



# Tahquamenon Falls

# VISITOR

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors



Tahquamenon Falls State Park

2009

## Lower Does Not Mean Lesser

The Lower Falls often are overshadowed by the larger, more popular Upper Falls, but not for long. The Lower Falls has had it with being referred to as the “ugly stepsister” and wants its own distinction. We agreed by giving it the front page of the 2009 Visitor. We hope this small public service announcement will help to correct the belief that being small does not mean one is less important, ask any 5-year old.

Located 17 miles upstream from the mouth of the Tahquamenon River, the Lower Falls is a concoction of five waterfalls surrounding a sandstone island. Hundreds of years ago, local tribes of Native Americans spent the summer months at the shores of the Lower Falls, gathering fruits, fishing and hunting.

The Lower Falls is home to at least one pair of kingfishers each summer, chatting away as they fly to and fro. River otters play in the pools below the falls, searching for crawdads and small fish. Beaver can be seen late in the day swimming along the calm stretches near the boat rental, often carrying a tree branch back to their dens. Bald eagle and osprey soar above the falls, using their keen vision to hunt fish.

Serious anglers will tell you the Lower Falls is the place to be. Brown trout, brook trout and an occasional rainbow can be caught in the current upstream from the falls. Each spring, wall-



Spring flow at the Lower Falls, May 2008.

eye compete in the strong current for spawning grounds. Muskie and pike have been caught in the 30-foot pool below the falls. Why would a person want to fish anywhere else?

As you can see, the Lower Falls is one of the most action-packed places in the park. With easy birding, excellent fishing and beautiful scenery, what more could a person ask for?

## Happy 90th

Michigan’s State Park System is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.



In 1919, the Michigan Legislature created the Michigan State Park Commission, which was charged with acquiring lands for state parks and maintaining the parks for outdoor recreation.

That same year, Interlochen State Park became the first state park in the new system. Since then, Michigan has expanded to 98 state parks and recreation areas. Tahquamenon Falls became a state park in 1947. The newest state park, Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor, located in downtown Detroit, was established in 2003 and now is in its second phase of construction.

Over the years, the state of Michigan also has acquired 285,000 acres of land which serve as the foundation for six scenic sites, 10 lighthouses, 830 developed boating access sites, 17 harbors of refuge, five linear trail state parks, and numerous historic and cultural features, all under the management and supervision of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division.



## Backcountry Camping

Backcountry campsites are now available at the park. These sites were created to allow backcountry hikers a designated place to enjoy wilderness camping. Each site is equipped with a bear pole, fire ring and backcountry privy. The Old Stove Road site is situated near the Tahquamenon River and is accessible via canoe or kayak. The park will be adding more backcountry campsites in the future.

Hikers can reserve these sites before heading out on the trail by calling (906) 492-3415 or stopping by the park headquarters.

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State of Michigan  
Department of Natural Resources

# 2009 Special Events

## Tahquamenon Falls State Park

### Mailing Address

Tahquamenon Falls State Park  
41382 West M-123  
Paradise, MI 49768

### Contact us:

(906) 492-3415  
TDD: (906) 492-3812  
[www.michigan.gov/tahquamenonfalls](http://www.michigan.gov/tahquamenonfalls)  
<http://twitter.com/tfallsnature>

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.



There is an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) available for public use on the bathroom building at the Upper Falls. AEDs also are carried by park rangers while on patrol throughout the park. We are pleased to offer this service to help keep our visitors safe.

## Special Events in Paradise

### Fourth of July Festivities July 4

Events include a pancake breakfast, parade, games and fireworks over Whitefish Bay. All events are held at the Community Center in Paradise.

### Wild Blueberry Festival August 21-23

Arts & crafts fair, unique entertainment, local food specialties and more will be offered at this annual event. Festival is held at the Community Center on M-123.

### Annual Fish Boil August 29

Gather at Whitefish Point at 1 p.m. for a meal of boiled whitefish, potatoes, slaw and a beverage. Call (888) 492-3747 or go online at [www.shipwreckmuseum.com](http://www.shipwreckmuseum.com) for more information.

### The Haunted Trail October 16-17

Come out for a scary good time! Take a walk down the haunted nature trail to witness 15 sites of terror, fun and cool effects. Located at Sawmill Creek Township Park, just north of the light in Paradise.

## Spring Roadside Cleanup

### May 30, 10am – Park Headquarters

Be a "Friend of Tahquamenon" and help clean up the winter roadside garbage along M-123 between the Upper and Lower Falls. Supplies and lunch are provided. Adult supervision required for children under 12 years of age.



Spring 2008 volunteer cleanup crew.

## Hike Between da Falls

### June 6, 10am – Lower Falls

Bring your hiking boots and enjoy the most popular trail in the park, the five-mile River Trail. A free shuttle will transport participants from the Lower Falls to the trailhead at the Upper Falls. The River Trail follows the winding Tahquamenon River through the old-growth forest down into the lowland conifers. It is rated moderately difficult and includes stairways, exposed roots and steep inclines. Join park staff and the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore chapter of the North Country Trail at the Lower Falls before and after the hike to take part in activities, crafts and more.

## Geocaching 101

### June 20, 12pm – Lower Falls

Learn the sport of geocaching with the help of local experts during a search for multiple and varying levels of caches in the park. An optional introductory session will be offered. Participants should bring their own GPS units.



Hanging out with Smokey Bear.

## Smokey Bear Day

### August 1 – Lower Falls

Come out and celebrate forest fire prevention with representatives from the DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division. Learn about wildland fires and fire suppression efforts in the Upper Peninsula, and how you can prevent forest fires. Bring your questions, curiosity and, of course, meet the famous bear!

## Tahqua Trail Run

### August 15 – Upper Falls

This popular 25K trail race follows the North Country Trail along the Tahquamenon River, beginning near the Rivermouth and ending at the Upper Falls. An 8K race also will take place, and a special 2K run for kids 14 and under will occur on Friday. These races are sponsored by Great Lakes Endurance. Please register online at [www.greatlakesendurance.com](http://www.greatlakesendurance.com).



The home stretch of the Tahqua Trail Run.

## Fall Roadside Cleanup

### September 5 – Park Headquarters

## Wilderness Canoe Race

### September 12 – Lower Falls

This 17-mile professional canoe race begins at the Lower Falls and finishes at Whitefish Bay near the Rivermouth Campground. The event is hosted by the Michigan Canoe Racing Association and the Paradise Chamber of Commerce. Visit [www.miracing.com](http://www.miracing.com) for more information.

## Harvest Festival

### October 17-18, Lower Falls

Participate in our annual autumn camping experience. Events include pumpkin carving, campsite decorating, hayrides, costume contests, trick-or-treating and more! Enjoy the beauty of the park during peak color season while participating in these fun events. Families and friends have made camping during Harvest Festival a tradition. Make your reservation early; this weekend books quickly.



Best Night Site, 2008.



**Enjoy Free Fishing Weekends**  
**June 13-14, 2009 and February 13-14, 2010**





# Interpretive Programs

Looking for a fun way to enhance your visit to Tahquamenon? Attend a program given by a park naturalist! A full schedule of interpretive programs and guided hikes are offered throughout the summer. Get your feet wet catching aquatic critters during the River Hunt, try out a pair of binoculars during a birding walk, or sit back and enjoy an evening slide show from the comfort of your chair. Programs are designed for adults and families, not just kids.

Schedules are updated weekly. For a detailed schedule, stop by the campground offices, the host sites, the Upper Falls Fact Shack or the park headquarters. Schedules also are available online at [www.mi.gov/tahquamenonfalls](http://www.mi.gov/tahquamenonfalls).

Some examples of programs for 2009 include:

## Moose on the Loose

Discover all you ever wanted to know about Michigan's largest mammal. Learn why moose are so hard to spot in the wild and how they survive the seasons of Tahquamenon during this entertaining slide show.



*Kissing the moose at the Fact Shack.*



*Touching the furs at the Fact Shack.*

## Tahquamenon's Wildlife

Bring some popcorn and a blanket to watch this slide show about the Upper Peninsula's wildlife. Learn about the river otter, beaver, black bear, moose and the park's official animal, the mosquito!

## River Hunt

Get down and dirty during this aquatic program. Hunt for the crayfish, insects and fish that call the Tahquamenon River their home. Be prepared to get your feet wet; foot gear is recommended. Nets are provided.

## Astronomy

Clear nights at Tahquamenon present an amazing show of stars, constellations, planets and occasionally the Northern Lights. Learn how to navigate your way through the summer skies with a few handy tricks. Bring a blanket and a pillow to make yourself comfortable as we lay out on the Lower Falls Parking Area.

## Tracks and Trails

Learn how to identify tracks that are commonly found in Tahquamenon country. Take a hike to try your ID skills; make a track to take home.

## Hike Between da Falls

Join a park naturalist for a guided morning expedition along the River Trail. The four-mile hike is known for its beautiful scenery and remoteness, as well as its moderately difficult terrain. Good walking shoes are a must.

## Creatures of the Night

Do you know what goes "bump" in the night at Tahquamenon? Learn about the unique adaptations nocturnal animals use to survive, and see how your senses compare. No flashlights allowed during the program!

## Bear Den Hike

Don't miss the opportunity to stick your head in a real bear den. We will carpool from the Lower Falls campground office to the Clark Lake parking area and hike from there. Learn about the life history of Michigan's black bear.

## Birds, Beaks & Binoculars

Discover the winged wonders that travel here to lay eggs and raise their young. Sandhill cranes, bald eagles, kingfishers and hummingbirds are often seen. Binoculars provided.



*Checking out the birds at the Upper Falls.*

# Snowshoe-Making Workshops

The Tahquamenon Falls interpretive program is pleased to offer four snowshoe-making workshops this year. The one-day workshops will take place on Nov. 7, Nov. 21, Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 beginning at 10 a.m. Participants weave their own set of snowshoes using neoprene lacing and traditional white ash frames, while learning about the history and purpose of the different snowshoe styles. Snowshoeing is a rewarding, low-cost activity that allows you to explore areas inaccessible during the summer while burning calories and staying in shape.

The workshops are very informal; participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes and bring a sack lunch. Class sizes are limited and reservations are required. The \$160 registration fee includes all materials and equipment needed to make one pair of 46-inch Driftbuster-style snowshoes. For more information or to register, please call (906) 492-3415 or e-mail [grattant@michigan.gov](mailto:grattant@michigan.gov).



*Participants in the 2008 workshop.*



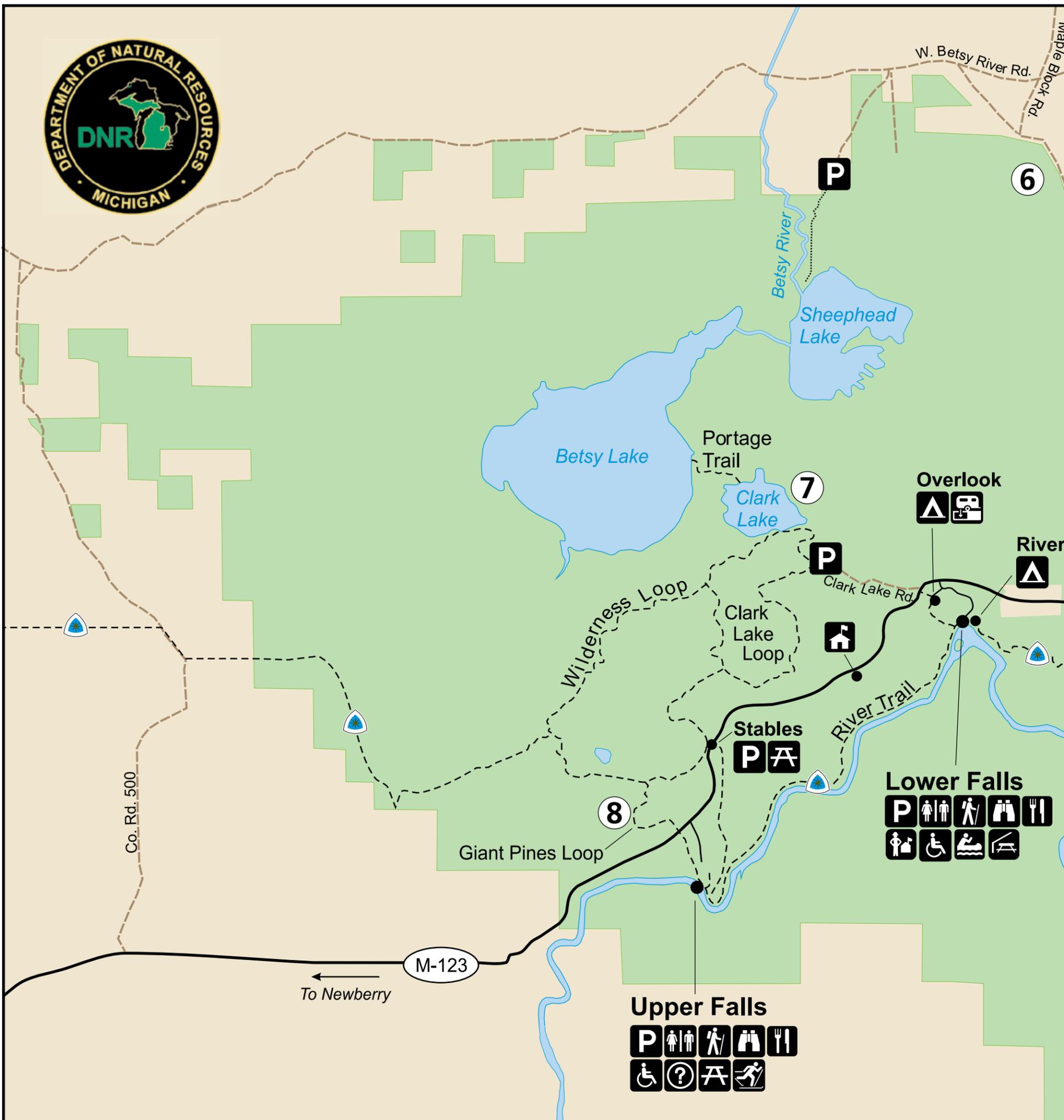
*Tahquamenon Falls is an excellent place to snowshoe!*

# Geocaching in the Park

Modern-day techno-explorers are participating in the widely popular activity referred to as geocaching, a sport involving the use of hand-held global positioning systems to search out "treasure" in the form of "caches." Some caches are waterproof containers with a log book and some trinkets, which seekers exchange with trinkets of their own. Others are virtual caches, requiring seekers to answer a question or take a picture of something in order to receive finding credit.

For some, geocaching is an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy time with family and friends. Others enjoy the sense of accomplishment when they locate a tricky cache. Geocaching is an activity that can bridge generational gaps, as younger kids usually can assist adults with the GPS units and share in the glow of finding the cache. All that is required is a GPS unit and a free membership to [www.geocaching.org](http://www.geocaching.org), the main site for all cache postings.

The park is offering geocaching programs throughout the summer, hiding caches of all difficulties throughout our 46,000 acres. So get out there and find the cache!



Scenic view	Canoe launch	Park headquarters	North Country Trail
Camping	Sanitary station	Boat launch	Foot Trail
Accessible	Picnic area	Swimming area	Unimproved Road
Parking	Trail head	Ranger station	
Restrooms	Crosscountry ski trail		
Shelter	Informational Displays		

Miles  
0 1 2 4

① **Lone Pine Access Site:** From the end of the access road, overlooking Tahquamenon Bay, you can see Emerson Island. The island was the site of a large sawmill from 1882 to 1912. This is a great place to play in the warm, shallow waters of Whitefish Bay. Early mornings and late evenings are the best times to look for moose in this area.

② **Emerson Foot Trail:** This trail passes through black spruce and shrub swamp habitat following the road that leads to the abandoned sawmill town of Emerson. It is one mile to Tahquamenon Bay.

③ **Rivermouth Boat Launch:** This site offers boat access into Whitefish Bay, where you may spot waterfowl, bald eagles, river otter and other wildlife. The sandy shoreline is a great place to hike and wade in the water.

④ **Northern Peatlands:** Sphagnum moss dominates the wetlands in this part of the park, creating what is termed a northern peatland. Moose are often seen here, along with spruce grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, pine martens and black bears.

# Tahquamenon Falls State Park



⑤ **Timberlost Road:** : This sandy forest road offers some of the park's best blueberry picking and wildlife watching. This road has loose sand, encroaching brush and two-way traffic. Drive at your own risk.

⑥ **Farm Truck Road:** For those looking to submerge themselves into true wilderness, look no further than Farm Truck Road. Exploring the many side-roads and two-tracks branching from Farm Truck Road will give you the sense of being in the middle of nowhere! Make sure to bring a compass, GPS and a full tank of gas before beginning your adventure.

⑦ **Clark Lake:** The one-mile two-track road to Clark Lake is the only road access into the Tahquamenon Natural Area. This road has loose sand and two-way traffic. Drive at your own risk. From the end of the road, follow the foot trail for one-half mile to access Clark Lake.

⑧ **Giant Pines Loop:** Two of the largest white pines in the park are found along this trail. Estimated at over 125 years old, these are true relics of Tahquamenon. Listen for the sound of the pileated woodpecker and the sweet song of the wood thrush as you walk through this old-growth forest.



# Forest Pests

The movement of firewood is the leading cause of the spread of many forest pests, including emerald ash borer, beech bark disease and Asian longhorned beetle. These invaders can drastically alter a forest, killing trees and spreading fast. Early detection is the best way to combat these pests, and that's where you can help. Be on the look out for the insects below. Identification is important; there are many native insects that have evolved with our forests and pose little threat to forest health and productivity. Bring any questionable insects to the attention of park staff.



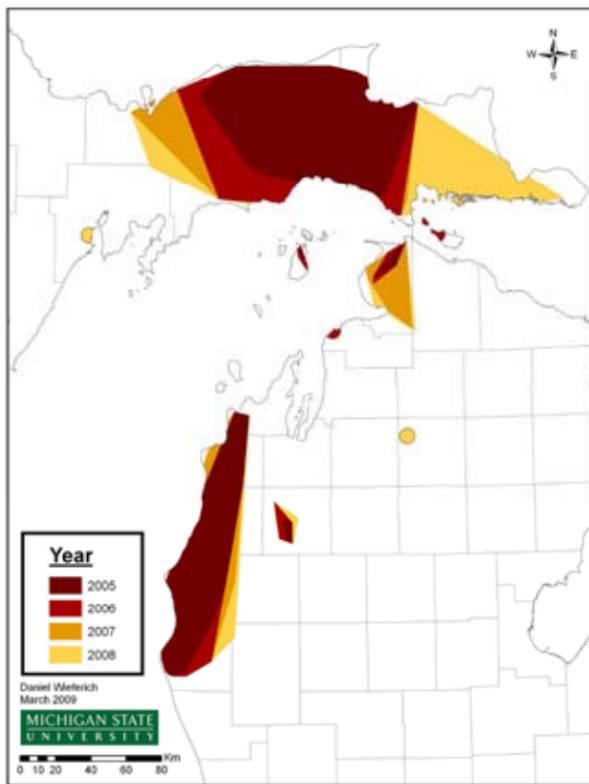
ALB (left) compared to native pine sawyer beetle (right).

## Asian Longhorned Beetle

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is a large wood-boring insect native to China and other Asian countries. It is not currently known to be in Michigan, but ALB infestations have been found in Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Canada. Large tunnels created by larvae can cause branches or stems to break and eventually can lead to tree death. Because this beetle is not native to North America, it has no known natural enemies, and our trees have a low resistance to this pest. ALB looks very similar to the native, harmless pine beetle. Positive identification is necessary.

## Beech Bark Disease

Beech bark disease (BBD) has been in Michigan since 2003, first detected at Ludington State Park and soon after at Tahquamenon. BBD likely was brought to Michigan on infected firewood. Once established, the tiny scale spreads via wind and animals, particularly woodpeckers. It is spreading throughout Michigan, most recently detected in Cadillac and the eastern Upper Peninsula. The characteristic white woolly coating on the beech tree is the most obvious sign of infestation. There are a small percentage of beech trees that are unaffected by the disease. These trees currently are being cultivated by the USDA.



Map of BBD spread between 2005 - 2008. Recent areas of infestation include Cadillac and Emmet County. Map courtesy Daniel Weferich, MSU.



HWA infestation is similar to tiny cotton swabs on the underside of hemlock branches.

## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a small aphid-like insect that feeds on several species of hemlock (*Tsuga* spp.) in Asia, its homeland, and in North America since 1924. HWA was found on landscape hemlock trees in Harbor Springs in August 2006. This was the third time HWA had been detected in Michigan, but the first time it was found outside of nurseries on native hemlock. The HWA injures hemlocks by sucking plant juices and by injecting its toxic saliva while feeding. This causes the needles and buds to die, so new little growth is produced. This insect is easily recognized during most of the year by the presence of a dry, white woolly substance on the young twigs. The "wool" is most abundant during spring. An egg mass resembles the tip of a cotton swab, although somewhat smaller.

## How you can help

Don't move firewood. Early detection also is an important factor in preventing the spread of invasive species. Observe vegetation for obvious changes or signs of distress. For more information, visit the DNR's Forest Health Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/foresthealth](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/foresthealth).

## Herp Atlas Project



Amphibian and reptile declines have been documented worldwide for the past few decades. Research continues in order to find causes for the declines, but there is no one overall cause. Habitat loss and degradation, acid rain, collection for pets, and a high incidence of roadkills are factors that determine the abundance of amphibians and reptiles where they exist.

In Michigan, the history of amphibian and reptile populations is sketchy. There have been local surveys done in several areas, only a few have been long term. Other than the Michigan Frog and Toad survey initiated by the DNR in 1996, no statewide surveys of amphibian or reptile populations has been done.

The purpose of the Herp Atlas Project is to gather data about Michigan's native amphibians and reptiles (herpetofauna or "herps") in order to document their distribution and changes or trends in their populations. This data-gathering effort depends largely on volunteers. Any observation of a herp species can be recorded on a data card and submitted.

To learn more about this effort, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and click on the Wildlife & Habitat button. The Herp Atlas page is listed under "Research Projects."

## Tick Check

Summer season brings with it many things: sunshine, shorts, sandals...ticks. Yes, the eight-legged creatures emerge from their earthy burrows once temperatures exceed freezing. Ticks are slow-moving, non-venomous arthropods (relatives of insects). The most commonly encountered ticks in Michigan are hard ticks, and the species will vary depending on habitat and season. Some ticks are known to transmit diseases to both animals and humans, so precautions should be taken during spring and summer months.

### Give yourself a tick check

If you insist upon wearing shorts and sandals, do periodic "tick checks" throughout the day.

- Check warm spots on your body: waist bands, socks, hairline. Ticks prefer warm places.
- Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to spot a tick.
- Insect repellent and long sleeves should be worn whenever possible.

It is important to inform a physician if you are ill and have had recent exposure to ticks. Identification of the tick can be crucial in determining if you have been exposed to any diseases. If you are bitten by a tick, try to keep it alive for testing purposes.



### Wood tick (dog tick)

- Light colored squiggles or U-shape on back.
- Most abundant in spring or early summer.
- Carrier of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.



### Winter tick

- Commonly found on deer, elk and moose.
- Not known to transmit disease.



### Black-legged tick

- Common tick in the eastern U.P.
- Also known as deer tick.
- Black with brown U-shape on back.
- Known carrier of lyme disease.



### Lone Star tick

- White spot on back is the best ID characteristic.
- Most abundant in summer and fall.
- Carrier of disease causing bacteria.



# What To Do

You finally have arrived to Tahquamenon Falls, now what?

Your first destination should be the Upper Falls Fact Shack. Located along the walkway to view the Upper Falls, the Fact Shack is staffed with knowledgeable park staff who are available to answer your questions and help plan your visit. While there, you can learn about Michigan's gray wolf and coyote, take a guess at a few tracks or glance at various items under our microscope.

If you only have a short amount of time to spend at the park, the two things on your list should be the Upper and Lower Falls. Both locations can be driven to and are accessible.



*The Upper Falls Fact Shack*



*Upper Falls (above); Lower Falls (below)*

## Half Day

At 200 feet wide and 50 feet tall, the Upper Falls is the largest waterfall in Michigan. Take a walk along the one-quarter mile paved trail to the viewing areas, learning a little forest identification on the way. Traverse the 93 steps down to the brink viewing platform to get up close to this majestic waterfall. Want a more scenic view? Follow the paved trail downriver to the gorge, where 112 steps wind down the sandstone walls to the river's edge.

The Lower Falls entrance is four miles east of the Upper Falls along M-123. These falls are easily viewed and photographed from the paved walkway. A boardwalk will take you through thick coniferous forest, ending up at the viewing platform where you can feel the mist from the waterfalls. Rowboats can be rented from the concession to access the island.

## One Day

After visiting the Upper and Lower Falls, take some time getting to know the wilderness of Tahquamenon. Do some exploring off the beaten path, such as out to see Clark Lake, one of three lakes in the northern section of the park. Continue along the five-mile loop and wander through various habitats, including bog and peatland with coniferous uplands. In season, this is a great loop to pick blueberries along the way.



*Clark Lake view.*



*Whitefish Bay Picnic Area*

## Two Days

Take a trip out to Whitefish Bay, where the mouth of the Tahquamenon meets Lake Superior. The Rivermouth is a great place for paddling, fishing and relaxing. The Whitefish Bay Picnic Area offers a shallow, sandy beach; perfect for cooling off on hot days. Park at the Rivermouth boat launch and walk the Superior shoreline, or take a seat and relax along the riverside benches. Early mornings are great for viewing waterfowl and wildlife in this area.

## Three or More Days

Take a hike along the river trail between the Upper and Lower Falls. This hike is not for the faint of heart, but is totally worth it for those who come prepared. A shuttle service is available during the summer season; check for rates and times before you head out.

Canoe the Tahquamenon River. Varying lengths are available by paddling up and down stream, or do the entire stretch between the Lower Falls and the Rivermouth. Canoes and kayaks are available to rent from local vendors; ask park staff for more information.



*Tahquamenon River view.*

# Stay With Us!

The park has a new camper cabin available for rent in the Rivermouth Campground. The camper cabin has electricity, two bedrooms and sleeps up to eight. It is located in the semi-modern side of the campground along the river and is available for \$60 per night. Rental inquiries can be made online at [www.mi.gov/dnr](http://www.mi.gov/dnr) or by calling 800-44-PARKS.



*Rivermouth camper cabin.*

The park has another rental unit along M-123 between the Upper and Lower Falls. This unit should be available for rent by late July. The new cabin sleeps eight and will be available for rent year-round, also for \$60 per night. Reservations can be made by calling the park headquarters at (906) 492-3415.



*Rental lodge.*

# Recycling in the Park

Last year's pilot recycling program at the Upper Falls resulted in more than 1,000 fewer plastic bottles entering our landfills. That was just from ONE garbage can! This year, the park will be expanding water bottle recycling to include both the Upper Falls and Lower Falls day-use areas. Campers also can look for expanded recycling opportunities within all three campgrounds. Recycling is an important part of reducing landfill waste, and the staff at Tahquamenon is proud to offer this vital service.

### *Biodegrading rates for common household items:*

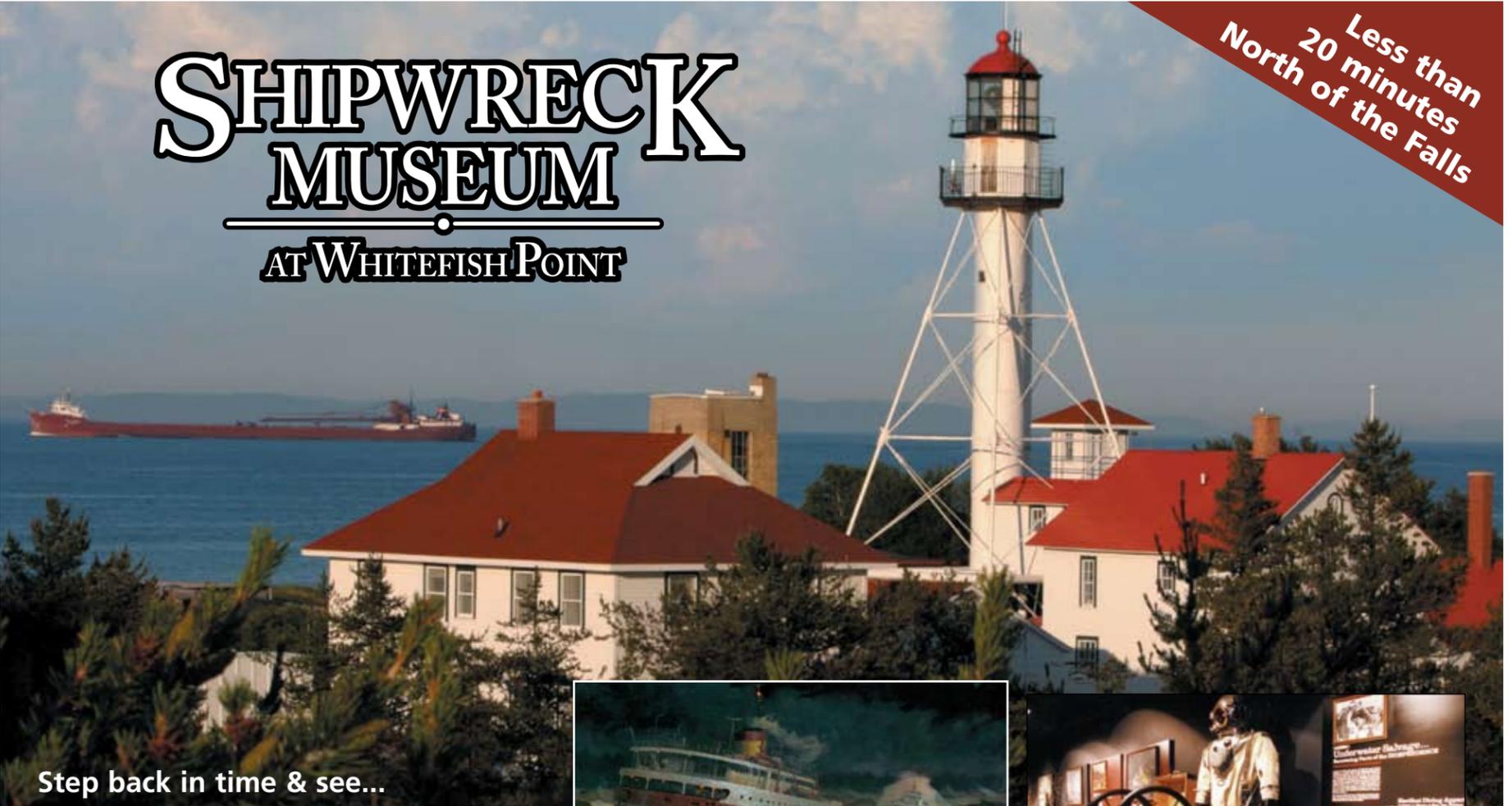
- Paper: 2-4 weeks
- Cigarette butts: 10-12 years
- Plastic container: 50-80 years
- Disposable diaper: 75 years
- Aluminum can: 80 years
- Glass bottle: 500 years
- Styrofoam: Never



# SHIPWRECK MUSEUM

AT WHITEFISH POINT

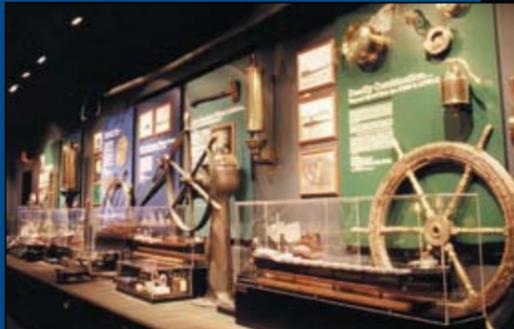
Less than  
20 minutes  
North of the Falls



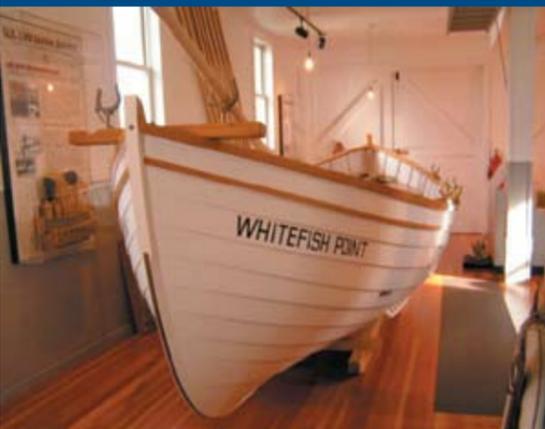
Step back in time & see...

## Shipwreck Legends Come to Life

- ~ Marking over 30 years since the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald
- ~ Experience the Haunting World of Shipwrecks with Interpretive Exhibits
- ~ National Historic Site - Oldest Active Light on Lake Superior
- ~ Boardwalk - Visitors Gain Access to View Lake Superior's Shipwreck Coast
- ~ Whitefish Point Bird Observatory & Interpretive Center



**VIDEO THEATER**  
Original Short Film on the History of the Edmund Fitzgerald and Raising of the Bell



**Restored United States Coast Guard Boathouse**

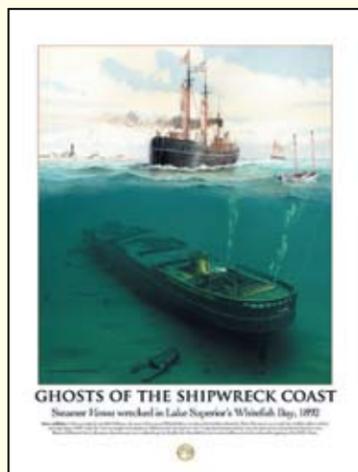
Featuring History of Lifesaving on Lake Superior's Shipwreck Coast



**Restored 1861 Light Keepers Dwelling**



**Overnight Accommodations Available**  
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**Shipwreck Coast Museum Store**  
One of the Finest Maritime Gift Stores in Michigan

Located at Whitefish Point, less than 20 miles north of Tahquamenon Falls.  
From the Upper Falls or Lower Falls Entrance take 123 East.

**SHIPWRECKMUSEUM.COM • 800-635-1742**