

Outdoor EXPLORERS CLUB

Do L.A.P.'s™ For Michigan!
Learn from the past, Appreciate the present,
Preserve our outdoor heritage!

Begin The New Millennium
with Some

WINTER FUN!

January 1, 2000...

The only time in your life when you can make a **resolution** (something you plan to do - usually to make you or your life better) for both a **new year** and a **new millennium**! Why not make a **resolution** to spend more time enjoying nature and the great Michigan outdoors.

Winter is a **great time** for some outdoor fun! **Winter began on December 22nd**. This day was the **shortest day** of the year in our **hemisphere** and is also known as the **winter solstice**. After December 22nd, the days begin to grow longer. Spring is still several months away, so there is still plenty of time to enjoy Michigan's awesome **winter wonderland**.

Grab your coat, hat, boots and mittens and start this winter and the **new millennium** with some fun outdoor adventures!

A **Michigan State Park** is a **great place** to begin. No matter where you live in Michigan, you are never more than an hour from one of our **96 State Parks**. Whether its skiing in the **Porcupine Mountains**, riding the **luge** at **Muskegon**, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, winter camping, dog sledding, studying or photographing nature, our **State Parks** have fun activities for you and your family to enjoy! Check out our website: www.dnr.state.mi.us or call... **517-373-9900** to find out about fun winter activities at a **Michigan State Park** near you.

Remember... nature is all around you! Whether you live in the country or the city, you can also enjoy **nature** and have some **winter fun** in your **own backyard**! Plan to make a **snow person** or **snow animal**, feed and learn to identify some **winter birds**, make a **snow fort**, look for **animal tracks**, catch and compare some **snowflakes** and try ***snow painting!** You'll have lots of fun... **SNOW kidding!**

I've got sunshine on a snowy day...
Do L.A.P.'s and create your own snow scenes without harming the environment!

- * SNOW PAINT**
What You will need:
- 1 cup water
 - 10 - 12 drops food coloring
 - 1 or more small spray bottles
- What to do:**
1. Pour water into bottle.
 2. Add the food coloring. Put on the top and shake.
 3. Repeat #2 to make Snow Paint in different colors.
- Some ideas to try:**
- Use snow paint to make faces on a snow person or snow animal. Create messages or murals in the snow.
 - Have fun! You could be a **Snow Picasso** or a **Vincent Van Snow!**

Hi, I'm **RAPPY**, the moose. Report All Poaching!
800-292-7800

Michigan is a... wonderful winter playground!

What song do they play at a porcupine dance?
The Hokey Pokey of course!

Copper Peak at Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula has the highest man made ski jump in North America.

TRY THIS! You **QUILL** love it!

I wonder why this place is called the **Porcupine Mountains?**

I need a tow-rope!

WARM UP... after some cool winter fun with...

- L.A.P.'s™ Hot Cocoa.** Makes 30+ cups
Mix and store in an airtight container:
- 1-lb. box Nestle Quik®
 - 1 cup powdered sugar
 - 8-qt. box instant dry milk
 - 6-oz. jar non-dairy creamer
- For one serving:**
Add 4 heaping teaspoons to 1 c. hot water and stir well.

MAKE A HOSPITALI-TREE FOR THE WINTER BIRDS!

Great Idea!

Greta! Grady! Look, it's **Buck Wilder®!** Kids of all ages can have outdoor winter fun in our **State Parks!** They can visit our website to find out about ice fishing sites and other winter fun activities.

Hit the trails and do **L.A.P.'s™!** There's **snow** place like Michigan!!!

Winter is... one-quarter of our lives! Don't waste it! Have some fun... outdoors!

Great State - Great Snow - Great Snowmobiling! You can find fun and adventure along every mile of Michigan's more than **5,900 miles** of **groomed snowmobile trails**. As you ride through stands of **towering pines**, cruise along the shoreline of the Great Lakes, stop for a winter picnic beside an icy stream or gaze at a frozen waterfall, you will discover the wonder in **Michigan's winter wonderland**. For information about Michigan's snowmobile trail system, visit the MDNR website at: dnr.state.mi.us/www/fmd/rec/snowmobile/snowmobl.htm

For info. about **snowmobile events** or the latest **snow conditions** call: **888-78-GREAT!**

Hi, Forrest! I love **ICE FISHING!** It's great winter fun! Just bundle up, get your gear, go out, then, **BAIT and SEE!**

I should've kept my mouth shut!

Why did the otter cross the river? on the other side! The ice fishing was better!

Snowmobile safety training is available through the DNR - Law Enforcement Division.

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The word **millennium** comes from the Latin words for thousand (**milie**) and year (**annum**). **Millennium** means a period of... 1000 years.

During the winter of 1979-1979, the Keweenaw Peninsula in our Upper Peninsula received over 390 inches of snow. Ten inches of snow equals about one inch of rain. **About how much rain would 390 inches of snow make?**

In nature, every snowflake has six sides, but like people, no two snowflakes are exactly alike. On this page however, **JUST FOR FUN...** we created ten snowflakes that are exactly alike. **Can you find them?**

For birdfeeding tips, check out: **Dick E. Bird's Birdfeeding 101**, Doubleday, 1997.

Make a Hospitali-tree to feed the winter birds. Choose a tree close to your home. Decorate the tree by stringing popcorn, cranberries or pretzels. Add peanuts and pinecones covered with peanut butter and then rolled in bird seed. Try to identify the birds that visit your tree.

Snowshoes were invented by the **Native Americans**. Snowshoeing is a great way to share an **Outdoor Explorers** adventure.

Snow is a fact of life and has a great effect on **nature**. It's an **INSULATOR!** It helps to keep the underground burrows of animals warm, protects the roots of plants and when it melts in the spring, it provides plants and animals with **life-giving water**.

Written by Edna Cucksey Stephens

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Illustrated by Mark J. Herrick

Michigan is known **nationwide** for its great **snowmobiling**. It is one of three states that offer a large system of interconnected **groomed snowmobile trails**.

The **snowshoe hare** adapts to the winter **environment** by changing its color to white so it cannot be seen in the snow. It grows **extra fur** on its feet to get around on the snow.

The world's tallest living tree is a **Coast Redwood** which is **368 feet tall**. That's 62 feet taller than the **Statue of Liberty**. How tall is Lady Liberty?

Some of the **Northern White Cedar trees** that grow on the limestone cliffs at **Fayette Historic State Park** are over **1,400 years old**. That's more than a **millennium**!

Michigan white pine was used to rebuild Chicago after the **Great Fire**. It is said that the fire began when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in the barn.

Log on to this great website: www.mns-forestry.edu

To learn more about trees and how to identify them, **READ... Crinkleroot's Guide to the Trees**, Maxwell-MacMillan, 1991.

WOOD you believe... **Pinocchio** is **Italian** for pinehead!



Have a "pine" Outdoor EXPLORERS ADVENTURE

Hartwick Pines STATE PARK

It is said that once the **white pine forests** were so thick in Michigan, that a squirrel could travel from one side of the state to the other without touching the ground! Take some time to **smell the pines!** Plan a visit to **Hartwick Pines State Park** where you can stand in the shadows and hear the whispers of some of the last remaining groves of **old growth** white pine. As you travel north on I-75, you'll find this state park near the town of **Grayling**. At the park entrance, you'll see the... **"Big Red Wheels"**.

These **"Michigan Logging Wheels"** were used by the lumberjacks in the days when **"pine was king"** and Michigan led the nation in lumber production. At the **Logging Museum** located in the park, you can see tin cups, plates, beds and tools used by the lumberjacks. You will discover how these **shanty boys** lived and worked and learn more about Michigan's important **logging** and **lumbering heritage**. Explore the **Forest Visitors Center**. Learn about **forest management** and how it helps us have more acres of trees today than fifty years ago. You can also hear birds chirp, a wolf howl and even listen to a **TALKING TREE!** **WOODn't that be FUN?** In any season you can find plenty of outdoor fun at... **Hartwick Pines State Park**.

For a list of special events, activities and other fun stuff, **LOG** on to our website at www.dnr.state.mi.us or call... **(517)373-9900**.

Hartwick Pines State Park is a **pine place** for an **Outdoor Explorers Adventure!**

During the **logging boom...** from 1860 - 1900, millions of pine trees worth more than all the gold mined during the **California Gold Rush**, were cut in **Michigan's north woods**. Lumber from **Michigan white pine trees** was used to build railroads, growing U.S. cities and towns, and homes for the pioneers on the treeless prairie.

The MDNR manages the **largest state forest system in the nation...** over 4 million acres.

What tree means neat and well-dressed? **(əʊnɪdʒ)**

What tree cries? **(məʊlɪn ˈwɪlɪŋ əʊnɪ)**



Michigan **ranks second** in the U.S. in the production of **Christmas trees**, but grows a larger variety (13) than any other state.



Remember to recycle! Each year, every person in the U.S. uses enough paper products to make up a tree about **16 inches around and 100 feet tall!**

What tree might be used to build a house for a puppy? **(pʊmbɔp)**



Real **Christmas trees** can be **recycled**. Artificial trees will last for about six years in your home, but may last for **centuries** in a landfill.

BIG WHEEL GAME

What you will need:
• Use **(TT&TH)** pieces for 1 - 4 players.
• **(WARNING: DON'T EAT THE BUTTONS!!!)**
• Use a pencil and a paper clip to make the game spinner on the stump below.
• Spin the clip around the pencil point.

How to play:
1. Put the playing pieces on the starting space with the star.
2. Spin to see which player goes first.
3. Each player spins and then moves that number of spaces around the **Big Wheel**.
4. Always move clockwise. 5. Follow the directions in each space. 6. Keep going around the same circle until you land on a space with an arrow that will let you move into the next inner circle. **The first player to reach the WINNER'S CIRCLE wins!**
You must spin the **exact number to WIN!** A number one spin never wins!



BIG WHEELS made hauling logs **TREE...** mendously easier!

To learn more about forests and paper, log on to: www.afandpa.org

Buck Wilder® is a trademark of Buck Wilder, Inc. Michigan plants over **30 million** tree seedlings each year.



The **Big Wheels** or **Michigan Logging Wheels** were made in 1875 by **Silas Overpack** of Manistee. Before that time, logging was done mostly in winter when it was easier to move the logs over frozen ice and snow on sleds pulled by oxen or horses. **Big Wheels** made it possible for logs to be hauled in the summer months, too!

Trees are still important **natural resources!** Important lessons were learned from the old logging days. Today, **forest management** considers **wildlife, water and air quality**, and **human needs** to provide **recreation, clean air and water** and products we use every day.

The **Forest Visitor Center** at **Hartwick Pines State Park** helps us understand the importance of our forests, how **forest management** came to be and how it helps us use and care for **natural resources... today and tomorrow.**

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Brain Exercise... How long would it take you to cut a log into ten pieces if each cut takes one minute? **MINUTE** (You see? It's not so easy!)

Lumberjacks spent the long winter nights telling **tall tales**. Many of these tales were about **Paul Bunyan** and his blue ox, **Babe**.

You can tell how old a tree was by **counting the rings** on the stump. If you don't have a stump to look at, take a look at a **fireplace log** or try to figure out how old your **Christmas tree** was when it was cut. **(Hint: This does not work for artificial trees!)**

Michigan's forests support **200,000 jobs** and add **\$12 billion** to Michigan's economy.

That's a lot of toothpicks!

The **white pine** is **Michigan's state tree**. Have you ever wondered why this tree was chosen instead of a birch, maple or oak? The **white pine** is a symbol of one of Michigan's greatest industries...**lumbering**. In 1955, it was chosen to be the state tree because of its importance to **Michigan's history and economy**.

What tree misses someone very much? **(əʊnɪdʒ)**

I'm pining for you!

Don't be sappy!

RENEWABLE RESOURCE

Lumberjacks called pancakes "Morning Glories!"

Kids lived and worked in **lumberjack camps**, too. They often carried water and wood and helped wash dishes.

Find the log marks in the Big Wheel Game for: **Buck Wilder®, Sandy Dunes, Forrest Trails, Paul Bunyan, Abigail and Antonio Ant, Greta and Grady Lakes, and the Salling Hanson Logging Co.**

SPIN IT!

