
Sackets Harbor Battlefield and its role in the War of 1812 is interpreted to the public by exhibits, outdoor signs, guided and self-guided tours, and a restored 1850's Navy Yard and Commandant's House. During the summer months, guides dressed in War of 1812 period military clothing reenact the camp life of the common soldier.  
(315) 646-3634 for events: [www.sacketsharborbattlefield.org](http://www.sacketsharborbattlefield.org)

# War of 1812 Grand Tactical July 31 - Aug.1



Organizers of the North American War of 1812 Grand Tactical selected the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site for their 2010 major event that draws re-enactors from across the nation and neighboring Canada. The event is scheduled for Saturday July 31 and Sunday August 1. Coordinating the weekend event is the Sackets historic site's not-for-profit support group The Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance, Inc.

Grand Tacticals annually alternate between the United States and Canada, attracting large numbers of participants and spectators. This is the first War of 1812 Grand Tactical for New York State's north country. The Sackets Harbor site was selected for its battlegrounds authenticity and ranking by the National Park Service as one of the top ten War of 1812 sites in the nation.

Experience life during the War of 1812 as living history re-enactors and sutlers (period merchants) gather at the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site. A full schedule of demonstrations fills Saturday from 9am to 8pm and again on Sunday from 9am to 3pm. There is a nominal admission fee.

Visitors will experience military formations and drills, see artillery and tactical demonstrations, listen to military music, shop for period merchandise and crafts, take part in 19th c. children's games and watch both land and sea battle tactics. Bateaux and sailing ships add to the excitement and authenticity of the living history weekend.

This gigantic Grand Tactical kick-off to the upcoming War of 1812 Bicentennial will give everyone a taste of what's to come during the three-year cross-border observance starting in 2012.

For more information, contact the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site (NY) 315-646-3634, [www.sacketsharborbattlefield.org](http://www.sacketsharborbattlefield.org)



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**VERA BRADLEY** Brighton Jewelry

# Lake Ontario's Eastern Basin - Home to Huge Lake Trout!

by Captain Bill Saiff III

Several seasons ago, I shared the back deck of my charter boat with legendary Lake Ontario Skipper – Capt. Paul Baldwin. Baldwin, experienced with fishing the Oswego area was now operating from the Eastern Basin near his camp on Point Peninsula. On this morning, he joined me as we powered out of Henderson Harbor towards the deep water off what Eastern Basin anglers call “The Finger”. “The Finger” is a long deep water shoal that heads southwest off Stony Point Lighthouse. The deeper water that lies just off the end of this shoal has long been known as a hot spot for big Lake Trout. Capt. Baldwin and I would be working this area as we filmed Laker fishing techniques for the “Rod & Reel” television program.

We fished southwest into deeper water catching many fish in the 23” to 30” inch range. These specimens tipped the scales at between 5 and 10 pounds. The big fish that we were looking for would be over 30” inches in length and would be in excess of 15 pounds. When we crossed the 160 ft. contour, three of the four set downrigger rods popped and the sheer weight at the end of the line told us that we had finally accessed a school of good Lakers. The Laker on the starboard outside rod pulled free but the remaining two were hooked tight and reluctantly coming towards the boat. Big Lakers often stay deep and pull straight down as the angler slowly gains two feet of line at a time. When Paul’s fish finally surfaced, I could see that it was a great fish. The Laker was big, measuring 34” inches and weighing 17 lbs. Capt. Paul quickly released the fish and turned to the netting duties of the fish on my line. This big fish was doing his absolute best to regain the cooler waters near bottom and Capt. Paul was doing his best to admonish me for pulling out of fish

#1. Big Lakers don’t exhibit the line burning runs of King Salmon but their dogged battle has a charm all its own.



Flashers and Flies are a deadly recipe for deep water Lakers

© Bill Saiff Outdoors

The Lake Trout’s comfort zone is in the mid 40 degree range. When Lake Trout are hooked during the warmer summer months, they will do their best to stay in this more comfortable water column. The big fish finally surfaced near the back of the boat and Paul slipped the landing net underneath the brute. 37” inches and 20 ½ lbs. was the final tally on this fish as we released him to fight another day on the big pond! Lakers like this are not uncommon in-fact many are taken each season that fall between 20 and 30 pounds. In 2003’ Capt. Jeremy Read hung a huge Laker that measured 41 ½ inches and weighed 30 lbs. 4 oz. Are these big fish still available? – You bet! Here are the times, places and techniques you’ll need to get tight on one of these big fish.

## June – Shipping Lanes!

Veteran Lake anglers know that the eastern basin’s shipping lanes are the hot spot for July Kings but many don’t realize that before the Kings show up this can be pay dirt on Lake Trout. Lakers during the month of June stratify along the walls of the Shipping Lane, at or around the 100 ft. contour. They can generally be found there throughout the month of June. In the early

90’s, this was a great place to catch smaller Lake Trout. The fish in this region represented more recent stockings and had not achieved the years of growth needed to make them trophies. Today, this group of fish is much older and basically untouched by anglers. Walleye and Pike take much of the angling pressure during the spring and early summer so deep water Lakers are getting fat and happy in their off-shore haunts. Cowbells are the proven attractor for Lake Trout on Lake Ontario. The best June color at the Shipping Lane is Silver/Lazer Green followed 32” behind by small and medium sized two tone green spin n’ glo’s. These baits are usually set on the outside riggers and run within 5 feet of the bottom. The third deep rigger can be either of the two remaining riggers located on the stern. This rod is usually rigged with a Northern King “Watermelon” cowbell and a mini wobble troll known locally as a “Peanut”. The best procedure for fishing this area is to pre-set your riggers over deep water. Once this has been done, the angler can attack the wall at a very shallow angle bringing the set baits in

just over the top of stratified trout. The shipping lane wall is extremely sheer and takes concentration to run effectively.

Once baits are in position it will take little time to hook-up on Lakers. These fish will generally come in the form of doubles and triples. For safety purposes, we generally turn off the wall and fight the fish over deep water where we can slow or stop the boat as anglers crank in big

Capt. Bill Saiff III and daughter Cierra hold a trophy Lake Trout taken near the bottom in 165 feet of water



© Bill Saiff Outdoors

trout. The last stern rigger is usually set with a small #3 Black/Silver Evil Eye that is run 20 feet back and 10 feet over the top of the other riggers. Big Lakers that move up off the bottom will often take this bait as it swims along behind the flash of the cowbells. This spoon will also prove deadly on any early Kings that are frequenting the region. Current can run strong in the shipping lanes and this can effect how baits are trolled. Lakers will usually hit when the speed at the weight is between 1 and 1.5 knots. Remember, big Lakers don't expend lots of energy chasing bait. Crawling baits by the nose of lethargic Lakers can instigate a strike from hungry fish as well as those with a full stomach. Lakers that are "Fed -Up" are notorious for striking light so hooks that are super sharp and strong are a must. It is entirely possible that you could end up landing a 20 lb+ Laker on the single barb of a small treble hook.

### August through Early September

More derby-winning Lakers have come from the waters southwest of Stony Point than anywhere else on Lake Ontario. The month of August is a great time to access big

fish as they school up in cool pockets of deep water. Lakers of different sizes will co-mingle but veteran anglers know that when you find the big fish (over 30" inches), there will generally be more with them. During the late summer, cowbell colors can mean the difference between wild action and occasional bites. The baits trolled behind the cowbells can also be of varying sizes. A great Loran number for starting your pursuit on the "Finger" would be 15855.0/60155.0. This number represents the very end of Stony Point's deep water shoal. This is an excellent place to start as anglers can look for Lakers on top of the shoal in 105 feet as well as in front of the shoal in 140 feet. When Lakers are found in the deep water, pay close attention to the size of the trout being boated. When trout are under 30" inches, start angling the boat towards deeper water. The bottom in this region is mostly hard packed sediment. Anglers can and should keep at least two of their riggers touching or within 6" inches of bottom. Continue to fish deeper until larger trout are encountered. When you find the big fish, mark them on your chart plotter and go to work. The Saiff Fleet uses Lowrance chart plotters like the



articles in the past where I referred to the Silver/Purple combination as the "Big Fish Rig" for Lake Ontario Lakers. Since the advent of oversized Cowbells, many anglers have forgotten about fishing dodgers for big trout but their effectiveness remains consistent. Trolling near the bottom will keep anglers dialed in on the majority of big Lakers but there will be plenty of times when the sonar shows stratified Lakers that are up feeding on Alewives rather than deep water Sculpin. When these higher marks are encountered, get the wire in the water and load up on these big fish!

The past 4 years has been nothing short of spectacular on Kings, Browns, Pike and Walleye. This great fishing has taken much of the pressure off stores of Lake Trout. These Lakers are a slow growing fish but can easily exceed 60 years of age. The bulk of Lake Ontario's depths are unmolested by fishermen so it's a safe bet that there are Lakers in these haunts dying from old age. The current Lake Trout record for Lake Ontario is 38 lbs. 9 oz. but most veteran skippers will tell you that it's a safe bet that examples well over the 40 lb. mark are lurking somewhere. The Eastern Basin already has the reputation for big Lakers and since the earliest stockings took place here – it's just natural for the next behemoth to come from these waters. Maybe this summer!

Capt. Bill Saiff III owns and operates the Saiff Fishing Fleet in Henderson Harbor. When not on the water he can be found at Bill Saiff's Westview Lodge and Marina—a hub of fishing information and activity for Lake Ontario anglers.

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336 with a gold Navionics chip for increased detail. Placing an icon on the hot spot will help you get right back on the fish.

Bonus rods are also a great way to dial in on big summer Lake Trout. One of the best bonus techniques is to run wire lined Dipsey Diver rods loaded with #5 Evil Eyes or Dodger/Squid combinations. A big Silver/Herring Bone dodger with a black or purple Squid 17" inches behind is a deadly combination. I have penned many

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## Summer Fun on the Salmon River

*Scott Locorini*

When most folks think of the Salmon River in upstate New York, they think salmon and steelhead fishing. However, the Salmon River in Pulaski, NY is also known for summer whitewater fun!

The Salmon River water levels are controlled by a dam upstream from Pulaski. Each summer there are three weekends of water releases that bring the water up high enough to whitewater raft, kayak and canoe. On these weekends, the Salmon is a fun class II-III whitewater river that anybody can enjoy. Quite often you will see family groups and scout troops rafting on these weekends. This is NOT where "The River Wild" was filmed. It is upstate summer fun at its best, family and kid friendly.

Here is a short description of rafting on the Salmon from a first time rafter:

"It was a cool and rainy morning as we headed from our home in Camillus, NY to the Salmon River for our adventure. On arrival and after the safety instructions my husband, twin boys and myself were escorted to the river by the crew and we couldn't wait to get started. By the time we entered the river we had forgotten all about the weather. Our guide, Lynn was so patient and cautious with our boys but within minutes of the run they were begging for more rapids to which she graciously obliged. It was a lifetime experience for our family and we cannot wait for our next trip."

If you're looking for some summer whitewater fun the releases this year are on July 10, 11, 24, 25 and August 7 & 8. Be sure to plan ahead and make your reservations as soon as possible. Due to the limited availability of dates on the Salmon trips do fill quickly.

Whitewater Challengers in Old Forge, NY runs guided trips on the Salmon. For more information call 1-800-443-7238.

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# Right In Your Own Backyard: Lake Ontario

Teresa Farrell and John Farrell

The Lake Ontario area offers a unique blend of attractions: a rich historical background, a variety of gorgeous parks and wilderness areas, unparalleled fishing, and a relaxed, farm-country atmosphere that puts visitors at ease the moment they arrive. The variety of things to do means that every member of the family can unwind in their own way.

This area has a long history of historical significance. During the Revolutionary War, it served as the western frontier of the state.



© JMF Publishing Inc.

Today, with over 20 historic sites, from museums to lighthouses to historic societies, it's easy to find something interesting to explore. Area museums include focus on war, local waterways, firefighting, railroads, fishing, and town histories. The National Historic Register recognizes 11 churches, shops, and houses in Oswego County as Underground Railroad sites, and visitors may experience the Freedom Trail firsthand, either on foot or via a driving tour.

Of course, on-water recreation is popular. Anglers can try their luck on the lake or one of the many rivers and streams that flow into it. The Salmon River offers excellent fly fishing opportunities, and all of the area waters are full of fish waiting to be caught. Species include Atlantic, Chinook and Coho Salmon; Brook, Brown, Lake and Rainbow Trout; Steelhead; Large and Smallmouth Bass; and Walleye, Northern Pike, Chain Pickerel, Black Crappie, Bullhead, Panfish, Sheepshead, and Carp.



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- **KANSAS** - Presented by Constellation Energy Nuclear Group (July 23, Bretbeck Park)
- **THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS** (July 24, Bretbeck Park)
- **YALL AMERICAN COUNTRY TOUR 2010** (July 25, Bretbeck Park) (Featuring Doug Stone)

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- Pirate Invasion: July 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>
- Highland Fling: July 31<sup>st</sup> - Aug 1<sup>st</sup>
- Fantasy Weekend: Aug 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>
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Non-fishermen can try their hand at boating, canoeing, kayaking or whitewater rafting. The density of rivers, lakes and other waterways provide excellent options for everyone from the beginning to expert. You can get outside and enjoy nature at one of the many State Parks (7 from Fair Haven to Chaumont Bay), State Forests and Wildlife Management areas. Enjoy swimming, hiking, picnicking, or just lounging around in the sun at any of these places.

Fabulous shopping, dining, and special events add to the fun. Take in a movie or shop at stores, boutiques, farms and flea markets for everything from novelty gifts to handmade treats. You're sure to find those one-of-a-kind perfect souvenirs. Antiques are also a hit here; shop at the many stores to find a hidden treasure.

Before you call it a day visit an ice cream shop or bakery. Think of it as the cherry on top of a fantastic vacation day.

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