



Porcupine Mountains Visitor



2016 Printed by the Friends of the Porkies

www.mi.gov/porkies

WELCOME TO THE PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS

Photo courtesy Ashley Behnke



Porcupine Mountains photo contest First Place - Landscape/ Lake category: Morning Fog Rolling in Over the Escarpment by Ashley Behnke

We here at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park (aka "the Porkies") have been hard at work and you will notice many changes this year. There is a new restroom facility in the Union Bay Campground, redesigned boat launch and parking area at the Union Bay boating access site and an 18-hole disc golf course at the winter sports complex. Much of the funding for these improvements comes from your purchase of overnight stays and the Recreation Passport you purchase for vehicle entry.

While I am sure you will enjoy these new and upgraded facilities, I know you will love the natural beauty of this wonderful 60,000-acre wilderness. Hike, ski or snowshoe, enjoy the view from many grand vistas, look for agates, visit the Presque Isle River waterfalls, enjoy the overnight lodging and camping options, or hit the slopes at the Porkies ski area. With the vastness of this wilderness, there is always something new to discover each time you visit.

I would like to thank you for choosing to visit the Porkies and invite you to stop back. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask our knowledgeable staff for assistance. I will see you in the mountains.

Sincerely,
Jeff Gaertner, Park Manager

NEW IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

Backcountry campers, cabin and yurt users will notice a few big changes this year.

First, backcountry campers can now **register online!** Online registration will replace the self registration we formerly offered. "This change will allow us to better understand how many backcountry campers we have at any given time and allow backcountry campers to register ahead of time at their leisure" said Park Manager Jeff Gaertner. **Online registration is not a backcountry camping permit.**

Backcountry campers will need to check in upon arrival to be issued their camping permit.

Also, many of our park cabins and yurts now have combination locks. To protect the security of the cabin and yurt users, we will no longer be placing keys and/or combinations "out." Cabin and yurt users will need to check in at any of the three check-in locations in person.

Check in hours and locations

All Times are Eastern Time

May 15 - October 15

8 a.m. - 8 p.m. as follows:

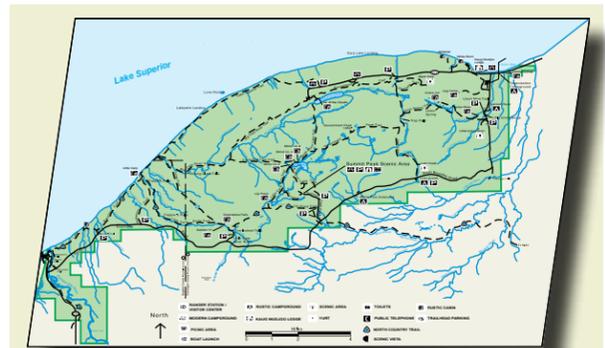
Park Headquarters 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Visitor Center 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Union Bay Campground 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

October 16 - May 14

Park Headquarters 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Map on pages 4-5

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations.

THE WILDERNESS VISITOR CENTER



The Wilderness Visitor Center is located along South Boundary Road near the highway 107 junction. Whether you are visiting the Porcupine Mountains for an hour, or a week, make the center your first stop.

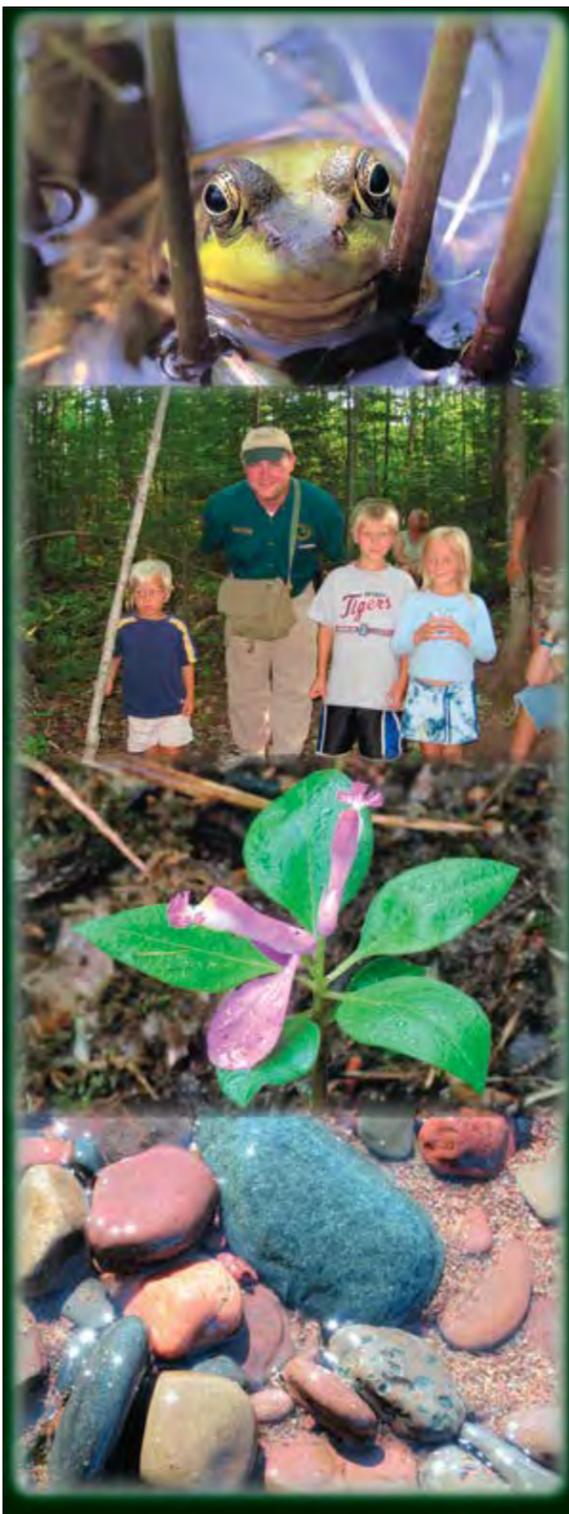
Here you can check on trail conditions, register for backpacking, get directions to scenic sites, check wildlife

sightings, note the interpretive activities schedule, view the park's 12-minute video presentation and sign out a bird-watching kit or fishing pole.

Just outside the center is an enjoyable self-guided nature trail. This mile-long loop takes about an hour to walk and highlights the wildlife and other natural features of the north woods.

Emergency - 911
anywhere, any time
any phone

Interpretive Programs



Interpretive programs are held from June through early October and from December through February. For a detailed schedule, or to get directions to program locations, stop by the visitor center, park headquarters, either of the park campground offices or visit www.michigan.gov/porkiesvc.

Some of our 2016 programs

Astronomy

Join us at the Lake of the Clouds observation area for a chance to look through our telescope at distant planets or galaxies. Learn some of the more notable summer constellations and also how to use a "star chart." If we're lucky, we may see some meteors or even the northern lights.

Fire by Friction

Want the confidence to be able to start a campfire without matches or a lighter? Try your hand at various "primitive" methods of creating fire during this program.

Bear Den Hike

Have you ever stuck your head in a bear den? Here is your chance. Join us as we explore the life of Michigan's black bear and end up at an actual bear den site.

Arrows Away

Come try out the park's archery equipment and learn the basics of shooting a bow and arrow. This program is for all ages and most ability levels. All equipment provided.

Michigan Gray Wolf Hike

Are there wolves in the park? Where would they be and how did they get here? Learn all this and more as we discuss the natural history and current status of one of Michigan's most controversial animals.

Agates Rock

We will learn to identify some of the more common beach stones found in Union Bay and search for the elusive Lake Superior agate. Fun for all ages. Bring water shoes.

Lake of the Clouds Guided Hike

Join park staff for this guided hike "down" to the North Mirror Lake Trail and see the escarpment from above and below. It's a great hike of medium difficulty. 1.5 miles and 1+ hours.

Wilderness Navigation

Learn skills like setting and following a compass bearing, taking a "map" bearing, reading maps and using GPS.

SCENIC AREAS



Lake of the Clouds

The most-photographed area and the hallmark view of the Porcupine Mountains is the view overlooking Lake of the Clouds.

From the parking lot at the western terminus of highway 107, it is a short 100-yard hike (or you can take the slightly longer accessible boardwalk) to the spectacular viewing areas atop a 300-foot precipice that showcases Lake of the Clouds and the heart of the Porcupine Mountains.

Signs along the route explain the geologic formations and reveal some of the natural and human history of Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.



Summit Peak

At the end of Summit Peak Road, a one-half mile trail leads visitors to the highest point in the mountains.

During the first 10 minutes of the hike, the trail climbs uphill under a dense hardwood canopy. Benches along the way provide convenient rest stops. Stairs and boardwalks take the trail over ancient lava flows and out onto a large viewing deck overlooking the Little Carp River.

Continuing to the top, a lookout tower provides a panorama of the park's rugged wilderness — ancient mountains that once were worn by the glaciers but now are blanketed by a thick forest. Lake Superior's vast blue horizon is seen in the distance.



Presque Isle River

Wild and scenic, the Presque Isle River tumbles over several waterfalls and rapids as it races to meet Lake Superior. The largest and most dramatic waterfall along the river is named Manabezho, after a powerful spirit-god of the native Ojibwa people.

A one-half mile boardwalk, with decks and observation platforms, parallels the Presque Isle River and provides breathtaking views of one of Michigan's wildest rivers. For your safety, no swimming or wading is permitted in the river.

Also located at this scenic area are a picnic spot, an overnight backpacker's parking lot and a rustic campground.

WHAT TO DO

1 Day



Even a short hike on the Escarpment Trail produces some great views

If you have only one day or less, make sure you see the three scenic areas: Lake of the Clouds, Summit Peak and Presque Isle River. Allow plenty of travel time. The Presque Isle River is about 32 miles from Lake of the Clouds.

The views get even better at Lake of the Clouds if you hike a few miles on the North Mirror Lake, Big Carp River or Escarpment trails.

At Summit Peak, walk the half-mile to the observation tower for the premier panorama of the park. While at Presque Isle, walk the 2-mile loop formed by the East and West River trails that run parallel to the wild and scenic Presque Isle River and its amazing waterfalls.

2 Days



Enjoy the Lake Superior beach

Two days allow you to take in everything from day one, plus you can attend some of the park's interpretive programs. On day two, hunt for agates, take a swim or spend time along the shore of Lake Superior. There are picnic areas at the east and west ends of the park. The east end has the only sandy beach.

Do some more hiking. Take the self-guided interpretive nature trail at the Wilderness Visitor Center or the historic interpretive trail at Union Mine. Other must-do hikes include Trap Falls, Overlook Trail, Lost Lake and Summit Peak Loop. The visitor center has a relief map and suggested hikes to help you plan each adventure.

3 or More Days



Mirror Lake is a beautiful area

This option allows the most flexibility. You can do the previous two days' worth of activities, plus experience the remote interior of the park. Take longer day hikes or plan an overnight hike. The visitor center has options based on your abilities and time. Other hiking options include spending time at Mirror Lake, hiking to Shining Cloud Falls or down to a remote section of Lake Superior beach. Take our waterfall challenge to see how many of the park's named waterfalls you can visit in one day.

You can take in more interpretive programs or take a spin on our mountain-biking trails. Park staff can also provide information on other area attractions.

BACKCOUNTRY CABINS



The park's backcountry cabin program started in 1945 with the construction of the Mirror Lake 8 bunk cabin.

Prior to the invention of modern day lightweight backpacking gear, and the improvement of some of the roads in the park, accessing the park's rugged interior was much more difficult than it is today.

To give people a destination and a place to set up camp, early park personnel decided to build what they called "trail-side cabins." The first cabins built were the ones on Mirror Lake. By 1949, park staff had constructed 10 trail-side cabins.

Originally available for \$1.50 per night and equipped with a large wood-burning cook stove and kerosene lanterns, the park's cabins quickly gained a devout following.

In the years since, cabins like Mirror Lake 2 bunk, Section 17, and Lake Superior cabins have been converted from "ranger" backcountry cabins to cabins the public can now rent. Acquisitions like the original Speaker's cabin and the Big Carp 6 bunk added cabins that once were privately owned. The park built some cabins in the 1990s which brings us to the 17 cabins now available.

Today we call them Backcountry Cabins. They rent for \$65 per night and are equipped with mattresses, a wood stove,

bow saw and ax, plates, utensils, cooking pots, pans and a percolator-type coffee maker.

Though some things have changed in how we equip each cabin, the one thing that has not changed is their popularity. It seems like the challenge of cutting firewood, cooking over an open fire, gathering water and being completely immersed in nature still appeals to people. A chance to experience a simpler lifestyle might actually be more appealing compared to our busy lives today.

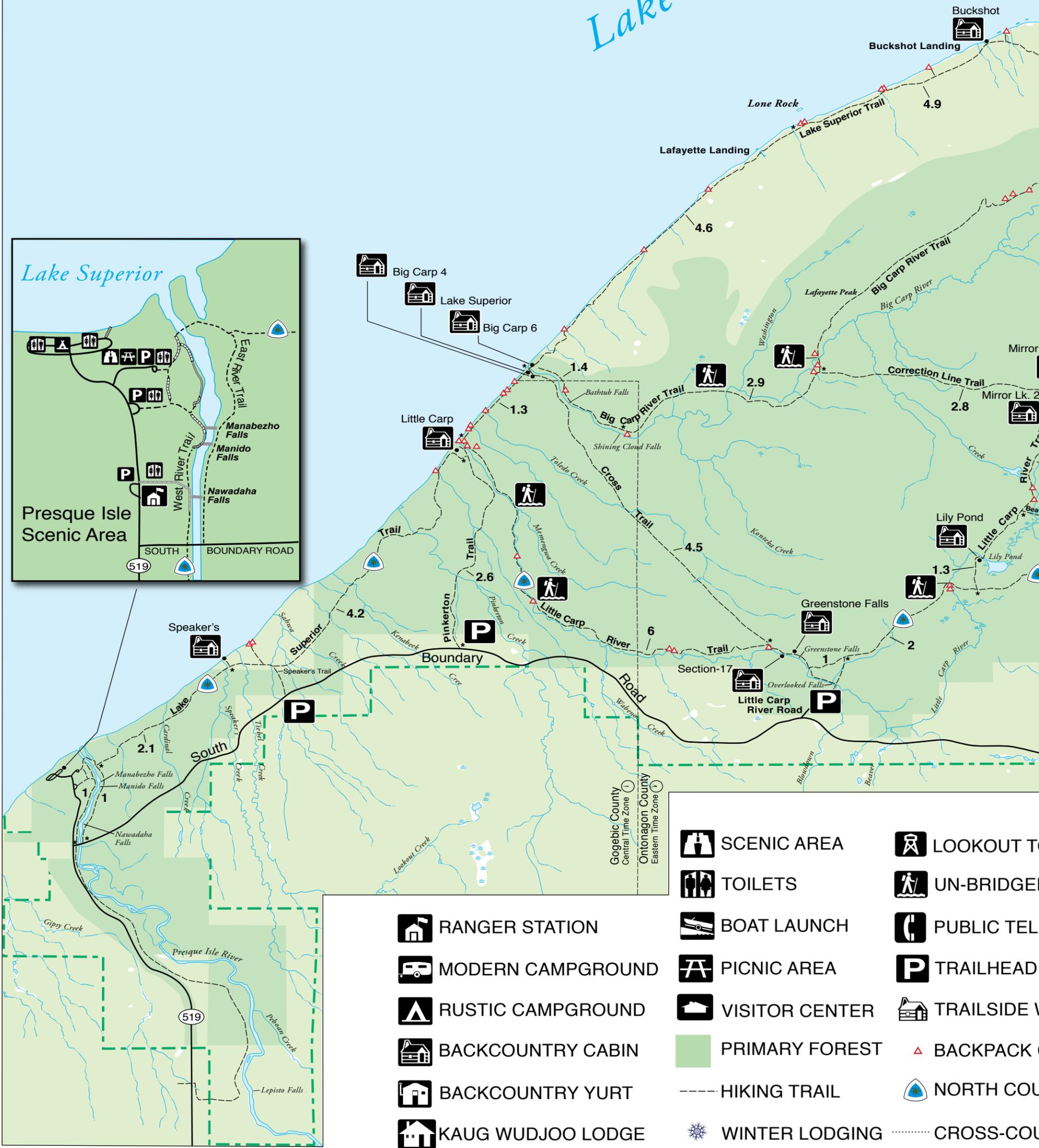
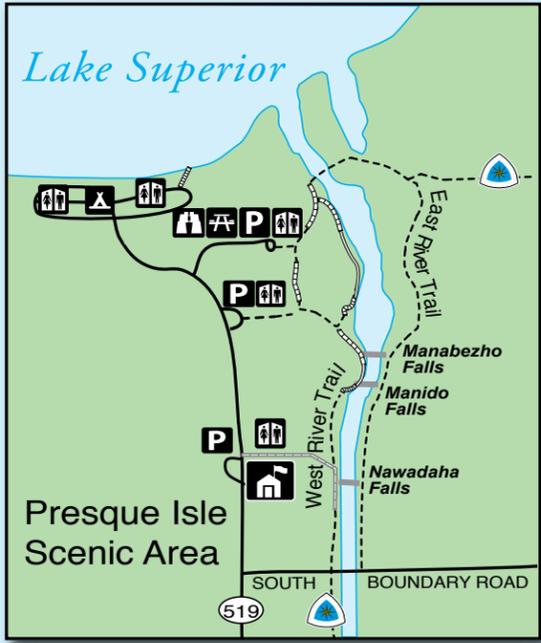
Visit www.mi.gov/porkies and click on "make a reservation" to book your Porkies cabin adventure.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

North



Lake Superior

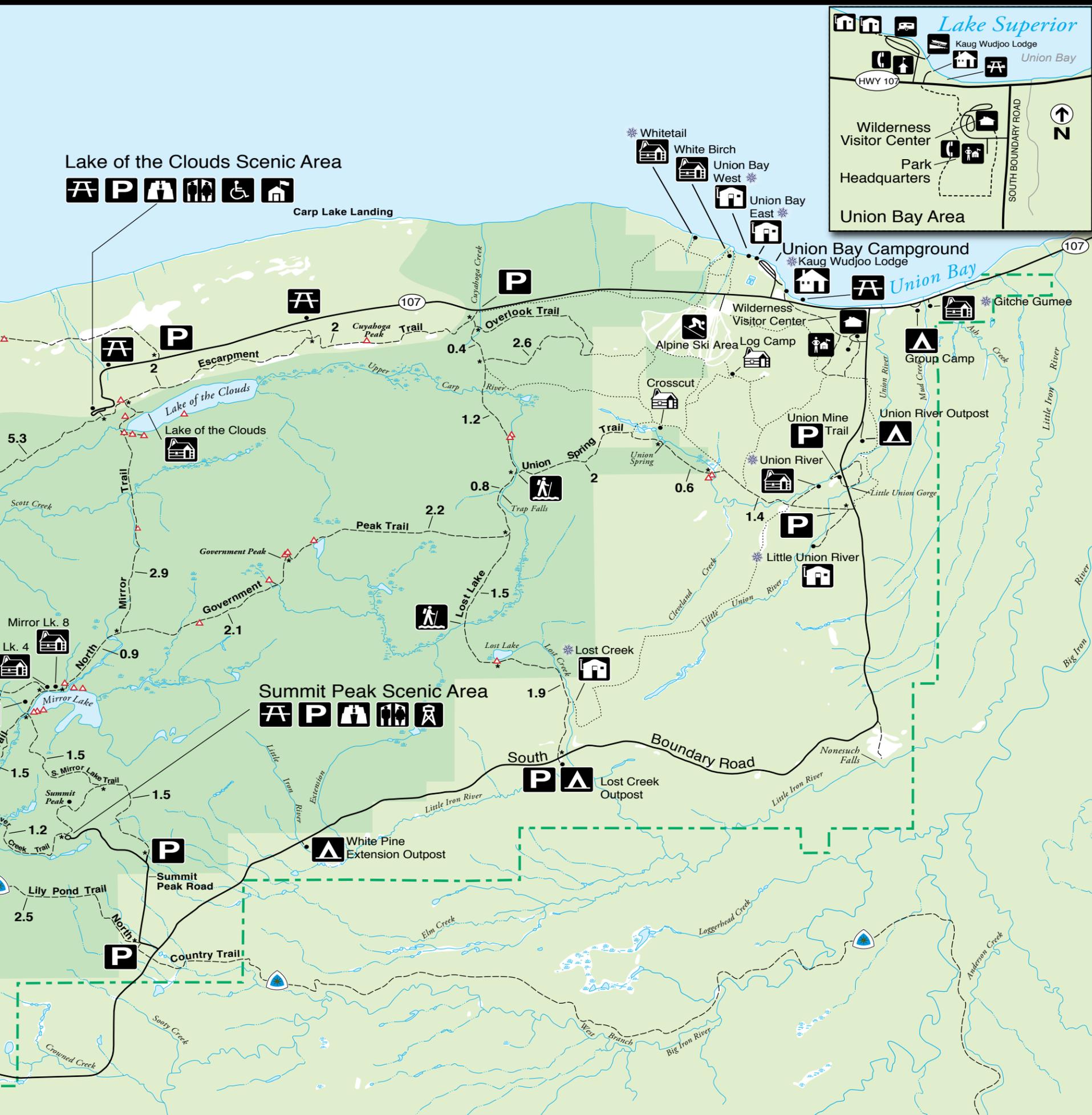


- RANGER STATION
- MODERN CAMPGROUND
- RUSTIC CAMPGROUND
- BACKCOUNTRY CABIN
- BACKCOUNTRY YURT
- KAUG WUDJOO LODGE

- SCENIC AREA
- TOILETS
- BOAT LAUNCH
- PICNIC AREA
- VISITOR CENTER
- PRIMARY FOREST
- HIKING TRAIL
- WINTER LODGING
- LOOKOUT TOWER
- UN-BRIDGED CROSSING
- PUBLIC TELEPHONE
- TRAILHEAD
- TRAILSIDE SHELTER
- BACKPACK CAMPSITE
- NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL
- CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL

Plan Ahead and Prepare
Know the rules for the area and always be prepared.

Be Considerate of Others
Respect other visitors by maintaining appropriate noise levels.



TRAIL DISTANCES IN MILES

- POWER
- D RIVER CROSSING
- PHONE
- PARKING
- WARMING SHELTER
- CAMPSITE
- COUNTRY TRAIL
- COUNTRY SKI TRAIL

ATTENTION ALL TRAIL USERS



Wilderness

You are entering wilderness and are responsible for your own safety



Emergencies

Knowing what to do can save your life



Pets

Protect pets by keeping them leashed



Bears

Black bear are unpredictable and can be dangerous



Waste

Pack it in, pack it out



Fires

You are responsible for your campfire

Respect Wildlife

Never feed or approach any wild animal.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Stay on the trail and camp at designated camp sites.

Leave What You Find

Never move natural or historic objects.

THE FOREST PRIMEVAL

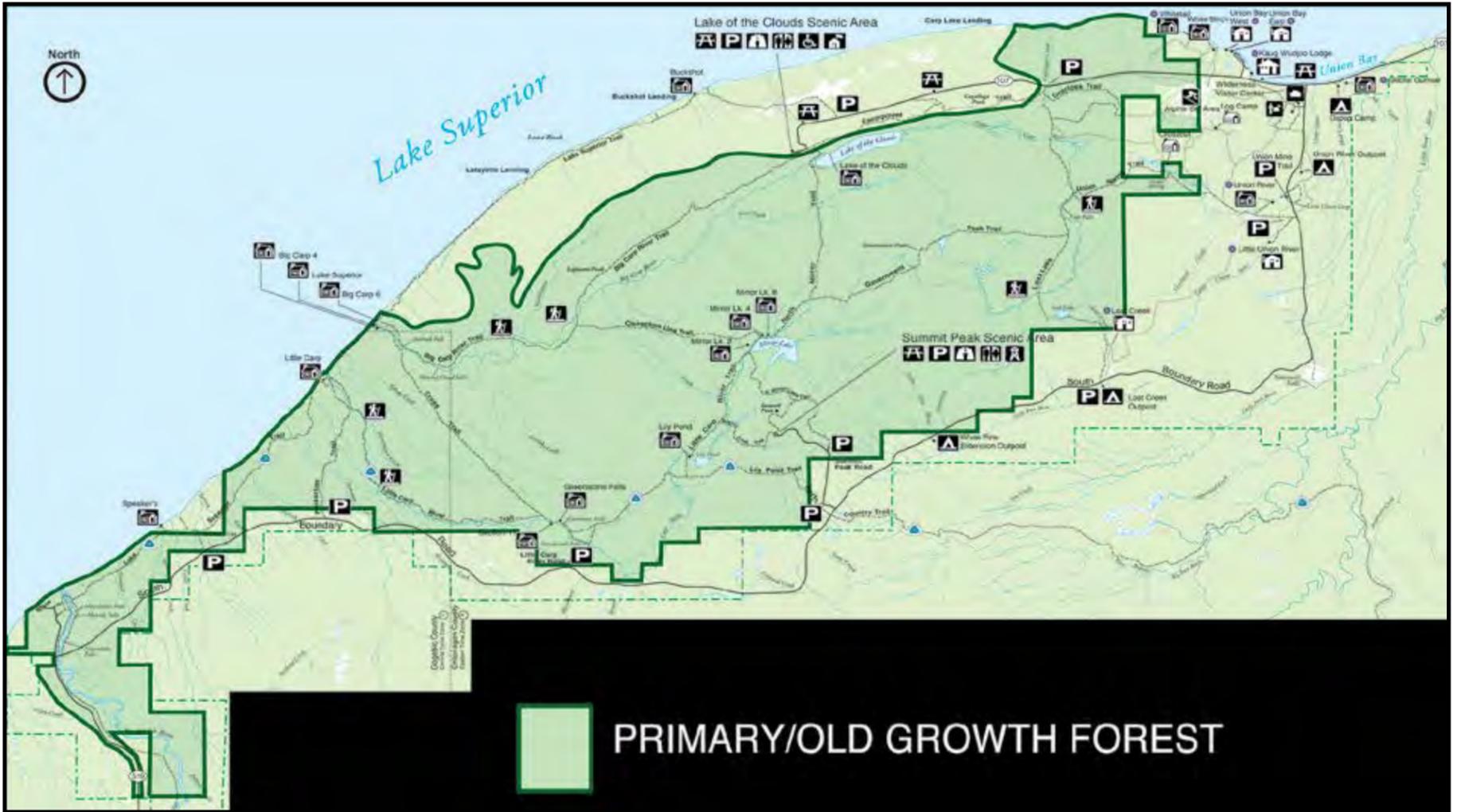


Photo courtesy Jim Engle



At 202 inches around this giant, was, for a short time, Michigan's Champion White Pine. The tree was near Little Carp River Trail

Old Growth Preservation

"...To preserve forever, as a forest museum, the last stand of mixed hardwoods and hemlock still existing in Michigan" is what the Michigan Department of Conservation, in 1943, listed as one of its primary objectives in designating the Porcupine Mountains as a state park. Today, this forest museum is considered to be "the biggest and best tract of virgin northern hardwoods in North America," according to Michigan Natural Features Inventory.

People come to the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park for many reasons, but seeing the scenic areas of the park usually ranks near the top of the list. Places like Lake of the Clouds, Presque Isle River and Summit Peak are beautiful and worthy destinations; but it was the forest of the Park that motivated citizens to work to make this place into a park.

Specifically, it was the forested areas that had not been logged that drew the attention of many. By the early 1900's, much of Michigan had been logged, but

the difficult terrain of the park protected much of its forest. People saw value in protecting this remnant of the past, literally a forest that had changed very little in hundreds of years. Whether one calls it old growth, virgin or primary forest; we are referring to a forest dominated by trees in the mature stages of their life cycle and has seen little impact from humans. The Porcupine Mountains has 35,000 acres of such forest.

In some areas of the Park, the old-growth forest is dominated by eastern hemlock. Where hemlocks dominate, there is usually very little undergrowth, giving the appearance of a very wide-open forest. The hemlocks are probably the oldest trees in the park, some have been aged at over 500 years old. A great place to see this type of forest is along the Government Peak Trail, near Trap Falls.

Other areas of the park's old growth forest are dominated by hardwood tree species like sugar maple and yellow birch. Correction Line, Government Peak and North Mirror Lake trails have some good examples of these trees.

If the term old growth forest makes you think of white pines, there are some of them found here also. Along South Boundary Road, near Mirror Lake and along the Little Carp River Trail (downstream of Greenstone Falls) you can find some impressive white pines.

When hiking the South Mirror Lake Trail, pay attention to the south facing hillsides. This is a great area to look for some of the big Northern Red Oaks. So if you are the person who wants to experience a forest that has changed very little in the past few hundred years, the Porcupine Mountains is the place for you.

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Bear Behavior

Black bears normally are afraid of humans and will leave the area in a hurry. If you see a bear near you, retreat slowly. Do not turn and run. Always allow the bear to have a clear and unobstructed escape route. Give bears with cubs plenty of room. For your safety and the safety of the bear, never feed or approach bears.

Understanding Bear Behavior

A bear is studying you if...



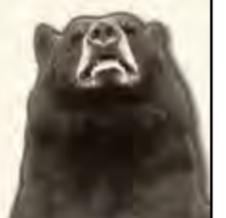
- it stands on its hind legs to get a better view
- it waves its nose around smelling the air
- it makes non-aggressive grunting sounds

A bear may be getting upset if it...

- clicks its teeth
- gives a loud blowing sound

A bear is telling you to leave when it...

- blows loudly
- makes short lunges
- hits the ground or nearby objects
- gives a bluff charge that stops short of you



PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL



Mark your calendar! The 12th annual Porcupine Mountains Music Festival, presented by the Friends of the Porkies, will take place August 26-28, 2016 at the winter recreation area (ski hill/chalet) of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. This activity is supported by the Michigan Council For Arts And Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment For The Arts.

Performers are booked from all over the country and abroad, and the wide variety of musical styles they represent is a music-lover's dream. Top notch performers combined with the natural surroundings of the Porkies equal an intimate musical

experience like no other. "Over the years we have had performers such as Ruthie Foster, Buckwheat Zydeco, Iris DeMent, and so many others," said festival director, Cheryl Sundberg. "Last year, Ruthie Foster was playing in Spain, and the following week she is wowing us on stage in the beautiful Porkies. It doesn't get much better than that."

The festival is held rain or shine and takes place each year the weekend directly before Labor Day weekend. The music festival is staffed by over 100 friendly volunteers who handle everything from ticket sales to parking, transportation, merchandise sales, security and more.

There are two outdoor stages and you never know what you will find on the third stage — the all-acoustic "Busking Barn, with its infamous red piano." The colorful "kid's tent" located on the festival grounds is always bustling with crafts and activities for the young audience members. Special flat-fee children's pricing is available.

Visit www.porkiesfestival.org for the most current information, including this year's most up-to-date schedule of performers, ticket pricing, discounts, how to volunteer and a link to the festival's Facebook page. For information and tickets call 906-231-1589.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM



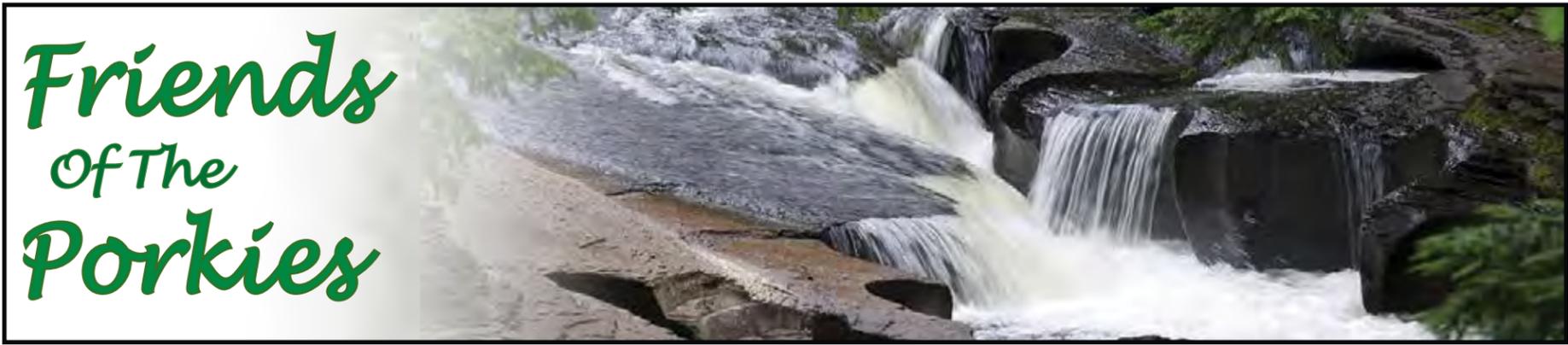
Since 2007, the Friends of the Porkies' Artist-In-Residence Program (AIRP) has hosted artists for two-or three-week residencies. While living in Dan's Cabin, in a secluded wilderness setting, they have had the opportunity to explore, discover and absorb the vast wilderness the park has to offer.

Their creative impressions have been captured in their medium, with each artist donating a completed piece to the Friends' permanent art collection. The schedule of this year's AIRP public presentations, as well as selected pieces of the art collection, can be found at the visitor center. In addition, much of the collection (50+ works) will be on display starting this fall at the Downtown Art Place (art gallery) in Ironwood, Michigan (southwest of the park). If you are, or know of, an interested artist, please visit www.porkies.org/artist.html for additional information and application materials.

2015 AIRP Artists

Painter/Poet Barbara Hranilovich-Lansing, MI
Painter Reid Masselink-Bourron-Marlotte, France
Printmaker Bill Hosterman-Coopersville, MI
Sketch artist Sherry Short-Fargo, N. Dakota
Photographer Dave Pavlina-Orlando, FL
Photographer/Writer Steve Thorpe-Huntington Woods, MI

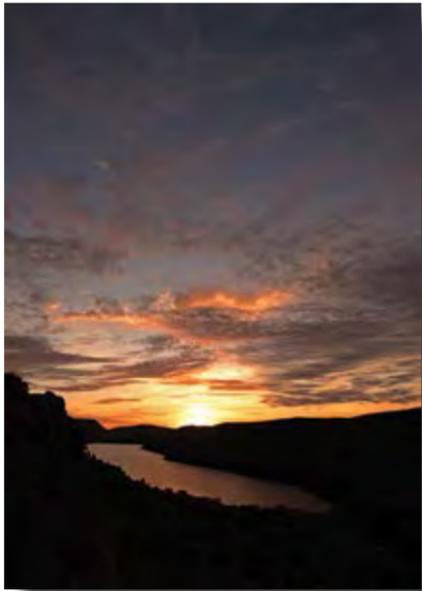
Above works by previous artists-in-residence
Top left, (pastel on board) titled: **Dusk on the Escarpment** by Stephanie Berry
Top center, (encaustic) titled: **Copper mine, vista and old growth** by Jennifer Terpstra
Top right, (oil) titled: **Companions** by Barbara Hranilovich



Friends Of The Porkies

The Friends of the Porkies is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, support and enhance the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. With the help of people like you we work to inspire an appreciation of wilderness for current and future generations.

Photo courtesy Dave Braithwaite



Did you know?....

* The Friends of the Porkies is run by volunteers? All of our programs and events including Artist-in-Residence, Porcupine Mountains Music Festival, and the Folk School come to you through the dedication of over 4,500 volunteer hours each year. We couldn't do it without them!

* We are looking forward to expanding our programs this year to include plant restoration throughout the Park, and partnering with Park staff to expand educational programs.

* Our Kids' Ski Program brings five youngsters to the ski hill each Saturday for 10 Saturdays during ski season, serving a total of 50 youngsters.

Students from the two Ontonagon County School districts sign up to participate. Through a grant funded by the Portage Health Foundation, these students are able to get ski rental equipment, a lift ticket and a lesson for \$5.00. We are seeking increased funding to expand this great kids program.

* Planning is underway for our ever-popular Summer Solstice Celebration in June, and Lake Superior Day, in July. Check our website often for updated information regarding these events.

We know you will love the Park as much as we do and we would like to have you as a FRIEND. By joining our non-profit organization, your contributions whether monetary or by volunteering will support the park through our various programs and projects. For more information, visit us at www.porkies.org.

FOLK SCHOOL

With its new all-accessible bathroom, entrance ramp, and wall-mounted propane heater the Friends of the Porkies Folk School is ready to celebrate its 10th anniversary. The Folk School program began in 2006 with a single timber framing class. For the 2016 season, the committee has scheduled 34 classes. The season kicks off with "Build a Bat House" in April and ends with "Make a Pair of Snowshoes" in November.

June classes include making a traditional Greenland kayak paddle, a variety of crafts classes and a Summer Solstice Celebration.

July classes include beginning and intermediate watercolors painting and creating a beach treasures mirror frame.

August brings an opportunity for authoring children's books and a three-day workshop in Russian leaf bead weaving.

Additional classes include a basketry weekend, creating unique cutting boards, photography, poetry, instruction in growing garlic and a chance to carve a curly evergreen. With that variety, everyone can find a class of interest. Sign-up and come to the Folk School.

For more information and to sign up for classes visit www.porkies.org/folk-school.



Support the Park

Join the Friends

Membership to Friends of the Porkies includes:

- Subscription to the bi-monthly E-quill and annual Quill, the Friends' newsletter, featuring park news, weather data, history, events and more.
- A collective voice with other park users to express your concerns and ideas to key state park policy makers.
- Invitation to the annual membership meeting and park improvement projects.
- Pet membership includes a "Friends of the Porkies" bandana.



Individual	\$25	Household	\$40
Business/Organization	\$50	Lifetime	\$300
Pet (owner must be a member)		\$10	

Visit our website at www.porkies.org/memberships-and-donations or pick up a membership application at the visitor center to begin receiving all of the great benefits of being a FRIEND of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.