



MIDWEST
Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

2014 MAFWA DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL MEETING
81st Meeting, Michigan Host
Park Place Hotel, 300 East State Street, Traverse City, MI
June 22-25, 2014

DIRECTOR MEETING FIELD TRIPS
Options to Experience the Traverse City Vicinity
(Including Pre and Post Trips – June 22-25, 2014)

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Optional Pre-Meeting Tour

Cost per person \$23.00

(7:30 am – 5:30 pm)

Mackinac Island Tour/Ft. Mackinac - Pre- register for trip on MAFWA web site. Trip begins from Park Place Hotel leaving Park Place Hotel Lobby at 7:30 am – and arriving at 9:30 at Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry Dock, 56 E. Central Avenue, Mackinaw City. Take the ferry across to the Island. Upon arrival from Ferry, take a short walk to Fort Mackinac and have guided tour by Director of Mackinac State Historic Parks, Phil Porter (45 minutes), and then free time until 3:00 pm. Board the Ferry boat at 3:00 pm back to Mackinaw City. Take transportation back to Park Place Hotel and arrive at Park Place Hotel at 5:30. **Cost \$23 round trip per person on Shepler's Mackinac Ferry. Minimum of 6 people required to hold trip. Deadline: June 2nd.**

Monday, June 23, 2014

Sponsored by Meijer

Field Trip Options – Day 1

(3:00 pm – 9:00 pm)

Each registrant will select two field trip choices out of 4: (1st choice, and 2nd choice) when pre-registering on line. Individuals will receive a ticket with Meeting registration packet of the field trip that was selected when arriving at the Park Place Hotel registration desk. Trips must have 5 people minimum to hold trip.

License terminals will be set up to purchase your Michigan fishing license at the registration Desk when arriving at Park Place Hotel. License costs: Fish 24 hour period for \$10 all species – Type 203, or Fish 72 hour period for \$30.00 all species - Type 204 – Fee may be covered by DNR.

- 1. Catch and Cook Fishing Experience** – Enjoy fishing with the Great Lakes Fishing charters. Take a short walk from the Hotel to the Clinch Park docks and load in fishing boats. Enjoy fishing in Grand Traverse Bay. After fishing, you will return to NW Traverse Leelanau Grelickville docks, where you will be shuttled by DNR vehicles to Apache Trout Grill. Upon arrival, the Chef will prepare your fresh catch at dinner. The Grand Traverse Area Sport Fishing Association (GTASFA) will be hosting this trip. Proceeds for

this trip will be used for kid fishing programs in Grand Traverse area 4 hours. **Maximum of 30 people.**

PLAN B – Fishtown in Leland - Alternate for Charter Boat Fishing in event of Rainout on Monday

In the event of bad weather conditions for the fishing options, we would take everyone by buses to Fishtown. This will be announced on Tuesday morning, June 24th.

*Visit (The heart of a commercial fishing village) weathered fishing shanties, smokehouses, overhanging docks, fish tugs and charter boats along the Leland River. Take buses departing from Park Place Hotel and have a narrated tour by MI DNR staff. Amanda Holmes to let her know the group is visiting. 4 hours. **Maximum of 30 people.***

- 2. Kirtland Warbler Tour** – Take transportation on a guided tour and travel east towards Kalkaska. Along the way, have a guided tour by a DNR Wildlife Biologist and view Kirtland warbler habitat, prairie woods. Travel back to Traverse City and join others for dinner at Apache Trout Grill for dinner, 4 hours. No Cost. Bring your binoculars!
Maximum of 20 people.
- 3. Boardman Dam and Weir Tour** – Take a brief shuttle ride and then float down the river in a kayak. You will tour three Boardman River dams and learn about the largest dam removal project in Michigan's history, and the largest wetlands restoration in the Great Lakes Basin. The local County Parks Director has offered to help guide the tour. Return to Park and travel to the Apache Trout Grill for dinner. *Estimated DNR cost of \$30.00 per person for shuttle, and kayak rental Cost of Shuttle – TBD once we determine who will provide shuttle service.* 4 hours. **Maximum of 15 people.**
- 4. Trout Stream Fishing** – take a bus trip to a popular fishing site. Gary Whelan, DNR Fisheries will guide the tour. Travel to Apache Trout Grill for dinner and networking. Waders will be provided (shoe size required). Estimated DNR cost is \$20 per person plus license. 4 hours. **Maximum of 10 people.**

All tours will end up at the Apache Trout Grill, 13671 S. West-Bay Shore Drive, Traverse City on Monday evening. Dinner will be served in shifts depending on arrival of each tour from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, family style. Beverages will be provided outside on deck at the Tiki bar.

If you do not participate in a Field trip, let registration desk know upon arrival, so drivers can transport you to Apache Trout Grill at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Field Trip Tour – Day 2

(3:30 pm – 9:30 pm)

Old Mission Peninsula and Lighthouse tour – Everyone load buses and drive to lighthouse for brief tour, and then visit two of the local wineries on the peninsula (Two Lads and Chateau Chantel). The final stop is Chateau Grand Traverse for a heavy appetizer reception and demonstration from Gourmet Gone Wild's very own Chef Dan. Mr. Eddie O'Keefe, President and CEO of the winery will welcome everyone and tell about CGT from its humble beginnings to becoming the largest winery in Michigan over the last 30 years.

Spouses/guests must pre-register for a cost of \$50 for trip per person.

***Optional Evening Fishing Activity – Trout Unlimited**

8:30 pm – 12:00 Midnight (NOTE: this trip will depart from the reception at Chateau Grand Traverse at the conclusion of the reception, and guests will be brought back to the hotel after fishing.)

Evening Trout Fishing - Sign up at pre-registration on line. Gary Whelan, MI DNR Fisheries, Bryan Burroughs, Executive Director of Trout Unlimited and staff will take guests on an evening trout fishing trip. Experience the *Hexagenia* (mayfly) hatch. The fishing trip will take place by taking a short drive to the Upper Manistee River near Gaylord. All equipment and head lamps will be provided by Trout Unlimited. Please provide your shoe size in an e-mail to Gary Whelan, DNR Fisheries, whelang@michigan.gov so we can have waders in hand for you. DNR vehicles provided for the trip. No Cost. **Maximum of 10 people.**

Michigan's most famous fly hatch is the *Hexagenia* hatch that occurs nightly on our best trout waters in late June and is a chance to catch a big brown trout in the twilight. It is exciting fishing when conditions are right and we will have room for 10 anglers to get it a try on the Upper Manistee River. All tackle, rods and waders will be provided, and we just need to know your wader size. Our friends from Michigan Trout Unlimited are going to guide you on this famous water. We will leave the hotel at 8:30 PM and will not return until after midnight. There is nothing more exciting than hooking and fighting a big trout in the dark.

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

After MAFWA Meeting - Optional Post Meeting Tour

Cost per person \$20.00

(1:00 pm – 7:00 pm)

Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes – take a bus tour to Empire Beach, Sleeping Bear dunes, piping plover viewing on bus. Maia Turek and Doug Reeves will guide and narrate the tour. The cost will be based on size of bus needed, 5-6 hours. Those going on this trip will stop for dinner (pay on own) on the return trip back to Park Place Hotel. Individual cost per person \$20.

Minimum of 6 people required to hold trip. Maximum 20 people. Deadline June 2nd.

*Please be aware that the Traverse City area in the summer is one of Michigan's main tourism areas. If you are planning on extending your visit in Michigan, please be aware that lodging rates can be higher and reservations should be made early.

Tour and Explore Traverse City on your own:

Extend your visit - Additional Tours and Opportunities (pre or post Director Meeting for attendees and spouses)

Traverse City and has been recognized nationally as a special destination location. The Park Place Hotel is within walking distance of beaches, restaurants, a variety of unique shops, restaurants, and nightlife, and it is just minutes from museums, world class entertainment, casinos, wineries, and outdoor recreational opportunities of all kinds, year-round!

1. There are over **51 local hotels** that will accommodate visitor's pre or post meeting. Reservations should be made well in advance of meeting to secure a hotel room.
<http://www.traversecity.com/>
2. **Fish Town** – visit (The heart of a commercial fishing village - Fish Town – Leland Peninsula) weathered fishing shanties, smokehouses, overhanging docks, fish tugs and charter boats along the Leland River, cost based on size of bus needed.
3. **Tall Ship Manitou** – 2 hour sail in Grand Traverse Bay (replica of an 1800's "coasting" cargo schooner, similar to those that sailed the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. Specifically designed for passenger service, her hull was constructed in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1983 and finished by Vermont carpenters on Lake Champlain. With a 59 passenger capacity. Reserve in advance. \$42.00 each person.
4. **Great Lakes Schoolship - Inland Seas** - Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA) experience the science and spirit of the Great Lakes through shipboard and on-shore programs, \$35.00 per person. Reserve in advance.

5. **Bass Fishing** – fish small mouth on Grand Traverse Bay, small charter boat. Contact Gary Whelan, MI DNR Fisheries Division prior to the meeting to set up your trip.
6. **Shooting Lessons** – Brian Belinsky, Fieldsport. Provide wingshooting experience for those interested. Contact Al Stewart, MI DNR Wildlife Division at registration. Cost to be determined. <http://www.fieldsportltd.com>
7. **Mackinac Island – One of the top 10 Islands in the world.** Contact Maia Turek/Vicki Brown, MI DNR for more information at registration.
8. **Rec 101 Program** – 1 hour each, Free, Come experience Michigan's nationally-recognized program designed to get people outside by removing barriers to participation. This free, intro-to program comes with all the gear, guides and good times provided. Scheduled based on conference schedule availability. We have biking, kayaking, geocaching, kite boarding, stand-up paddle boarding and urban birding as options for these sessions. Maia Turek will coordinate. See details at registration desk.
9. **MI Big Green Gym** – 1 hour each, Free - Michigan State Parks have partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Michigan Recreation and Park Association to promote state and local parks as fitness destinations. Come experience belly dancing, Zumba, or personal training in MI Big Green Gym and learn what it means to get Fresh Air Fit in Michigan! Maia Turek will provide additional information at registration desk.
10. **Microbrewery/Taproom Tours** - Check out the microbreweries and taprooms in Traverse City. Emulating the region's award-winning wine industry by their emphasis on local ingredients, craft brewers are suddenly multiplying across the Traverse City landscape. The area now boasts nine microbreweries, brewpubs and craft brew taprooms. Website: <http://www.traversecity.com/microbreweries-408/>
11. **Baa Baa Zuzu Tour** – A unique eco-conscious clothing store/factory that utilizes materials made out of reused wool garments that have gone through the wash in a process like felting. Baa Baa Zuzu products can now be found in more than 900 stores in the U.S., Canada and Japan. The U.S. stores are mainly in the Midwest and on the East Coast, but Burns hopes to expand further, to the Rockies and the Northwest.
12. **Downtown Specialty Stores** - Traverse City Shopping – check out the downtown area to see what it has to offer: <http://www.traversecity.com/shopping-25/>
13. **Fishing Opportunities** – Check out additional fishing opportunities (charter or guide service) <http://www.traversecity.com/>