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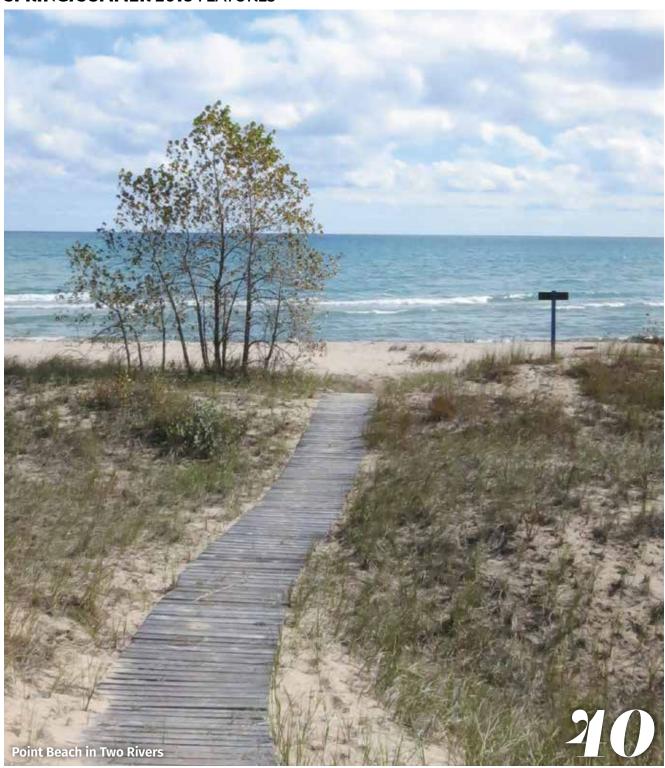


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SPRING/SUMMER 2018 FEATURES



32 Dive In!

How to have family fun on Wisconsin lakes and rivers. 37 **Arts Al Fresco**

The best ways to embrace the arts from music festivals to plays in the great outdoors.

40 **Choose Your Own Hiking Adventure**

Customize your trail experience on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

43 A Vintage Treasure Hunt

Wisconsin is an antique shopper's paradise.





SPRING/SUMMER 2018 DEPARTMENTS

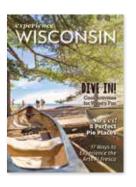








ON THE COVER CANOES SIT AT THE READY AT BIG BAY TOWN PARK BEACH IN LA POINTE. © RACHEL HERSHBERGER, TRAVELWISCONSIN.COM.



- 6 You Are Here
- 12 From the Editor
- **30** Souvenir

SCENE

14 The Insider

Wisconsin's own walk of fame, nostalgic drive-ins and where to shop now.

Out & About

41 events to keep your spring and summer full.

22 On Our Radar **Appreciating Outsider Art**

How these self-taught artists left a lasting, eclectic legacy.

THE DISH

24 Best Bites **Eight Perfect Pie Places**

The best spots to find this delectable dessert.

26 Flavor Hunter Big Dining in Little Bay City

Two-time James Beard nominee Lisa Carlson's Chef Shack is worth a visit.

Word of Mouth Double the Deliciousness

The Wickman House and Trixie's are excellent Door County dining destinations.

FIELD GUIDE

28 A Day on the Ozaukee Interurban Trail

Plan your two-wheeled adventure on this approachable route.

PERSPECTIVE

30 Wisconsin's Own Little Italy

Kenosha's Italian immigrant history weaves a rich cultural and culinary story.

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CELEBRATING SUN AND FUN

Welcome to spring and summer in Wisconsin! Personally, this is my favorite time of year here—there are so many opportunities to do the things my family and I love: get out on the lakes, explore cities and small towns, attend Brewers games, go to Summerfest, eat outdoors and enjoy fairs and festivals. There are so many great ways you too can partake in our Midwestern culture, whether you're a proud state resident or just visiting for the weekend.

When developing our editorial calendar, we keep in mind all types of visitors, from young families to empty nesters and everyone in between. That's why in every issue of Experience Wisconsin you'll find a variety of things to do with at least one activity (but hopefully more!) that are appealing to you.

The reason I love editing this magazine is because I learn something new in every issue. For example, did you know that Kenosha has the largest concentration of Italians in the state (12 percent of its residents)? Writer Kristine Hansen tells us on page 30 about how this Italian immigrant

history is alive and well today, seen in a number of bakeries, delis and restaurants in that area. I love shopping, and I was floored at how many cool, unique antique stores there are throughout the state—plus places to eat and boutique hotels and inns that celebrate the past, too. Read all about them in Shelby Deering's piece starting on page 43. And did you know tiny Bay City (pop. 500) in the western part of the state has a restaurant called Chef Shack owned by a two-time James Beard nominee? I didn't either—until I read Mary Bergin's piece (page 26).

As always, thank you for reading! Do you have a story idea you'd like to share with us, or want to send us a note? Please drop me a line at Shayna@ntmediagroup.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director

Shy Man_



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



As a proud University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate, I'm excited for a brandnew free public art event called Bucky on Parade, hitting the Madison streets from May 7 through September 12. Eighty-five life-size statues of Bucky Badger, the university's mascot, will be decked out by various artists and businesses and placed around town. **buckyonparade.com**



I'm so eager to visit the New Life Lavender & Cherry Farm located in Baraboo! This seasonal agri-tourism business is open June through September and offers farm-to-table tours, a store stocked with lavender and cherry products (like their heavenly-sounding homemade lavender cherry pies) and special events.

newlifelavender.com

experience WISCONSIN Spring/Summer 2018

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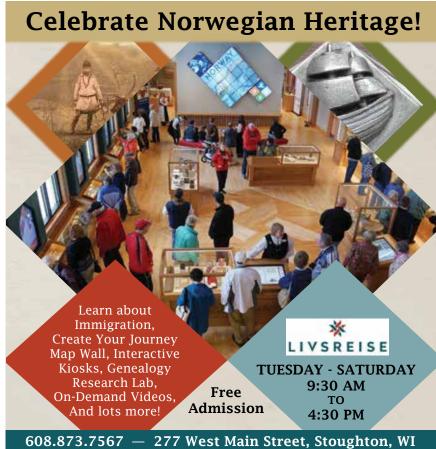
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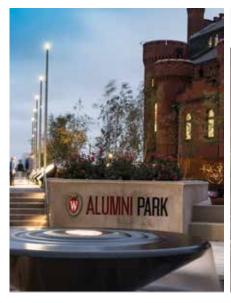


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Wisconsin's Own Walk of Fame

By Jessica Steinhoff

In her hit "Big Yellow Taxi," singer Joni Mitchell lamented that "they paved paradise and put up a parking lot." At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the alumni association has done just the opposite. It removed a parking lot and replaced it with a park celebrating UW alumni and traditions.

With 34,000 square feet of green space and more than 50 museum-style exhibits, it's a beautiful spot to stroll, snap photos and learn something. It's convenient to both the university and downtown Madison attractions, like the Dane County Farmers' Market.

Most of the exhibits were designed by Ralph Appelbaum Associates, whose work also appears at the Smithsonian and the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center.

"Alumni Park is intended to be experienced day and night, so many exhibits are illuminated or use shadows to tell stories," says Mary Carbine, the park's managing director.

One such exhibit is the Badger Pride Wall, an 80-foot-long steel structure with backlit illustrations of iconic Madison sights. As the steel ages, it develops a rich brown color, suggesting that greatness takes time.

Speaking of greatness, Alumni Way honors the achievements of scores of UW graduates, including medical innovators, astronauts and political figures. Throughout the park, you'll find inspirational quotes from alums like A.C. Nielsen, a Chicago native and market-research pioneer. All these things serve a singular purpose: highlighting the Wisconsin Idea, the UW's notion that its knowledge should serve people throughout the state, country and world.

Before you depart, enjoy the natural beauty of Lake Mendota and the taste of Alumni Park After Dark. Available at the Union's Daily Scoop, it's made from the UW's Babcock ice cream and features a dark chocolate base, white chocolate chips and a caramel swirl. alumnipark.com



Shoppist | Nurturing Green Thumbs

Founded in 1847 with just a flour and feed mill, today Cambridge's quaint downtown filled with brick buildings boasts a few pubs, a winery and little shops—like the Avid Gardener, a gift and gardening boutique on the main drag. Christianne Laing opened her shop in 2014 to offer supplies (garden tools, pots and yard décor) and good gardening advice. She and husband Jay also own a small plant nursery in Waterloo and sell annuals, hanging baskets and herbs in the fenced-in area behind the store. Not a gardener? Enjoy perusing her cute gift items instead, like tea towels, home décor, fun printed rain boots, indoor/outdoor rugs, dishes and organic body-care items. avid-gardener.com

Nine Great Drive-ins

In their heyday, there were 79 drive-in movie theaters in Wisconsin—they have since dwindled to the single digits. But, these nine popular ones have withstood the test of time by carving out a niche.

The Big Sky, Wisconsin Dells

This two-screen drive-in offers up such concessions as the "mamaburger" and homemade sloppy Joes.

Chilton Twilight, Chilton

This rustic theater was closed in 2017, but is back in action this year.

Field of Scenes, Freedom

Unlike its peers, this drive-in is notable for its new-ish age. Owners Tim and Brenda VandeWettering opened it in 2003.

Highway 18, Jefferson

This theater provides a retro experience with a neon sign, windowhanging speakers and original 1950s-era commercials.

Sky-Vu, Monroe

The Goetz family has operated this drivein from day one—it opened in 1954.

Moonlight, Shawano

The owners of this theater tout their large candy selection and claim it is one of the largest available at a concession stand.

Skyway, Fish Creek

In a nod to its locale, this drive-in sells sweet treats from the Door County Ice Cream Factory.

Stardust, Watertown

Before the sun sets and the screen illuminates, kiddies can ride the Stardust's circus wagon train.

Starlight 14, Richland Center

This country treasure first opened in 1952 and has been a mainstay, with a series of technological upgrades along the way.

—Dave Fidlin





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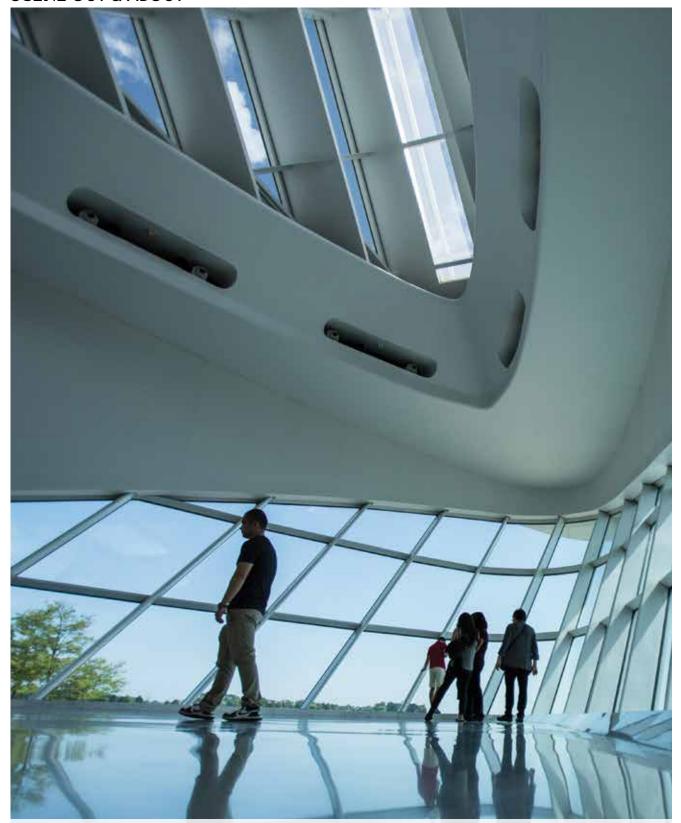
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SCENE OUT & ABOUT



MAY 1

Gallery Talk—"Coming Away: Winslow Homer in England," Milwaukee

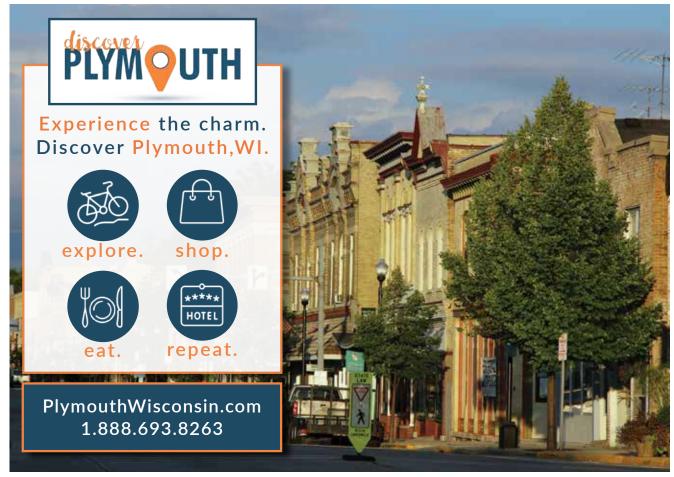
Join Debra Mancoff for a lecture on the Milwaukee Art Museum's special exhibition of Winslow Homer's paintings of the English seaside. mam.org



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April 27-28 Villa Louis Behind the Scenes, Prairie du Chien

These extended tours of this Wisconsin Historical Society historic site offer visitors a new appreciation for this estate-get to know the history of this Victorian property, as well as secrets to its historic preservation. wisconsinhistory.org

May 12 Spring Fair on the Square, Baraboo

Experience the charms of downtown Baraboo at this semi-annual arts and crafts fair with 150-plus Midwest artists, complete with a farmers' market, live music and family activities. downtownbaraboo.com

18-20 Wisconsin State Polka Festival, Milwaukee

Roll out the barrel and experience a cultural and musical tradition through dance lessons and music by big bands. wisconsinpolkaboosters.com

18-20 Syttende Mai Festival, Stoughton

Celebrate Norwegian independence through Norwegian dance, food, music, parades and other cultural events. stoughtonwi.com

19-20 Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival, Muscoda

Savor morel mushrooms alongside a craft fair, car show and carnival. muscoda.com

19-20 Civil War Living History Festival, Janesville

Civil War reenactors from foot soldiers to President Lincoln bring new life to the Milton House Museum. Enjoy a reenactment tour of the house, or watch historic military and cannon demonstrations. janesvillecvb.com

25-28 Brat Fest, Madison

The World's Largest Brat Fest takes over Madison on Memorial Day Weekend. Enjoy Johnsonville brats and Boar's Head hot dogs in addition to music, entertainment, carnival and a charity bike ride. bratfest.com

25-28 ChocolateFest, Burlington

This cocoa-lover's paradise presents fun for the whole family, with games, rides, music and of course, chocolate. chocolatefest.com

2 Cars on State Classic Car Show, Madison

Classic cars line downtown's State Street in this summertime tradition. Enjoy classic cars and views of the Capitol, as well as the shops, boutiques and restaurants of downtown. visitdowntownmadison.com

2 Cows on the Concourse, Madison

Meet cows up-close on the Capitol Square at this family-friendly event perfectly paired with the Saturday farmers' market. cowsontheconcourse.org

2-3 Outta Sight Kite Flight, Kenosha

Watch professional kite-flying teams at work or try your hand at it, whether it's flying, making or decorating your own kite while taking in views of Lake Michigan. visitkenosha.com

3 Brewtown Rumble, Milwaukee

A ride-in vintage motorcycle show, the Brewtown Rumble offers live music, local food and viewing vintage motorcycles. brewtownrumble.com

7-10 Pridefest, Milwaukee

Milwaukee hosts Wisconsin's largest celebration of LGBTQ pride-celebrate diversity and inclusivity at this tradition that embraces tolerance and equality. pridefest.com

8-10 Kraut Music Fest, Caledonia

Indulge in Wisconsin culture with live music, games and plenty of sauerkraut. krautfestwisco.com

9 Beer, Bacon and Cheese Fest, **New Glarus**

Spend an afternoon sampling craft beers, specialty meats and artisan cheeses while wandering the charming streets of New Glarus. swisstown.com

9-10 Monument Square **Art Festical, Racine**

Browse, shop and enjoy the work of jury-selected artists alongside the Great Lakes Chalk Art Competition and food from local vendors. monumentsquareartfest.com

15-17 Lakefront Festival of the Arts. Milwaukee

The celebrated fest returns to the Milwaukee Art Museum grounds to showcase the work of 170-plus world-class artists. Enjoy scenic views of Lake Michigan, fun activities for the kiddos and great food. Ifoa.mam.org

16 Isthmus Paddle & Portage, Madison

Teams paddle and portage their way from James Madison Park to Olbrich Park, traversing Lake Mendota, downtown Madison and Lake Monona. Sign up and join in the fun, or find a spot in the park to relax and watch the race. paddleandportage.com

19-23 Country USA, Oshkosh

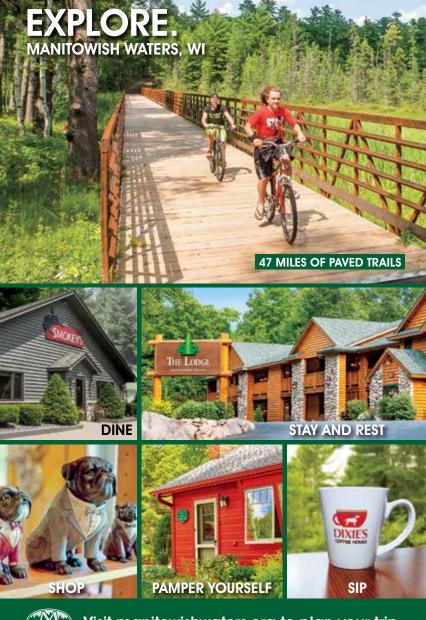
Listen to world-class country music performers like Brett Eldredge, Jason Aldean, Keith Urban and Maren Morris at this Oshkosh tradition. countryusaoshkosh.com

19 Juneteenth Day Celebration, Milwaukee

Celebrating African American heritage and the end of slavery in the United States, Juneteenth marks a historic moment as well as a long-standing journey towards equality. juneteenthdaymilwaukee.com



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CHOCOLATEFEST.COM

23-24 Spring Green Arts & Crafts Fair, Spring Green

Going into its 49th year, this charming art fest held downtown features 200 fantastic artists selling jewelry, artwork and wood works. springgreenartfair.com

June 27-July 1 & July 3-8; Summerfest, Milwaukee

Experience the World's Largest Music Festival alongside scenic views of Lake Michigan. Headliners include James Taylor and Bonnie Raitt; the Dave Matthews Band; and Halsey & Logic. summerfest.com

July 6-7 Eaux Claires, Eau Claire

Set in a scenic, forested hideaway, Eaux Claires weaves together art, nature, community and music to create a truly authentic Wisconsin experience. Founded by Justin Vernon of Bon Iver and Aaron Dessner of The National, Eaux Claires promises renowned musical talent, although the 2018 lineup remains shrouded in mystery. eauxclaires.com

12-15 Bastille Days, Milwaukee

This perennial favorite returns to Cathedral Square Park-43-foot Eiffel Tower replica and all. Enjoy wine tastings, chef demos, live music and an international marketplace at this Milwaukee tradition. easttown.com

14-15 Art Fair on the Square, Madison

In a tradition 60 years strong, MMoCA's Art Fair on the Square will return to the Capitol Square this July. Browse the work of nearly 500 exhibiting artists, while enjoying live music, local food and the atmosphere of downtown Madison. mmoca.org

15 Real Racine International Triathlon, Racine

Athletes from around the world will swim, bike, and run their way across downtown Racine and the scenic shores of Lake Michigan, realracinetriathlon.com

19-21 Lumberjack World Championships, Hayward

Competitors from around the world come together to chop, saw and roll their way to victory. lumberjackworldchampionships.com

20-22 Maxwell Street Days, Madison

Madison's State Street becomes livelier and more colorful than usual during Maxwell Street Days-a weekend of door-busting sales where shops move their merchandise out into the street. visitmadison.com

21 Port Fish Day, Port Washington

Port Washington's harbor hosts the world's largest one-day outdoor fish fry-and has since 1964. A morning run/walk, live music, carnival and evening fireworks show create the perfect backdrop to enjoy a Wisconsin tradition. portfishday.com

21-22 Midsummer Festival of the Arts, Sheboygan

Shop the work of 135 artists while enjoying music, workshops, local food and the culture and community of Sheboygan. *jmkac.org*

23-29 EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh

This international exhibition celebrates aviation and includes daily air shows and displays of vintage, homemade and wartime aircraft. **eaa.org**

August

2-5 Mile of Music, Appleton

Enjoy the shops and restaurants of downtown Appleton as it comes to life with music. This summer festival features a one-mile stretch with 900 live music acts at 70 venues. *mileofmusic.com*

10-11 Tall Tales Music Festival, Burlington

Experience historic downtown Burlington at this fun and free music festival that promises a good time for locals and visitors alike. *talltalesfestival.com*

11 Milwaukee Dragon Boat Festival, Milwaukee

Learn about Chinese culture through traditional dance, music, and martial arts in addition to dragon boat races at Lakeshore State Park. milwaukeedragonboatfest.org

15-19 Venetian Festival, Lake Geneva

Lake Geneva lights up in this salute to summer. Fun for the whole family, this festival offers a weekend of arts, crafts and a carnival. Sunday features a lighted boat parade around Lake Geneva and downtown fireworks. **venetianfest.com**

16-19 Zoo A La Carte, Milwaukee

Enjoy food from local eateries while exploring the Milwaukee County Zoo at this tradition that's fun for the whole family. *milwaukeezoo.org*

17-18 Big Bull Falls Blues Fest, Wausau

Beat the dog days of summer with the blues as Wisconsin's longest-running blues fest returns to Fern Island Park this summer. **wausaueents.org**

26 Taliesin Summer Farm Dinner, Spring Green

Experience a four-course farm-to-table dinner with local beer and wine and view world-renowned architecture on the grounds of Frank Lloyd Wright's personal estate. *taliesinpreservation.org* eW

Calendar content complied by Megan Roessler, a graduate of UW-Madison.

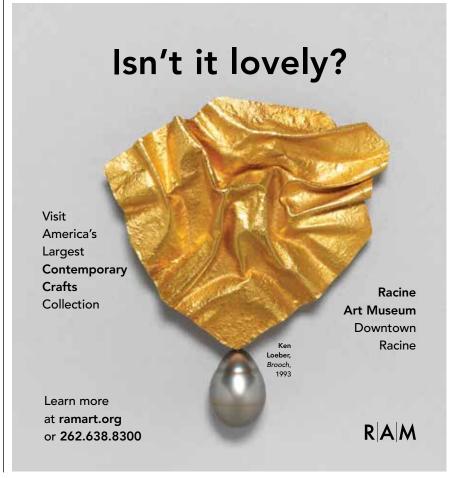




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SELF-TAUGHT ARTISTS LEAVE A LASTING, ECLECTIC LEGACY

Story and photos by Mary Bergin

It's not unusual for a laborer to mix and pour concrete, but it's little more than curious when he or she makes a sculpture—or a cadre of them instead of paving a driveway. And so, what may begin as a retirement project turns into an obsession—and a way to make a mark on the world.

In Wisconsin, there are several of these unusual "art environments" as they're called, made by people with no training in sculpture, art or design. Most of these remote installations involve castoff materials.

These environments are on the radar of the Kohler Foundation, a global leader in identifying and preserving this type of artwork. The foundation has placed thousands of these pieces in 300-some nonprofit institutions. Exhibits at the John Michael Kohler Art Center in Sheboygan, routinely focus on this "outsider art," created everywhere from Wisconsin to India.

"We have been thrilled to see art transforming small towns, revitalizing neighborhoods and motivating people of all ages," says Christine Taylor, the Kohler Foundation's executive director. "Art environments are so accessible and easy to relate to, so they tend to have an immediate as well as lasting impact."

Several art environments are open to the public, and admission is typically free or by donation. Here are some to check out.

Dickeyville Grotto, Dickeyville

Outside of the Holy Ghost Church are biblical and patriotic shrines, completed in 1930 by Father Matthias Wernerus. "God's wonderful material collected from all parts of the world has been piled up in such a way that it appeals to rich and poor, to educated and uneducated, to men, women and children alike," he asserted. dickeyvillegrotto.com



Dr. Evermor's Park, Sumpter

Tom Every, born in 1938, spent a lifetime converting trash to treasure. Next to Delaney's Surplus on Highway 12, between Sauk City and Baraboo, is his funky zoo of outdoor art, anchored by the 1980s "Forevertron." It's 50 feet tall, weighs 300 tons and is billed as the world's largest scrapyard sculpture. worldofdrevermor.com

Wisconsin Concrete Park, Phillips

Fred Smith, an illiterate lumberjack and farmer who died in 1976, told stories of history and myth through 200-plus sculptures of people and creatures. "Nobody knows why I made them, not even me," he said long ago. "This work just came to me naturally. I started one day in 1948 ..." friendsoffredsmith.org



Grandview, Hollandale

Dairy farmer Nick Engelbert spent over two decades embellishing his yard and farmhouse exterior with dozens of concrete sculptures adorned with repurposed junk. His work began while recovering from a sprained ankle in the 1930s, and the Dickeyville Grotto was an inspiration. Look for the assemblage on Highway 39, between Mineral Point and New Glarus. nicksgrandview.com



The Painted Forest, Valton

On the outside, this little white building looks ordinary. On the inside, walls and ceilings are covered with murals by Ernest Hupeden, a self-taught painter. He worked in exchange for room and board. This 1899 project was for the Modern Woodmen of America, to illustrate the brotherhood's values and activities. (Viewing hours are limited.)

finearts.edgewood.edu/painted-forest

Rudolph Grotto Gardens, Rudolph

While studying for the priesthood in 1912, Father Philip Wagner promised to build a shrine to the Virgin Mary if his poor health improved. The rest is history on five acres of gardens and shrines between Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point. Inside the Wonder Cave alone are 26 shrines. Successors finished the project in 1983. rudolphgrotto.org



Jurustic Park, Marshfield

Lawyer Clyde Wynia turned to paleontology upon retirement and decided to assemble his own "Iron Age" menagerie of ancient life, made with recycled industrial materials. Fabric sculptures are a specialty for wife Nancy, a retired nurse. Most everything they make, one mile north of Marshfield, is for sale. jurustic.com

Prairie Moon Sculpture Garden, Cochrane

Farmer Herman Rusch, an immigrant from East Prussia, bought an old dance hall and turned it into a museum of oddities upon retirement. Then he decided the grounds needed personality, so he added more sculptures and built a 260-foot arched, stone fence. He died at age 100 in 1985. kohlerfoundation.org

Wegner Grotto, Cataract

Paul Wegner, a railroad worker, farmer and garage mechanic, needed a retirement project. So, in 1929 he and wife Matilda began building concrete fences, a prayer garden and moreeven an enormous cake, for their 50th wedding anniversary. His funeral in 1937 happened in the property's little, glassembellished church. monroecountyhistory.org

Tellen Woodland Sculpture Garden, Sheboygan

Woodworker James A. Tellen did detail work at a furniture factory, and his woodcarving hobby during the Depression led to industrial art classes and the creation of 30-some cement statues. See Native Americans, animals, elves and other mythical figures at the family's vacation cottage in the woodsy Black River neighborhood. Tellen died in 1957. kohlerfoundation.org





For a map and more details about Wisconsin art environments, go to jmkac.org/explore-discover/wandering-wisconsin. For more about ongoing preservation work, check out kohlerfoundation.org/preservation. ew

Longtime travel and food writer Mary Bergin of Madison began a weekly, syndicated newspaper column in 2002. Her most recent book is the "Wisconsin Supper Club Cookbook."

THE DISH BEST BITES







Eight Perfect Pie Places

By Jessica Steinhoff

Pie is a gorgeous vehicle for seasonal fruits, a genius way to make vegetables delicious and the best thing to hurl at a frenemy during a food fight. Here are eight places making some of Wisconsin's most unique and tasty varieties—but don't even think about starting a food fight at them!

Crystal Cafe, Iola

This family-owned diner uses vintage recipes to make pies that stand the test of time. Other keys to their success include hand-rolled crusts and fresh fruits that never touch a can or preservative. Sample the towering lemon meringue for a sense of the bakers' aspirations. *crystalcafeiola.com*

The Elegant Farmer, Mukwonago

Brown paper bags often contain soggy peanut butter sandwiches. Not so at the Elegant Farmer, which has baked delectable apple pies in them for decades. Dubbed "a cross between a cobbler and a pie" by The Wall Street Journal, these babies even starred in an episode of Food Network's "Throwdown with Bobby Flay." To get your fix, visit the Mukwonago shop, place an online order or find them at Illinois grocers such as Caputo's Fresh Market and Treasure Island. elegantfarmer.com

Honeypie, Milwaukee

Honeypie is the kind of place you can enjoy a cocktail with your pie, or, in it—as in the case of the whiskey walnut pecan pie. For a blend of sweet and savory, order the apple cheddar bacon, made with love and locally sourced

ingredients. The bakers also offer pie-making lessons and PieGrams, adorable little pastries you can mail to friends with a personal note. honeypiecafe.com

Judy's Gourmet Garage, Bayfield

This little shop near Lake Superior (open from late April until late December) makes some of the country's best pies, according to Travel + Leisure. Try the rhubarb cream cheesea heavenly blend of sweet, tart, creamy and flaky-and you'll be walking on air all day. facebook.com/gourmetgaragebayfieldwi

Market Street Diner, Sun Prairie

This retro diner serves more than 30 pies that are easy to love and hard to stop eating. Savor summer flavors in a slice of peach raspberry or relive Thanksgiving dinner with three varieties of pumpkin. marketstreetdiner.com

Norske Nook, Osseo, DeForest, **Hayward and Rice Lake**

Made-from-scratch pies with Norwegian flair are Norske Nook's calling card—and said pies are frequent award-winners at the National Pie Championships. The cranberry apple is an inspiring ode to Wisconsin produce, and the doublecrust lingonberry apple is the kind of dessert Norse gods must have eaten. Though the restaurant is worthy of a road trip, you can also order online through FoodyDirect. norskenook.com

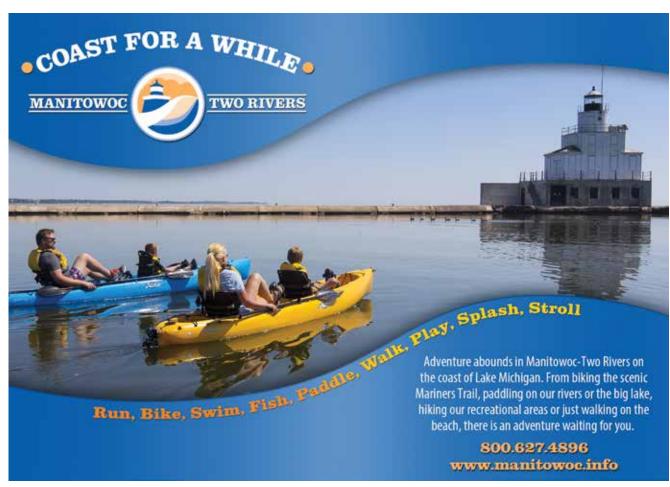
Stockholm Pie & General Store. Stockholm

The foodies at Spoon University, a popular food website, say this is Wisconsin's best place for pie. Clever combinations of ingredients make the offerings sing. Cardamom elevates the blackberry-apple pie, while rum-soaked fruit takes the apple crisp pie to a different plane entirely. stockholmpieandgeneralstore.com

Sweetie Pies. Fish Creek

The bakers at Sweetie Pies know how to showcase the tartness of the Door County cherries that grow near their home. Bursting with flavor, the shop's cherry pies are must-tries in July, when the fruit is harvested. Not a cherry fan? Celebrate the summer bounty with five-inch Cutie Pies filled with juicy raspberries. doorcountypies.com ew

Jessica Steinhoff is a former Chicagoan who lives in Wisconsin, where she writes about travel, parenting and the arts. Learn more at jessicasteinhoff.com.



THE DISH FLAVOR HUNTER



Big Dining in Little Bay City

By Mary Bergin

Many semifinalists for a James Beard Award, the food industry's Oscars, work in the nation's largest cities and in uber-competitive environments. Count two-time nominee Lisa Carlson as an exception: She busts stereotypes about fine dining and where to find it.

Carlson and partner Carrie Summer, (who are both Kansas City Barbeque Society Certified judges; Summer's also a pastry chef), co-own the cozy Chef Shack in Bay City (population: 500), within a block of the Mississippi River. Their weathered clapboard building, a former tavern, is open-at most—three days and 14 hours per week.

Why here? The price and vibe were right.

"Ranch-rustic-country-French" is the cuisine, and this version of fine dining is far from pretentious. Notice the use of reclaimed materials, inside and out. Read the chalkboard for specials. The concise dinner menu morphs with the seasons.

Think brisket in lettuce cups with artichoke dressing, smoked duck with ramps, pasta made with beet juice and charcoal honeycomb ice cream. It's fine to nosh at the bar, in front of the fireplace or linger in the backyard. Check out the chefs' outdoor garden and brick oven, used for pizzas and more.

Carlson and Summer worked at high-end restaurants in New York City, San Francisco and London before heading to Minnesota to build their own brand and business. That began in 2006 with Twin Cities food-truck grub: bison burgers, beef-tongue tacos and Indian-spiced mini donuts with cardamom. Forbes, Saveur and Bon Appetit took notice.

"Street food inspired by our travels," is how Carlson describes it. Now three Chef Shack food trucks are dispatched almost daily to different events, like farmers' markets, catering events and lunches in the Twin Cities. The couple also operate Chef Shack Ranch, a more casual Minneapolis restaurant specializing in smoked meats.

But all is not Midwest in their world. Summer is a board member for Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, which fosters industry connections nationwide. And, winter rejuvenation happens abroad—typically in Asia. ew



THE DISH WORD OF MOUTH



In Ephraim (pop. 7,072), shedding its dry, alcohol-free status in 2016 was a gamechanger in this tiny village, located halfway up the Door County peninsula and along the shores of Green Bay.

Now, Sarah Holmes could open Trixie's, a companion eatery to her posh Wickman House in Ellison Bay, and showcase natural wines (as organic as possible, she says). The darling vintage white building with crisp white walls and blonde-wood tables fits right in with the rest of this 1920s-era village. And, fun fact: The restaurant is named for Holmes' great-grandmother.

At both restaurants, the culinary teams strive to source ingredients from within the region, whether that's whitefish or cherries, and prepare menu items with a modern twist. Instead of a fish boil, there's whitefish ceviche. "The coolest thing that happens in Door County is that our chefs are really skilled foragers-so just about every one of them will go hiking in the morning and then work with this beautiful spread of foraged thingsmostly mushrooms," explains Holmes.

And if they don't find something while foraging? It's probably growing in the restaurants' garden, where a full-time gardener tends to the bounty that's distributed between the two places.

Erin Murphy, Holmes' prep chef at Wickman House, was born in Milwaukee and raised in Waukesha and knows Door County like the back of her hand. "My parents have a cabin on Clark Lake in Jacksonport," she says. I would always spend summers up here. Then, a few years ago, I never left.

"My first job was the Town Hall Bakery in Jacksonport," she says. "I was 15 when I started working there, and left at 18 or 20 years old. I

started at the Wickman House five or six years ago, filling in for a dishwashing position."

Expect to see Murphy's crowd-favorite burrata on Trixie's menu this season, as well as homemade pasta, a daily crudo or raw seafood selection, and noodle dishes. Holmes says their "Staggering Chicken" dish will return to the Wickman House, made with local organic chicken, mushrooms, gravy and fingerling potatoes.

As for the wine list, Holmes looks to showcase female winemakers, as well as organic varietals at both locations.

Delicious Dishes

Where does Erin Murphy like to eat when she's not working at the Wickman House?

The Waterfront Restaurant in Sister Bay:

"A friend of mine is part owner there," admits Murphy, although after one visit she quickly fell in love with the seasonallyfocused dinner menus and indulgent sides (such as truffle tater tots).

Roots Inn & Kitchen. Sister Bay:

"They have brats [from Waseda Farms in Bailey's Harbor] and I love brats," she says about this farm-to-table eatery with pub fare. "They're the nicest people who own it and they've got good beers on tap." Above the restaurant is an historic inn with six rooms. During summer the outdoor deck is open.

Kinara Urban Eatery, Sturgeon Bay:

"They have gyros and Indian food. It's actually located in a gas station," says Murphy about this restaurant, open since 2013, with an India-born female chef-owner. It is open for lunch only and closed on Sundays. ew

Based in Milwaukee, Kristine Hansen covers culture, the great outdoors and food around the state.



The Women Behind the Wines

Sarah Holmes believes in supporting female winemakers who employ natural, organic, biodynamic or sustainable winemaking methods. From a sparkling Vouvray Brut in France to a full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon from California's storied Napa Valley, here are her favorite five.

Breton "La Dilettante" Vouvray Brut:

This is a husband-and-wife team, but it's solely Catherine Breton who makes the wine she calls "La Dillettante," which means "the dabbler." This wine has big, vivacious bubbles and tastes like honey.

Chanrion Côte de Brouilly Gamay:

Nicole Chanrion has been making wine since the 1970s. Her wines are produced using traditional biodynamic methods and the result is funky, fruit-forward wine.

Honig Cabernet Sauvignon:

Kristin Belair is the winemaker of these big, beautiful wines. Honig takes sustainability very seriously, and was one of the first California wineries to earn the Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing certification.

Merry Edwards Sauvignon Blanc:

Merry Edwards has been making wine in California for five decades—she is a pioneer of the industry.

Onward + Farmstrong:

Holmes says she always features at least one of Faith Armstrong Foster's wines: "Last year it was her Pétillant Naturel of Malvasia Bianca (a beautiful sparkler) and a very pretty rosé of Carignan and Zinfandel. Her wines are honest, bright and unfiltered," she says.



OOD TO KNO

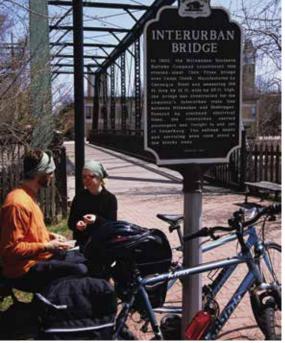
- One unique aspect of this trail is that there is no trail fee, unlike Wisconsin's state parks.
- Keep in mind that with two vehicles. you can cover more ground and not have to loop back to your car.
- Trail markers every half-mile on the trail indicate how far you've traveled ideal if you have some pre-set goals for the number of miles you want to cover.



Once flowers start pushing their way out of the soil, spring can be the perfect time to hop on a bicycle and explore a new area.

The Ozaukee Interurban paved bicycle trail—30 miles in length—connecting six vibrant Ozaukee County cities (Thiensville, Cedarburg, Mequon, Port Washington, Belgium and Grafton) is the ideal marriage of urban and rural settings. It's located within a 15-minute drive from downtown Milwaukee, directly north off of I-43, off of exit 82B (WI-100 W/W. Brown Deer Rd.), on former electric rail lines that thrived during their operation. According to historical records, famous African American blues musicians—many hailing from the South—hopped the train to Paramount Records' Port Washington studio to record and rehearse during the 1920s and 1930s. The line discontinued service in 1951.

So grab a bike and helmet and get to ride—here's how to have the perfect day on this trail.







11 a.m. Good to Go

Start the trail in Mequon, which is the trail's southernmost point at West County Line Road, a few blocks west of North Green Bay Road. This is the dividing line between Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties.

11:30 a.m. A Worldly Lunch Spot

Between Highway 167/Mequon Road and West Freistadt Road, veer east off of the trail at Buntrock Avenue (which turns into Green Bay Road) to have lunch at The Cheel, a Nepalese restaurant that's wildly popular in Ozaukee County, which opened in 2014. While evenings are a hit with locals thanks to solid live-music entertainment (to the likes of Leroy Stairmaster), lunch is worth a visit, too. Coowner Barkha Daily grew up cooking with her family in Kathmandu, moving from Nepal to Milwaukee in 2003. Her husband Jesse helps out in the restaurant, too. Vegetarians will have no trouble finding options to order.

1:30 p.m. Refuel and Recharge

Where the trail crosses Pigeon Creekjust past Highland Road—is a great spot to whip out your water bottle and a snack. Don't forget to breathe in the fresh air, check your tires for air and reflect on a beautiful afternoon.

2 p.m. History, Relived

A lesser-known history museum is the Jonathan Clark House, a good example of Ozaukee County's stone structure buildings. Even today, some homeowners particularly in Cedarburg—are proud to say they live in stone-walled homes. To reach the Greek Revival house, exit the trail at West Bonniwell Road and travel east two blocks to the house. Built in 1848, volunteers have worked tirelessly to restore the interior and exterior, and share stories about Ozaukee County's history, including settler Jonathan Clark Even if it's not open

GRAB SOME WHEELS

Don't have your own wheels? If you're coming from the south, stop at **Fyxation's** retail store in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood, at the corner of Humboldt and Locust streets. A word of warning: this Milwaukee-based bicycle manufacturer's wheels might dazzle you so much (the designs are stunning and they come highly rated) that you may decide to buy a bike for yourself. With the on-site showroom, it's totally possible!

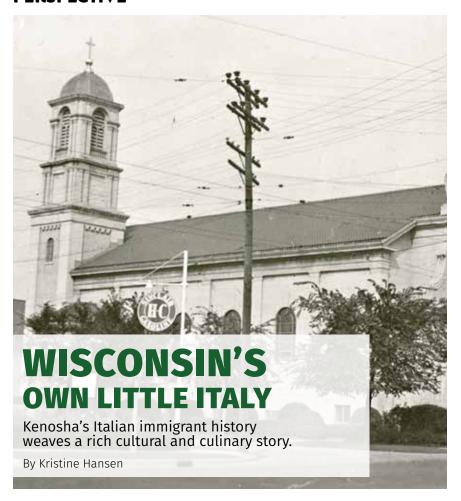
For rentals, prices start at \$35 per day for steel commuter and hybrid bikes; aluminum mountain and fat bikes run \$50 per day; while carbon adventure and fat bikes cost \$75 per day. You can also rent by the week, in case you're doing an overnight or weekend stay in Ozaukee County.

Either before or after your bicycle rental pickup, drop into Colectivo's Humboldt Café & **Roastery** next door to fuel up with coffee, lunch or items to-go.

during your visit, a glimpse of the limestone and fieldstone house is a real treat. In 1982, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

3 p.m. Break and Browse

You've cycled just over 10 miles so far! You deserve a break, so exit the trail at Center Street. Downtown Cedarburg's Washington Avenue is the perfect spot to lock up your bike, stretch your calves and stroll through quaint antique shops and eclectic boutiques. One of the first shops you'll see is Amy's Candy Kitchen, known for its caramel apples and chocolates. If your sweet tooth is calling, pick up a small treat. A block south, Cedarburg Cultural Center's rotating art exhibits are always free to view. ew



Drive through Kenosha—the city hugging Lake Michigan's shoreline just over the Wisconsin-Illinois border—and it quickly becomes apparent that this is a place with deep Italian culture and heritage. Business signs depict Italian last names. Cannoli, pizza, pasta, deli lunches and more are edible ways to experience this history on a visit today.

About 12 percent of Kenosha residents are Italian, according to the 2000 census, which is the highest concentration of any Wisconsin city. This is surprising to most people because when you think of pockets of Italian residents, it's typically in Boston and New York City (where restaurants rim the Lower East Side Street in Manhattan) where Italian-centric neighborhoods are located, catering to tourists with shops, bakeries, grocers and restaurants.

The Italian-American Society of Kenosha, founded in 1923, has worked tirelessly to promote Italian culture while providing a meeting place for Italians, or those interested in learning more about Italy. Dinner is served to the public at its clubhouse Wednesday through Sunday, including a Friday fish fry.

If you're looking to experience the city's "taste of Italy," and have a limited amount of time, a stop at Tenuta's Deli on 52nd Street is a must, a few blocks from the Italian-American Society of Kenosha's headquarters. During the summer months, on Saturdays outside of the building, a keyboard player performs Italian songs, making you feel like you're in Naples or Sicily. Grab a brat or sandwich from the kitchen window, or sneak inside for cannoli.

What brought most Italians to Kenosha from mostly southern Italy, especially Sicily and Calabria-were factory jobs during the late 1800s. At that time, jobs were available at companies such as Jockey (an undergarment company still in business today, formerly called Cooper Underwear Company) and Nash Motors Company



Eating Italian

Hungry for a taste of Italian cuisine in Wisconsin? There's no better place than Kenosha to sample delights like cannoli, Genetti and Anginetti cookies, loaves of bread, muffaletta and sweet specialty cakes.

Cardinali's Bakery

Since 1915, this bakery next to the Italian-American Club has been in the hands of the Cardinali family. Fourth-generation family member Michael Cardinali is currently at the helm, prepping his son to become the fifth-generation owner one day. Pick up doughnuts, signature Italian treats, loaves of bread, cookies and cakes. cardinalisbakery.com

Paielli's Bakery

Since 1923, this Italian bakerycurrently in its third location and run by the fourth generation of the Paielli family—has specialized in sweet treats like cannoli and Genetti but also loaves of Italian bread. Specialty cakes are truly original and inspired by American treats, such as the Snickers Candy Bar Cake and Andes Candies Cake. paiellis.readyhosting.com

Tenuta's Deli

Open since 1950, and now in its third generation within the Tenuta family, this Italian deli retails all that you need for an Italian picnic or to stock your pantry with Italian delicacies, from private-label sauces and pastas to wine and a deli that rivals the best in town. tenutasdeli.com

(later absorbed into American Motors Corporation and then Chrysler). Many settled in the Columbus Park neighborhood of Kenosha.

With that migration came a need for food that reminded these Italians of their home country. Businesses that are still operating today include the aforementioned Tenuta's Deli, with its robust liquor section, private label line of sauces and pastas, and a hearty deli that includes takeout sandwiches, meatballs, pastas and pizzas you can heat up at home. Just wandering the aisles transports you to somewhere far away from Kenosha—perhaps the glittering seashore in Sicily?

Pizza places, of course, popped up around town. While, over the years, some have ceased their operations, today you can order more than a pizza at the following places, which are owned by Italian families: Infusino's Pizzeria, which flaunts Southern Italian dishes for lunch and dinner; Villa d'Carlo, open since 1957 across the street from the lakefront in downtown Kenosha; and Casa Capri, a fine-dining restaurant in west Kenosha.

Blast From the Past

Holy Rosary Church (see photo opposite page) is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of 22nd Avenue and 45th Street in Kenosha. The plans for the building were secured from Verona, Italy. The church seats 600 people, contains five altars, has wainscoting of Cararra and Georgian marble, and was dedicated on August 14, 1932. The Holy Rosary congregation dates from 1904, when a group of Italian Catholics formed a parish organization and began planning the building of a church. ew





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How to have family fun on Wisconsin lakes and rivers

By Jessica Steinhoff

With 15,000 lakes, 84,000 miles of rivers, and the majestic lakes Michigan and Superior shorelines, Wisconsin is the perfect place to cool off and have some summer fun with the kids. These family-friendly attractions offer relaxation, recreation and opportunities to make memories.



FONTANA BEACH, FONTANA

This beach is as family-friendly as they get: You'll find plenty of sand, a snack bar and changing rooms where you can slip on a swimsuit or slip off a dirty diaper. Lifeguards watch over swimmers Memorial Day through Labor Day, and there's a family movie at sunset on selected Saturdays.

villageoffontana.com

NORTH BEACH, RACINE

Escape the crowds of Chicago beaches without sacrificing the magic of Lake Michigan. This 50-acre gem has 2,500 feet of shoreline and lifeguards on duty from June through the end of August. Swim, play volleyball, visit the huge playground and bask in the sun-with the knowledge that you're at a place on Parents magazine's list of top 10 beaches for families.

cityofracine.org/beaches





WISCONSIN CANOE COMPANY. SPRING GREEN

sin River. Wisconsin Canoe Company will provide the boat and help you make the most of the experience. The 10-mile Arena to Spring Green trip is a popular choice, according to

"There are tons of opportunities for kids to get out of the

Schmudlach says most kids are ready for some paddling responsibilities by age 8, and that younger kids can go

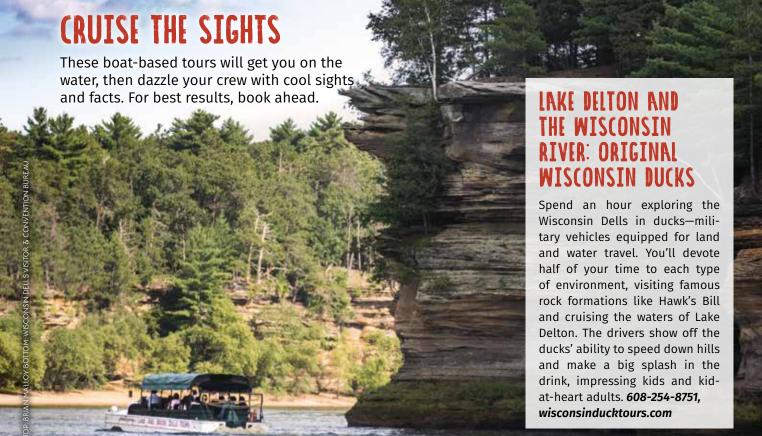
"If your kids can wear lifejackets, they can safely ride in a canoe," he says.

The Arena trip takes roughly three hours under average conditions if the group paddles nonstop, but many families turn it into an overnight camping trip. One big reason for this? Turtles.

"There are hundreds, if not thousands, of turtles in the river, and kids love to stop for them," Schmudlach says.

608-432-5058. thebestcanoecompanyever.com





Ooh and aah at Wisconsin's Capitol and the downtown Madison skyline from a motor yacht on Lake Monona. Sweeten your Sunday with the Ice Cream Social and Sightseeing cruise featuring superpremium ice cream from Madison's beloved Chocolate Shoppe and loads of toppings. Have as many scoops as you'd like, plus complimentary soda, during the 90-minute trip.

608-246-3138, bettyloucruises.com

ST. CROIX RIVER: **AFTON*HUDSON CRUISE LINES**

Board the Grand Duchess for the River-Fest cruise of the St. Croix, a tributary connecting Wisconsin to Minnesota's Twin Cities. The trip includes a presentation by a local naturalist and the director of the Carpenter Nature Center in Hastings, Minn. The kids will flip when live animal ambassadors appear. 651-436-8883. stcroixrivercruises.com



DINE ON THE SHORE



Don't want to get in the water? Then enjoy the view—with a beverage in hand and a great meal. Here are five eateries that offer kid-friendly fare, a casual atmosphere and gorgeous vistas.

CLEAR WATER HARBOR RESTAURANT & BAR WAUPACA

Enjoy an outdoor meal as you behold the beauty of emerald-tinted Taylor Lake. This establishment is known for ice cream, gluten-free options, a twiceweekly fish fry and kid-approved fare like cheeseburgers and mini tacos.

715-258-9912, clearwaterharbor.com

OLD POST OFFICE

This former post office is all about Door County traditions and views of Eagle Harbor. Try the region's famous cherries in morning pancakes, or visit for the fish boil, a dramatic affair that includes a bonfire, a sunset, storytelling and a kettle of whitefish that boils over when ready to eat. (Hot dogs and chicken are available for the kids.) Reservations are required for the fish boil; call for times. 920-854-4034, oldpostoffice-doorcounty.com

PAISAN'S, MADISON

Paisan's patio is a relaxing place for an Italian meal and some of the best lake-gazing in Madison. Kids enjoy the thin-crust pizzas and customizable pasta dishes featuring a choice of three noodle shapes and six sauces. 608-257-3832, paisansrest.com

PIER 4 CAFE & SMOKEHOUSE, ALMA

Grab a bite on the Mississippi River at this seasonal spot, open March through November. Sit in the screenedin patio to watch barges float by during a breakfast of omelets or Germanstyle potato pancakes. At lunch try the Memphis-style barbecued ribs, which are smoked on-premise. 608-685-4964

SOUTH PIER PARLOR,

This old-fashioned ice cream parlor's treats are as refreshing as Lake Michigan's waters. The menu includes sundaes, floats and a rotating selection of ice cream flavors, including Shipwrecked, a vanilla ice cream with almonds and salted caramel. To enjoy lake views with your dessert, head to the adjacent pier. 920-395-2675, southpierparlor.com ew

ARTS AL FRESCO

Creativity thrives all year long across Wisconsin, but somehow, it's at its most inspiring in the peak of summer.

By Katie Vaughn



Ever notice how music sounds best when it's heard outside? How theater is even more magical when witnessed among towering trees or under twinkling stars? The way art is just that much more moving when viewed in the fresh air? Somehow it's true, and summer is the perfect time to experience all kinds of art in the out-of-doors.

THE BIG TICKETS

Head to Eau Claire for the Blue Ox Music Festival, a four-year-old fest that attracts the nation's finest acoustic, bluegrass, Americana and folk acts. The Devil Makes Three, the Del McCoury Band, Margo Price, Horseshoes and Hand Grenades, and Charlie Parr all perform this year. June 14-16

Known as the world's largest music festival, Milwaukee's Summerfest brings together more than 800 bands and 900,000 fans for 11 days of live music, food and brews. A big summer bash 51 years in the making, the fest this time around brings James Taylor and Bonnie Rait, Florida Georgia Line, Dave Matthews Band, Halsey and Logic, Journey and Def Leppard and others to the shores of Lake Michigan. June 27-July 1, July 3-8

The cool new kid on the summer festival block, Eaux Claires is musician Justin Veron's thank-you gift to his hometown of Eau Claire. Popular, indie-spirited and ever-changing since its inception four years ago, the festival mixes live music, performance art, literature readings and visual art in a combination carefully crafted by Vernon of Bon Iver and Aaron Dessner of The National. Camp out overnight to get the full experience. July 6-7

Eau Claire's also headquarters for country music at Country Jam USA. The festival began back in 1990 and has consistently brought in the hottest stars and longtime favorites, not to mention fans ready to rock. This year, Blake Shelton, Alabama and Billy Currington are among the headliners. July 19-21

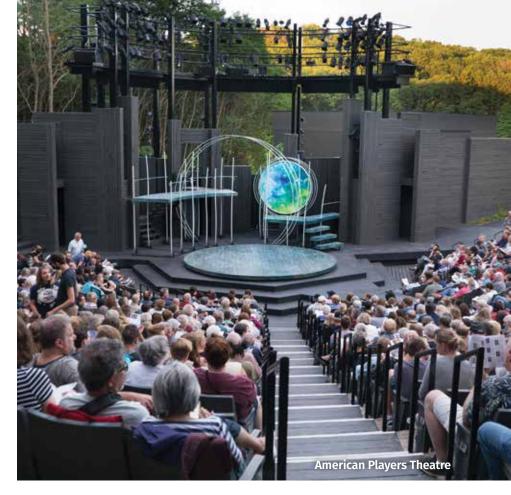
Appleton's Mile of Music also boasts some great numbers: 900 live music sets take place at 70 venues along one mile of the easily-walkable College Avenue. The downtown Americana music festival—with bands ranging from roots to country, indie rock to folk, soul to jazz-is now in its sixth year, and as always, it's free and open to everyone. August 2-5

ALL THE STATE'S A STAGE

If Shakespeare was producing plays today, he'd likely be a fan of American Players Theatre and its delightful outdoor amphitheater surrounded by woods in Spring Green. But while the Bard is always celebrated here (this summer, choose between "As You Like It" and "Measure for Measure"), the professional theater also incorporates American classics into its nineplay repertory each season. June 9-October 7 (outdoor season)

In Fish Creek, Northern Sky Theater stages family-friendly musicals-often hilarious Wisconsin originals—in the open air within beautiful Peninsula State Park. "Boxcar," "Dairy Heirs" and "Lumberjacks in Love" are this summer's selections. June 13-August 25

It's (almost) all Shakespeare, (nearly) all the time at **Door Shakespeare**. This Door County theater company specializes in classical theater, focusing primarily on Shakespeare, but with some Jean Baptiste Moliere, Oscar Wilde and a few other playwrights worked in. Performances take place in the grand Björklunden estate alongside Lake Michigan in Baileys Harbor. June 28-August 18







STRIKE UP THE BAND

Jazz, funk, blues, R&B, reggae and more combine for Jazz in the Park, a concert series held Thursday evenings in Milwaukee's Cathedral Square Park. The concerts spotlight local talent as well as national acts. Come for happy hour at 5 p.m. and stay for the music, which starts at 6. May 31-August 30

Wausau's Concerts on the Square lineup is decidedly eclectic, with rock, country, zydeco, bluegrass or jazz bands taking the stage each Wednesday night. Pick up a food-truck dinner and settle in for some live music, and maybe a little dancing, as the sun begins to set. June 13-August 22

With a breathtaking backdrop of Lake Superior, Bayfield's Concerts by the Lake couldn't be more picturesque. But the music's great too! Talented local and regional musicians hold court each Tuesday night in Memorial Park for free performances of rock, pop, indie, bluegrass and more. June 19-September 4

Lovely Lake Geneva is the setting for Music by the Lake, a ticketed concert series on select Saturdays and Sundays with seating in the openair Ferro Pavilion or surrounding lawn perfect for picnicking. Perched along the shores of Geneva Lake on the campus of George Williams College of Aurora University, the performances range from big band to classical to musical theater and beyond. June 24-August 11

The State Capitol lawn transforms into a picnic-blanket-spotted concert grounds each Wednesday evening with Concerts on the Square. The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra plays a mix of classical and pops music, with a few guest artists worked in. Attending a concert has been a Madison must-do since 1984. June 27-August 1





ARTISTIC ADVENTURES

Located on the stunning grounds of the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Lakefront Festival of Art highlights the paintings, metalwork, ceramics, fiber art, jewelry and more by 170 jury-selected artists from across the country. A tradition since 1963, this arts extravaganza also features interactive events, children's activities, live music, food, a beer garden and a wine garden. June 15-17

Set on the streets surrounding the State Capitol, Madison's Art Fair on the Square celebrates its 60th year this summer. Nearly 500 artists from around the country exhibit paintings, prints, sculpture, photography and jewelry along the Capitol Square, while the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art also reserves a block of State Street for a dozen "emerging" artists. July 14-15

Over at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, the Midsummer Festival of the Arts is a juried showcase of 135 artists who present their prints, photography, paintings, ceramics, glass art, leather and fiber work, woodwork and more. Live music, food, workshops and activities round out this event, now in its 48th year. July 21-22

Katie Vaughn is a Madison-based arts and features writer and the editor of Northerly, a website celebrating family life in Wisconsin.

A SCENIC STROLL

The only thing better than wandering through a beautiful park is when that greenspace is dotted with striking works of art. At the Lynden Sculpture Garden in Milwaukee, more than 50 large-scale pieces sit alongside trees and a lake on 40 lush acres resembling an English country garden. Pick up a map or sign up for a Sunday walking tour, and then pause to contemplate one of Deborah Butterfield's iconic bronze horses, Tony Smith's geometric Wandering Rocks and two gracefully abstracted figures by Henry Moore, among many other artistic delights. ew



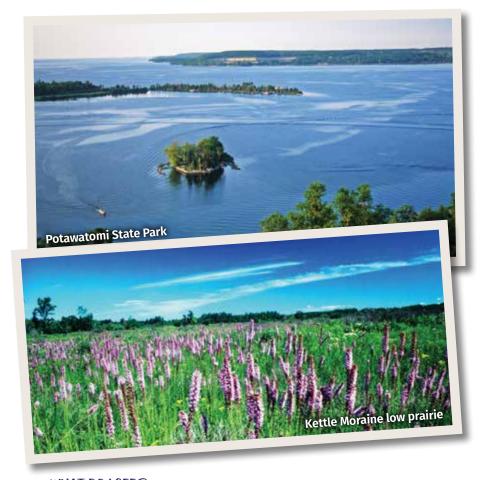


CHOOSE YOUR OWN HIKING ADVENTURE

On the state's Ice Age National Scenic Trail, hikers can customize their trail experience in a variety of ways.

By Kevin Revolinski





WHAT DO I SEE?

Climb 500 feet up 1.6 billion-year-old bluffs overlooking a glacially-made lake, pass through prairie patches full of wildflowers, scan the horizon from the top of a glacial kame, trek along the narrow back of a long esker high above the forest floor and stroll the sandy shore of Lake Michigan or along the amazing Dells of the Eau Claire River—the terrain and vistas of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (IAT) know no limits. One of 11 such federally honored trails, the amazing IAT is contained entirely within the borders of Wisconsin.

HOW LONG IS IT?

Yellow blazes on posts and trees guide hikers along footpaths traversing a combination of public lands and easements, along with some connecting roads through some of the finest scenery and wild places in the state. However, the trail isn't fully completed yet—it's still in development by teams of volunteer trail builders organized by the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA). The trail already has over 600 miles completed toward its planned 1,000 miles.

WHERE DOES IT PASS THROUGH?

The route, which roughly follows the edge of the last advance of the glaciers, is filled with eskers, drumlins, moraines and kames—the ice-carved stars of the IAT. The eastern terminus lies in Potawatomi State Park in Door County. From there the trail winds its way down through the Kettle Moraine area in a southbound loop that follows the Rock River through the center of Janesville, then works its way north along the western side of Madison, up the middle of the state to where it enters the Northwoods northeast of Wausau, bears west, and crosses to the western terminus inside Interstate Park on the St. Croix River.

CAN I HIKE SHORTER SEGMENTS OF IT?

Trail segments are measured point-to-point, one way. The 7.6-mile Chippewa Moraine Segment passes more than 20 kettle lakes, two primitive campsites and an interpretive center, but can be combined with 12.3 miles of uninterrupted trail to the east and on to Cornell's Brunet Island State Park by connecting routes for a two-day hike. But the IAT also has a few good out-and-back options such as the 3.8-mile lollipop trail at Cedar Lakes Segment near Hartford. Whatever your skill level or time constraints, there's a bit of the Ice Age Trail just for you.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

Whether you have part of a day or a half-week, there are plenty of ways to explore the IAT. Use the interactive Hiker Resource Map on iceagetrail.org to find these segments by name, or purchase the organization's guidebook and map atlas.

1 TO 2 HOURS

Cedar Lake (3.8 mi r/t)

Indian Lake (2.9 mi)

John Muir Park (1.7 mi r/t)

Dells of the Eau Claire (2.6 mi)

HALF DAY

Brooklyn (3.5 mi)

Holy Hill (6.9 mi)

Pike Lake (3.3 mi)

Hartmann Creek (5.6 mi)

FULL DAY

Devil's Lake (10.9 mi)

Chippewa Moraine (7.6 mi)

Point Beach (10 mi)

Southern Blue Hills (7.2 mi)

TWO OR MORE DAYS

Kettle Moraine Northern Unit segments (31 mi)

Kettle Moraine Southern Unit segments (30 mi)

Mondeaux Esker-Lake Eleven segments (40.6 mi)

Kettlebowl-Harrison Hills (71 mi)

STAY A WHILE

If you're thru-hiking a longer trail segment, you're going to need a place to sleep. Fortunately, the IAT has designated areas for free "dispersed camping," a low-impact undeveloped form of tent camping with no amenities whatsoever. Some segments also offer backcountry shelters, a basic roofed structure limited to ten campers, with a nearby water source, fire ring and pit toilet. The IAT segments through the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern and Southern Units offer five and three of them, respectively. Parks and preserves along or near the trail—such as Devil's Lake State Park, Point Beach State Forest or Dells of the Eau Claire County Park—also often provide paid camping options.

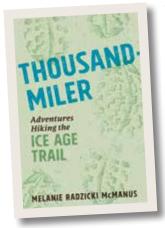


O&A WITH A THOUSAND-MILER

Anyone who completes the entire trail can obtain a certificate from the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Melanie Radzicki McManus, author of "Thousand-Miler: Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail," is one such intrepid hiker. (She hiked it all twice!)

What do you love about the IAT?

I love the fact that it showcases such a wide variety of our beautiful state: forests, prairie, farmland, Lake Michigan, glacial lakes and even some of our towns, cities and villages. It allows users to view our world-class glacial remains in a manner that's easy to understand and appreciate. And I love the fact that it leads hikers through so many gorgeous areas that we'd never otherwise be able to see.



What made you write about your experience?

I had no intention of writing a book when I set out, but the experience affected me profoundly. I couldn't stop thinking of the trail's beauty, and how hiking it had been such a stressrelieving, restorative experience. I was obsessed with it and wanted to spread the Ice Age Trail gospel!

Why did you include other thru-hikers' experiences?

When I thought about the stories of the other hikers I met, I realized I could write a book that uses my own narrative as the thread to carry the book along, but I could enrich it by talking about the trail's history and the experiences of the others I met along the way. I also thought it would be great to add in the stories of three notable thru-hikers: Jim Stau-

dacher, the very first person to thru-hike the trail in 1979; Jason Dorgan, the first person to set a speed record on the trail; and Jenni Heisz, one of the IAT's first two veterans to hike the trail through the Warrior Hike program.

What advice do you give other hikers?

The Ice Age Trail is a true treasure for Wisconsinites. We need to be as proud of this as we are of the Packers and cheese curds. There is a hike on that trail for everyone, whether you like long or short hikes, forest or city hiking/walking, easy or hard paths, remote or popular areas. We need to use it, publicize it and help finish it, whether that's by monetary donation, volunteering to help build or maintain trails or by making sure everyone knows it exists. There's almost no money from the federal or state governments to do trail work anymore. It's all up to us.



TRAIL WITH A VIEW

Walk these short treks to amazing viewpoints.

Devil's Lake State Park

Hikes up the East and West Bluffs overlooking the lake are short, but not easy. Either climb the steep, step-like rocky trail on the south end of the East Bluff, or take the longer gradual hikes from the northern ends of either bluff to find the breathtaking views of the lake.

Gibraltar Rock

A short hike from the parking lot on this segment takes you up to a 200-foot cliff with a view out toward Lake Wisconsin and the Wisconsin River Valley.

Interstate Park

Part of the park's Pothole Trail is the first bit of the Ice Age Trail. A short walk from the parking lot provides views of the St. Croix River gorge and the holes drilled into rock by rushing meltwater.

Parnell Tower

Connected to the IAT by a loop trail, this 60-foot-high observation deck has a 25-mile view to the horizon and reveals glacial drumlins in the surrounding land. Either walk the 500 feet directly there or take the loop. ew

Kevin Revolinski is a Wisconsin outdoors writer and author of FalconGuides' "Paddling Wisconsin," a guidebook to the best paddling throughout the Badger State.



Vintage shopping is an activity that has its own magic—the thrill of the hunt, scoring one-of-a-kind finds and exploring shops and markets that are as far from big-box as you can get. Wisconsin holds many antique shopping gems, along with vintage-inspired inns and restaurants to turn it into a weekend to soak up the past. Whether you're searching for mid-century furniture, farmhouse treasures or if you're longing to stay in a B&B steeped in history, Wisconsin has you covered.

MADISON

As one of the premier antique malls in the state, Odana Antiques boasts 30,000 square feet teeming with wares purveyed by 115 dealers who have gone through a carefully-vetted process. Items range from the early 1800s through 1970. If salvage is more your style, visit Deconstruction Inc., a wonderland of architectural pieces, barn wood, ceiling tins and lighting. And you can be assured that you're buying local—90 percent of the materials have been sourced in Dane County. Then hit up Monona's Booth 121 for beautifully upcycled gifts and decor pieces made by over 100 area artists. Adorable throw pillows, on-trend clothes and cheeky jewelry await.

AND DON'T MISS: The Graduate Madison, just a hop, skip and a jump from the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and filled with delightful, summer camp-like vintage decor. Providing 72 rooms and two eateries, walking into the lobby feels as if you're stepping onto a Wes Anderson set—chandeliers made from canoes, a vintage trophy case and old-school artwork. Portage Pi is a walk-up coffee and juice bar next to the lobby, and the new Camp Trippalindee restaurant features decor derived from 1980s camp movies, modern Wisconsin fare and an outdoor deck with Adirondack chairs and fire pits.

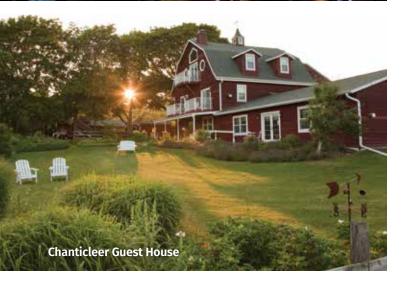
APPLETON

For they-don't-make-them-like-this-anymore furniture, stop at Harp Gallery, famous for their impeccable antique pieces that include bookcases, chests, chairs and collectible art. Head downtown to The Vintage Garden, a boutique that focuses on the popular farmhouse trend and restored antique furniture. Dressers, tables, books and found objects are plucked from Midwest markets and auctions, and presented in a lovely, curated space.

AND DON'T MISS: Franklin Street Inn, a stately Victorian home that's been restored to its former glory and transformed into a bed and breakfast. The downtown inn, built in 1897, features two bedrooms and two suites with private baths. Guests can even dine in one of the distinctive historical turrets. Amid the Victorian decor, you'll find current touches such as whirlpool jet tubs, gas fireplaces and Wi-Fi. After all that relaxing, satiate your appetite at RYE, a nearby restaurant swathed in bygone-inspired materials like rustic wood and brushed nickel. The offerings are equally-classic—artisan cocktails, small plates for sharing and plentiful seafood options. Lobster roll, anyone?







MILWAUKEE

The state's largest city holds a wide array of vintage options, from mid-century looks to well-loved items. Orange and Blue Co. on Hubbard Street is a weekend-only boutique that supplies highly-curated vintage finds with a bohemian, 1970s vibe, along with handmade goods like jewelry and kitchen essentials-many made by women makers. (The owners are also starting a restaurant that connects to the space: Uncle Wolfie's Breakfast Tavern, set to open this year.) If you're questing for mid-century pieces, visit National Avenue's Joint Effort Studio to find the motherlode—a sizeable collection of designer modernist furniture and top-notch period housewares. The retail space is a collaboration with Brew City Salvage, an architectural utopia located next door. If you voyage beyond downtown, don't miss Brookfield's The Bee's Knees Homestead, a vintage and handcrafted marketplace in an 1877 barn. Highlighting the products of over 50 vendors, the shop specializes in repurposed decor, homemade candles and antique objects-stop here if you're searching for the perfect farmhouse-style sign. If you can, plan your trip around re:Craft and Relic, a vintage market with a cult following. Housed in the Milwaukee County Sports Complex and held three times a year, this stylish and savvy market features over 150 artists, makers and "junkers," sharing wares like customizable jewelry made with vintage bits and baubles, chippy furniture and DIY workshops to make your own repurposed masterpiece.

AND DON'T MISS: The Iron Horse Hotel, a Milwaukee institution known for its storied decor. A century-old warehouse made over into a sought-after destination for travelers, the hotel is styled in exposed Cream City brick, wooden beams and industrial light fixtures. If you're looking for a swanky place to have a nightcap, go to Bryant's Cocktail Lounge. This year, the establishment is celebrating its 80th anniversary and was the first bar to hire licensed female bartenders in Milwaukee. It stays true to its historic roots, pouring Depression-era cocktails like Old Fashioneds, Jack Frosts and Hawaiian Eyes. If you'd prefer to get out of town, book a stay at Cedarburg's Washington House Inn. Built in 1886, the inn is smackdab in the historic district and offers complimentary continental breakfasts, wine and cheese social hours, and decor that harkens back to a yesteryear trip to the country.

DOOR COUNTY

Ellison Bay's Summer Camp Antiques & Gifts, slated to move into their Highway 42 location this summer, carries noteworthy primitives and repurposed, handmade pieces-painted items, classroom maps and vintage pennants abound. Sturgeon Bay's Door County Traders on Third is a local mainstay that showcases antique clocks, sought-after records and costume jewelry. Olde Orchard Antique Mall has been an Egg Harbor favorite for 30 years, presenting 19,000 square feet of fine glass, garden decor and collectibles.

AND DON'T MISS: The Chanticleer Guest House, an idyllic inn in Sturgeon Bay. With an abundance of antiques on display, the accommodations include oh-so-charming suites, cottages and cabins. The Whistling Swan of Fish Creek is Door County's oldest operating inn, originally built in I887. Today, it's an inn-meets-diningdestination, with a sophisticated restaurant famed for its soups, fish and decadent desserts. For a standard Door County fish boil with a side of history, go to Ephraim's Old Post Office Restaurant, which you guessed it—resides in an early 20th-century post office and serves 30,000 pounds of whitefish every summer.

LAKE GENEVA

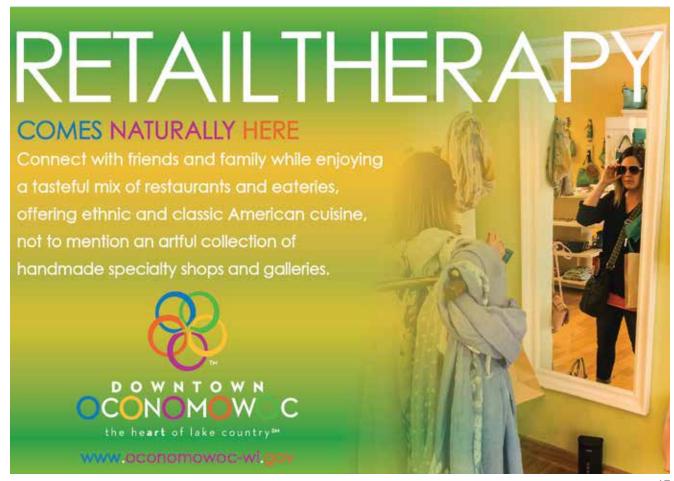
Downtown, you'll find The Design Coach, curated by designer Philip Sassano. His retail location is equal parts studio, workshop, showroom and shop that's open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays. It's a treasure trove of rustic, reimagined curiosities, lined wall-to-wall with old suitcases, sepia photographs and industrial signs. For one of the best flea markets around, drive 20 minutes to the Elkhorn Flea Market. Peruse over 500 dealers and discover ageless furniture, vintage pottery and other wish-list items. This year it's held on May 20, June 24, August 12 and September 30.

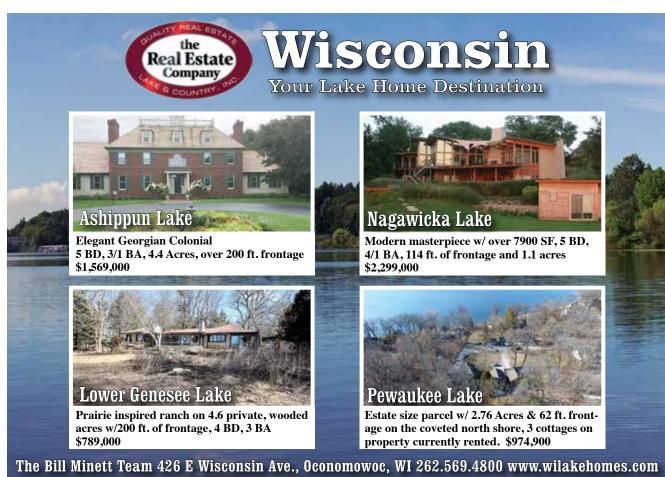
AND DON'T MISS: The Maxwell Mansion, built in 1856, takes a turn as a luxurious hotel that honors the past. It has 26 well-appointed guestrooms equipped with whirlpool tubs, smart TVs and beds with memoryfoam mattresses. There's a bar with an old-fashioned pharmacy theme called the Apothecary Bar, and for a 1920s throwback, head to the Speakeasy, open Fridays and Saturdays—just be sure you have the password, available on Facebook. The equally-elegant Baker House is a I30-year-old lakefront home with four opulent guestrooms and spa treatments. No Lake Geneva trip is complete without a stop at Boxed and Burlap, a sweet coffeehouse decorated in reclaimed barn wood and subway tile, serving up espressos and lavender lattes in vintage cups and saucers. ew

Shelby Deering is a freelance writer from Madison, contributing to regional and national publications like BRAVA and Architectural Digest.











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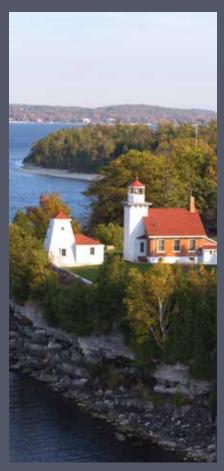
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Art is Life: Door County's The Hardy Gallery (open mid-May through mid-October) offers an iconic selfie opportunity. [@andrea.debbink]

Water Ways: Boats sit at the ready at Wingra Boats on Lake Wingra in Madison. [@shaynamace]

Pause and Reflect:

Utilitarian yet stunning, the Sturgeon Bay Canal Pierhead Light was constructed in 1903. [@racer787]

Perrot Paradise: Brady's Bluff in Perrot State Park is located at the convergence of the Mississippi and Trempealeau Rivers and has breathtaking views.

[@wisconsinwanderlust]





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