



Point Beach State Forest



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources • Point Beach State Forest • 9400 County Rd O • Two Rivers, WI 54241 • 920-794-7480

A Short History of Point Beach State Forest

Written by Melanie Kozlowski

If it wasn't for the hard work, foresight, dedication, and persistence of a small number of people, Point Beach may well have never existed.

Earliest archaeological evidence of prehistoric occupation in Manitowoc County dates to the Old Copper culture—about 3000-1000 BC. From about 800-1600 AD, Indian culture was widespread in the area. The Potawatomi, Menominee, Ottawa, Chippewa, Miami, Huron, and Winnebago Indian tribes are known to have resided in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Originally, the land where Point Beach is belonged to local Indian tribes. In 1830, they surrendered possession of this area in exchange for reservation status elsewhere within the state.

Peter Rowley, an entrepreneur from Ohio, purchased a portion of the area from the federal government in 1835. Mr. Rowley dubbed the area Mink River and opened a trading post for business with the Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians in the area. When Mr. Rowley moved from this area some years later, a governmental lighthouse was erected because of an increase in Great Lakes shipping. Twenty-six vessels were shipwrecked before the lighthouse was constructed. Surveyors in 1841 named the area Rowley Point (note the spelling). Years later, the name was changed to Rawley Point. At that time, the state legislature appropriated \$75,000 for forest land in the Kettle Moraine region. The legislature was afraid that they would not be able to carry the vote so they included Manitowoc County in the legislation.

At that time, Manitowoc County was considered the end of the Kettle Moraine region. Joseph Soit and others decided to ask the state for \$20,000 to purchase some forested land. They were told that if they ask for that amount, they would surely not get it. They then asked for \$5,000 instead and made arrangements for a hearing with the State Finance Committee in Madison. There were at least 10 people from the Manitowoc area that presented their cases. Mr. Harrington, the namesake of Harrington Beach State Park and then Superintendent of State Parks and Forests, aided their case. Wenzel Tomek and Soit presented their case but were initially turned down—but not discouraged altogether. The group then went to State Senator Schneider from their district. They were quite pleased with what was promised. It was

possible to vote for and pass the appropriation over the Finance Committee's turndown. The State Assembly voted 90-95% in favor of appropriating the \$5,000. They were assured that it would also pass the State Senate. They were happy for a while until they found out that the Senate had adjourned before they could vote on it.

As it turned out, the news wasn't so bad after all. The Conservation Commission and the Conservation Department must have also been impressed with Assembly's vote and that they heard that the Senate would vote favorably. The Conservation Dept. recommended, and the commission approved spending up to \$10,000 to purchase some 200 acres.

Land owned by Frank Kaufman, Nels LeClair, and Philip Schaefer was purchased. Charley Broughton, editor and owner of the Sheboygan Press, along with supporters, contacted congress in Washington and persuaded them to turn over to the state the surplus 80 acres that they had at the lighthouse, providing that the state starts a park there.

In 1937, they had accumulated 280 acres for the state forest. A short time later, Kaufman offered to sell 350 acres at about \$50 per acre and then donate another 100 acres of woodland. A problem arose, however, when the group realized that they could not ask the state for any additional funds as it had already contributed \$10,000, and \$17,500 would have been a lot of money back then (as it is now, but in 2018 dollars, around \$301,790 according to www.savings.org).

Continued on page 4

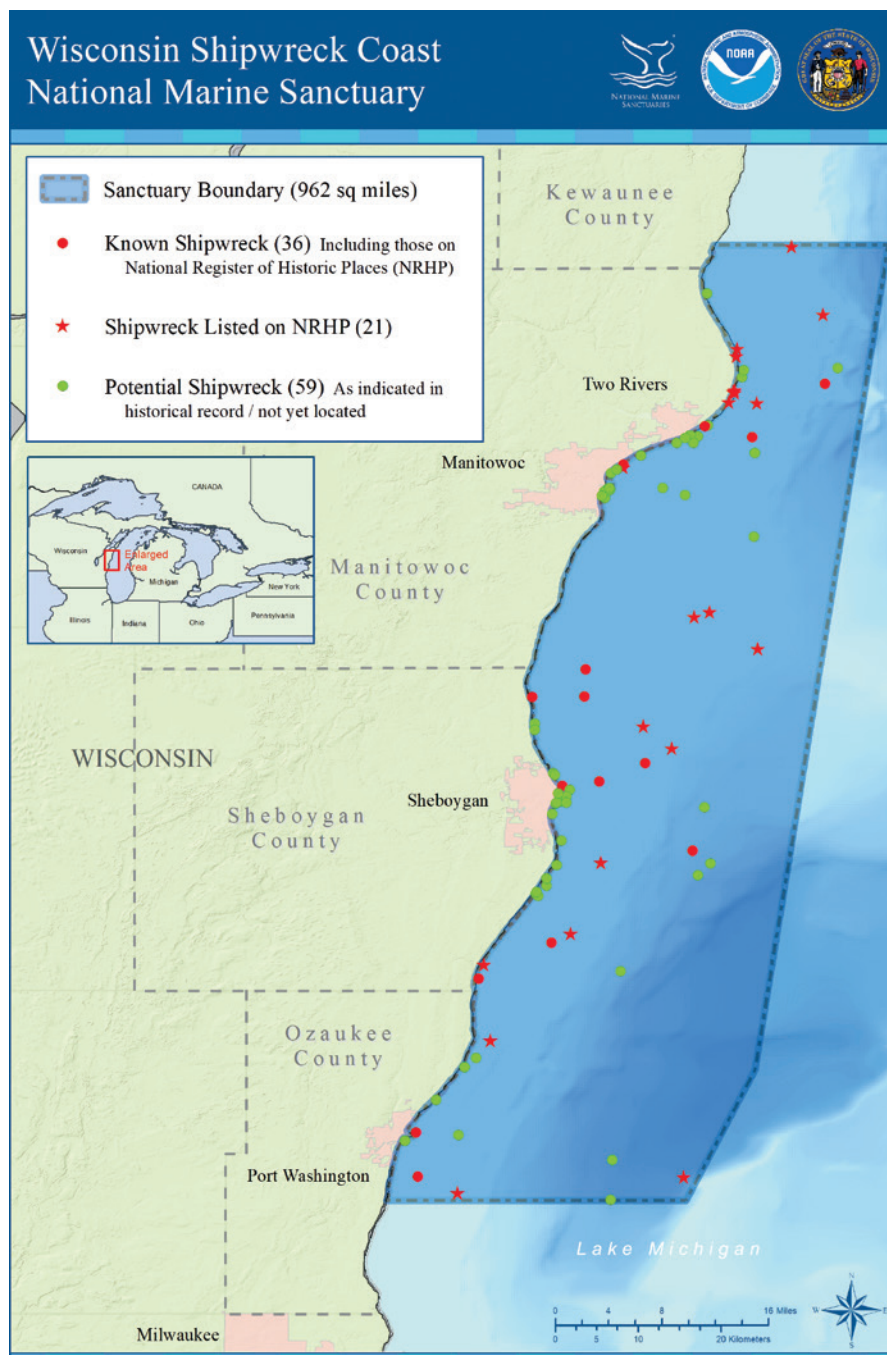
Point Beach State Forest is Now Part of the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary

By John Wyrostek

In 2021, the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary was designated. This area of Wisconsin—stretching from Two Creeks to Port Washington—provides stewardship for our nation's maritime heritage in Lake Michigan. Co-managed by NOAA and the state of Wisconsin, the sanctuary expands on the state's 30-year management of these historic sites, bringing new opportunities for research, resource protection, and education. In partnership with local communities, the sanctuary provides a national stage for promoting recreation and heritage tourism.

The 36 historic shipwreck sites within the sanctuary represent vessels that played a central role in building the nation between the 1830s and 1930s. Twenty-seven are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and research suggests that another 60 shipwrecks may yet to be discovered. (Source NOAA)

Those located near or within the Point Beach State Forest boundaries are the Rouse Simmons, Continental, Vernon, Alaska, and La Salle. Additional information and pictures are located at the shipwreck exhibit in the Nature Center and in the accompanying article.



Important information to make your visit fun and safe

 All animals and plants are protected. Please don't destroy the vegetation; leave it for others to enjoy. Public hunting is allowed in designated areas during all WI hunting seasons.

 The forest is open from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Only registered campers are allowed on campsites after 11 p.m. Fresh Water fills are available as well. Do not remove rock and driftwood from the park.

 In case of injury, fire, or other emergencies contact the office or nearest Park Ranger. If help is not available, call 911.

 Lifeguards are not provided. Lake Michigan can produce **rip currents**. Rip currents are currents that form when water rushes out to sea in a narrow path. This happens when there is a break in a nearshore sandbar or the current is diverted by a groin, jetty or other barrier. These currents can occur when large waves are present. **If caught in a rip current, swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current.** If you can't break out of the current, float calmly until it dissipates. Rip currents are seldom wider than 30 feet. These currents can occur anywhere in Lake Michigan and do not necessarily have a predictable pattern. **When large waves are present we urge you to use extreme caution.** Don't go in the water more than waist deep as longshore currents can carry you into hazardous water. Longshore currents are associated with rip currents and flow parallel to shore until deflected out toward the lake. They can then become rip currents.

 Users of small watercraft or flotation devices should be aware of wind conditions. Strong west winds can blow watercraft away from the shoreline. Parents, watch your children at all times in the water.

Rubber and plastic rafts, inner-tubes, and other boats require personal flotation devices. All craft must be equipped with a Coast Guard approved lifesaving device for each person aboard. Wearing of these devices at all times is recommended.

 Our Nature Center is located at the north end of the Lodge, and is open June through the end of August.

 A Sanitary Dump Station is available to registered campers and is located across from the main entrance to the campground. Garbage and Recycling Stations are located near the Dump Station. Please separate tin cans, aluminum, paper, and #2 plastics, and place in appropriate containers. Litter can spoil someone else's visit, so please clean up before you leave.

 A private concession stand is located in the Lodge building and is open Memorial Day through Labor Day serving food, ice cream, beverages, grocery items, and camping supplies.

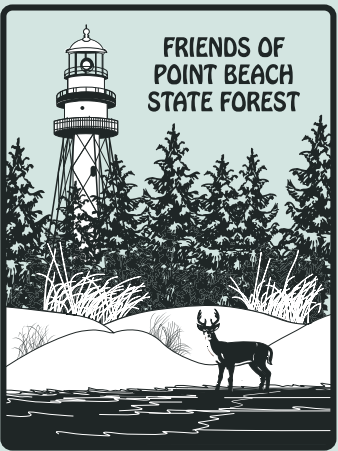
 All paved forest roads are open to bicycle use, but use extreme caution because they are heavily traveled by cars, campers, trailers, and pedestrians. Please follow one-way signs as indicated. The Red Pine Trail is open to mountain bikes. Use caution and respect the rights of others. Park roads and designated bike trails follow the natural terrain and often have steep downgrades with corners and intersections. Expect to encounter areas of exposed loose gravel, sand, or wet leaves. Bike clothing (reflective for night riding), shoes, pant leg clips, and helmets are recommended. Fat bikes are allowed only on marked trails and not allowed on beaches.

 Be aware that trails may vary in difficulty. Not all trails are surfaced. Some trails are designed for multiple use, such as hiking and off-road bicycling. Hikers and bikers share these trails; use caution when encountering each other on the trail. Trail surfaces can become slippery when wet or leaf covered, and will occasionally have loose sand or gravel.

 Skiers should be aware that not all trails are groomed; those trails that are, cannot always be groomed on a regular basis. Skiers should not ski beyond their abilities by taking more advanced/difficult trails, or allowing speed to build up beyond their ability to control their descent. Always follow the proper direction on one-way trails. Always leave space between you and other skiers, and alert others when passing.

FRIENDS OF POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

We are the Friends of Point Beach State Forest, a non-profit organization formed in 1999 and incorporated with tax-exempt status. The Friends of Point Beach is made up of members from local communities surrounding the Forest as well as individuals, families and organizations that wish to help preserve the natural beauty of Point Beach State Forest.



Objectives of the Friend's Group

- To provide information about the geology, natural, and cultural history of Point Beach State Forest.
- Develop and help maintain trails, facilities and resources in the Forest through financial support and providing volunteer labor.
- To preserve and protect native plants and wildlife as well as environmentally sensitive areas in the Forest
- To provide financial support for the improvement and expansion of programs and facilities in the Forest
- To promote Point Beach through the holding of special events and programs for the public to participate in and enjoy

 Find Us on Facebook
or at the Park Check-in Station

Check out the 'Friends' Corner

Summer is a great time to enjoy the outdoors. Whatever your interests, we have apparel and items to make your outings more enjoyable. Our merchandise is located in the Rangers Check-in Station. All proceeds from the sale of "Friends" merchandise support projects of the Friends to help with the needs of Point Beach State Forest.

Memorial Bricks for sale

Purchasing a Memorial Brick is a wonderful way to remember a special loved one. The bricks are located just east of the lodge parking lot in a walkway that over looks Lake Michigan. Order forms may be obtained at the Ranger's Station.

Nature Center

During the summer we have many programs, workshops, hikes and presentations at the Point Beach State Forest Nature Center located at the North end of the park adjacent to the Concession stand. Be sure to check for events at the Nature Center and Park Office.

We have many exhibits of the animals, fish and plants native to the area. Also of interest is the exhibit of the artifacts that have washed ashore over the years from the many famous shipwrecks we have in the area. Added recently is an exhibit highlighting the events that occurred during World War II including practice ship landings where the Rawley Point Lighthouse is located.

In addition to the Nature Center there are several other areas of interest located nearby such as the Rogers Street Historic Fishing Village and Museum (see Ad), Washington House Museum , Farming Museum and Hamilton Type and Printing Museum (see Ad) located in Two Rivers and the Wisconsin Maritime Museum located in Manitowoc. Both the Rogers Street Historic Fishing Village and Museum and Wisconsin Maritime Museum have extensive exhibits and artifacts from famous shipwrecks in the area such as the Rouse Simmons and Vernon.

Be on the lookout for Poison Ivy

The compound leaves of poison ivy consist of three pointed leaflets; the middle leaflet has a much longer stalk than the two side ones. The leaflet edges can be smooth or toothed but are rarely lobed. The leaves vary greatly in size, from 0.31" to 2.16" in length. They are reddish when they emerge in the spring, turn green during the summer, and become various shades of yellow, orange or red in the autumn.



Jennifer Anderson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Nature at its best!

Point Beach State Forest includes more than 2,900 acres of natural forestland, bordered on the east by some six miles of sand-ridged beach on beautiful Lake Michigan.

Immediately north of the city of Two Rivers, the forest offers all of the natural beauty and assets of the wilderness combined with the convenience of nearby facilities to meet any needs.

The developed camping and picnic areas of the forest are located in its northern area near the lakeshore and run along the beach for a mile. They include 127 individual campsites as well as an outdoor and indoor group camp. There are numerous picnic tables, a shelter-lodge, a nature center and a concession stand in season, and a wide variety of interesting things to see and do. The sandy shore of Lake Michigan is, of course, a major attraction for forest visitors. It is a fascinating place just to walk, look, and indulge in some aimless beachcombing.

To help understand "Point Beach," let's look at its geology, archaeology, plants, and animals, beginning with this region's geologic history.

GEOLOGY

Starting far underground and progressing to the surface we would pass from the oldest rocks to successively younger and younger rock layers. First, and deepest, we would find granites and other crystalline rocks that are the bases of ancient mountains that once stood here, but were "leveled" by erosion to a rolling, rocky plain. On the granites lie thick layers of Cambrian sandstone. Above the sandstone lie Ordovician rock layers composed of Prairie du Chien dolomite, St. Peter sandstone, Platteville-Galena dolomites and limestones, and Maquoketa dolomite shale, respectively. The Maquoketa shale is covered by Niagara dolomite. The near-surface soil layer contains boulders, gravel, and sand of recent glacial origin and the surface is mostly sand.

The Cambrian through Silurian (Niagra) rock layers are actually hardened sand, mud, and lime sediments that were deposited on the floors of ancient seas that repeatedly invaded and retreated from Wisconsin. The seas' advances and retreats were due to alternate downwarping and upwarping of vast areas of the Midwest. These marine sediments were laid down beginning about 550 million years ago and ending about 350 million years ago. This

200 million-year period accounts for the great thickness of these rock layers, probably greater than 1,000 feet under this forest!

After the Niagara dolomite was deposited, Devonian seas may have inundated this part of Wisconsin. After Devonian times, our state was never again submerged. Thus, it underwent erosion for the past 350 million years. During this long period, the sedimentary rocks were slowly carved into hills and valleys by countless and nameless streams and rivers. The Lake Michigan basin was a long river valley through which the "Ancient Michigan River" flowed, only one million years ago!

During the past one million-year-long Ice Age, four different glaciers invaded Wisconsin. The powerful glacial ice dug out the Michigan River valley, creating Lake Michigan's present basin. Lake Michigan's deepest spot is 923 feet under water and 343 feet below sea level!

As the last glacier melted, the Lake Michigan basin changed levels. It was at one point so low that Point Beach was about 10 miles from the water's edge!

The last stable "glacial lake" level was called Glacial Lake Nipissing. It covered the Point Beach lands from 3500 BC-1500 BC. Gradually lowering, it often halted long enough to form sand ridges just above its beaches. A series of parallel ridges developed. They are well preserved and easily seen in the forest. The hiking trails follow them. The oldest ridges are farthest from the lake. The youngest are nearest the lake. Wet marshes and low swales lie between the ridges.

In the "sand blown" (dune) areas at the forest's west edge you may observe tiny fossil fragments. The forest's wave-washed beaches often exhibit smooth, rounded granite stones of many colors. Wave action repeatedly covers these pretty stones with sand and then uncovers them. Watch for them! But please do not collect them-except on film!

NATIVE AMERICANS

From what is known of Native Americans in this area, it's certain that many different tribes lived and hunted in this forest. The earliest Indians in this region were nomadic hunters who followed the melting glacier and hunted gigantic mastodons (ancient "elephants") for food! Copper artifacts found nearby indicate that Old Copper Culture Indians camped here. Because of the abundance of fish and game, the area was common ground to various tribes of Wisconsin Territory. In recent and his-



toric times, the Winnebago, Fox, Potawatomi, Miami, and Menominee Indians knew this forest well.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Nature lovers will love the nature of this beautiful property! The beach-dune areas support dune grasses, dwarf and creeping junipers, and tiny sandwort plants, plus others. The water-filled swales hold aquatic plants including the uncommon swamp cinquefoil with its big purplish blooms. The woods contain hemlock, pine, sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, etc. Paper birches are seen where forest meets dune. The forest floor boasts beautiful wildflowers including trailing arbutus, starflower, goldthread, partridgeberry, wintergreen, mayflower, gaywings, columbine, etc. The damp swales are home to alders, cinnamon ferns, royal ferns, and sensitive ferns.

Deer, fox, coyote, turkey, otter, woodchucks, four kinds of squirrels, chipmunks, weasels, skunks, rabbits, and raccoons live here. Mink and muskrats live in the south end of the forest, and bird life abounds. Spring and fall migrations bring countless birds to and through the forest. Bird watchers likely will go wild! Gulls, terns, herons, sandhill cranes, waterfowl, and shorebirds are common along shore. Woodland birds include ruffed grouse, great pileated woodpecker, crested flycatcher, vireos, brown thrashers, wood thrush, and the great horned owl, and Bald Eagle. Garter, milk, fox, green, red-bellied, and brown snakes may be seen at times, but they are not venomous. Leopard, green gray tree, chorus, and peeper frogs and toads are here, too! Red-backed and blue-spotted salamanders live in damp logs and swales. The lake has a diversified fish population including coho and chinook salmon, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, lake trout, perch, alewife, burbot, and bass.

The forest's naturalist program

offers guided hikes, a self-guided nature trail, and evening programs where you may learn more about the natural history of this big property. Our naturalist is eager to meet you, so check the program posters and look her up! Hike with her, or by yourselves; look, listen, take photos, be careful, and have fun! You've picked a dandy spot for your vacation.

TANNING INDUSTRY

One cannot discuss the history of the area without mention of the Leather Tanning Industry that took place at Two Rivers and Two Creeks from 1851 to 1888. Tannins (tannic acid) contained in the bark of hemlock trees was used in the leather tanning process. The tannins act like a natural preservative to prevent premature rotting of the leather.

The prosperous times for the tanning industry saw as many as five factories operating at Two Rivers and Two Creeks.

It was not an uncommon site to see twenty-four or more ox and horse teams, following each other in line, drawing loads of bark to the village.

It was the existence of large stands of hemlock forest in the area that brought the tanning industry to the community. Hides were shipped from Milwaukee and Chicago. Mixed grades of leather were made including harness leather and sole leather. Tanned leather was transported back to larger markets by ship until winter. When the shipping season ended the leather was hauled to Milwaukee by teams of horses. The round trip took one week. By 1888 the local supply of hemlock was exhausted. The discontinuance of the tanning industry was due to the fact that the supply of bark for tanning purposes was exhausted. The expense of getting it by water or rail was greater here than at points where boat or rail facilities could deliver raw material without the use of horses.

Continued on next page

Continued from page 1

The City of Two Rivers, the Manitowoc County Board, and the Conservation Commission gave the money to purchase the additional 350 acres. Now Point Beach was up to 720 acres within about a year! This included the 100 acre donation.

Now that some of the land was purchased, the next step was selecting a name and building roads and recreational buildings.

Originally, Point Beach was called park, but they had to change it to forest because the property was acquired under the forestry law.

WPA (Works Progress Administration) was a federal government agency for instituting and administering public works in order to relieve national unemployment from 1935 to 1943. Quite a few men were unemployed in the Two Rivers area, and the initially cleared underbrush and did anything else that was needed.

In August of 1940, the lodge building, which is situated at the north end of the forest, was completed. The WPA completed

this project as well as the road into the forest. Roads were not originally blacktopped, but were coated in red clay and then, later, gravel. Stone for the lodge came from the Brennan pit in Valders, Wisconsin. The lumber and shakes came from the Lake Elba prison camp in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, and the riprap came from the Jambo Creek area. In 1944, due to additional land purchases, Point Beach State Forest was up to 1400 acres. In 1948, the state purchased an additional 250 acres.

By 1958, the state and various organizations planted some 587,700 trees. Of that, about 475,000 were red pine, 5,000 were white pine, and 2,000 were spruce.

Several land purchases over many years have acquired for Point Beach State Forest a total of 2903 acres.

Many more hurdles were leapt to make Point Beach State Forest what it is today. What is important is that very dedicated and ambitious individuals have made Point Beach a truly treasured recreation area that is enjoyed by thousands of people each year.

have long deep roots and that retain moisture. Most can withstand being buried by blowing winter sands. Some common plants include: Wormwood, pigweed, beach grass, little bluestem, sand reed grass, beach pea, seaside spurge, and wood lily.

Despite the plants ability to thrive the harsh windswept environment, the plants are very susceptible to trampling. One person walking across the dunes is enough trampling to kill the plants. Visitors can help preserve the unique sand dune habitat by walking directly across the dunes to get to the beach. PLEASE DO NOT WALK IN THE DUNES. Enjoy the dunes from the beach where plants are naturally scarce.



Kids!

Make tracks to the nearest contact station or nature center and get ready to discover some secrets!

Ask for a Wisconsin Explorers book. Open the book and start exploring insects, birds, the moon, and all kinds of things! If you complete the requirements, you can earn a colorful patch.

Booklets are available for three ages (3-5, 6-8, and 9+). Get out there and start Discovering Secrets together! Activity backpacks are available for checkout.

Camping Etiquette

To protect yourself, other campers, and the natural resources, and to make your camping experience enjoyable, please remember to:

- 1. Drive very slowly through the camp areas, because many young children are there.
- 2. Set up your tent within the designated site and park your vehicle or RV on the gravel pad.
- 3. Park no more than two vehicles on your site. Extra vehicles may park in the overflow lot.
- 4. Keep all food secure from wild animals–don't feed wild animals.
- 5. Be sure all sounds from your site, including radios, are quiet enough to be heard only by you.
- 6. Burn only firewood (no garbage or recyclables), and keep your fire of moderate size, under control, and in the fire ring.
- 7. Protect all plants and wildflowers; don't pick, disturb, or trample them.
- 8. Deposit "gray water" from your camping unit in the trailer dumping station. Only small amounts of dishwater (free of food residue) may be dumped into pit toilets or scattered away from your campsite.
- 9. Keep campsite clean and free of debris. Leave it cleaner than when you arrived.



POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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Point Beach State Forest
PO Box 7921, Two Rivers, WI 54241

Wisconsin DNR Parks & Recreation
9400 County Rd O, Madison, WI 53707-7921
www.wiparks.net

Point Beach State Forest Camping Fees - Price per night

	Spring/Fall (Weekday) May 1st to Thursday before Memorial Day & Labor Day to October 31st		Spring/Fall (Weekend) May 1st to Thursday before Memorial Day & Labor Day to October 31st		Summer (Weekday) Friday before Memorial Day to Sunday before Labor Day		Summer (Weekend) Friday before Memorial Day to Sunday before Labor Day		Winter November 1st to April 30th	
	Non-Electric	Electric	Non-Electric	Electric	Non-Electric	Electric	Non-Electric	Electric	Non-Electric	Electric
WI Resident	\$15	\$30	\$20	\$30	\$20	\$30	\$22	\$32	\$15	\$30
Non-WI Resident	\$20	\$35	\$25	\$35	\$25	\$35	\$27	\$37	\$20	\$35

*Note: weekend rates are for Fridays and Saturdays

Admission Fees - Sticker Fees

Sticker Type	Wisconsin Resident	Non-Resident
Annual	\$28.00	\$38.00
Second Annual (for same residence)	\$15.50	\$20.50
Senior Annual	\$13.00	N/A
1 Day Pass	\$8.00	\$11.00
Senior Day Pass	\$3.00	N/A

Reservation Information

Point Beach campsites generally fill up on weekends from Memorial Day through the end of October. Weekdays in July and August are also busy and reservations are recommended. All Sites are reservable. You can make reservations 48 hours to 11 months before the date of your arrival.

Website: wisconsin.goingtocamp.com • Phone: 1-888-947-2757

WALKING TACO

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1 (1 ounce) taco seasoning packet
- 6-8 snack-sized bags of Frito's or Doritos

Suggested Toppings:

- black beans
- lettuce
- tomato
- shredded cheese
- sour cream
- salsa
- guacamole

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large skillet, brown beef over medium heat and drain the fat. Add the onion to the meat and sauté for a couple of minutes until soft. Add the taco seasoning and 1/2 cup of water. Simmer until water is absorbed.
2. Crush your chips and open your bag. Add your beef mixture and toppings.



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Enjoy a sundae and purchase a copy of the "Mystery at Point Beach" book series at the WASHINGTON HOUSE MUSEUM
1622 Jefferson Street, Two Rivers
Open May 27-Oct 31 – Free Admission
Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm

Experience Wisconsin's agricultural history at the HISTORIC FARM MUSEUM
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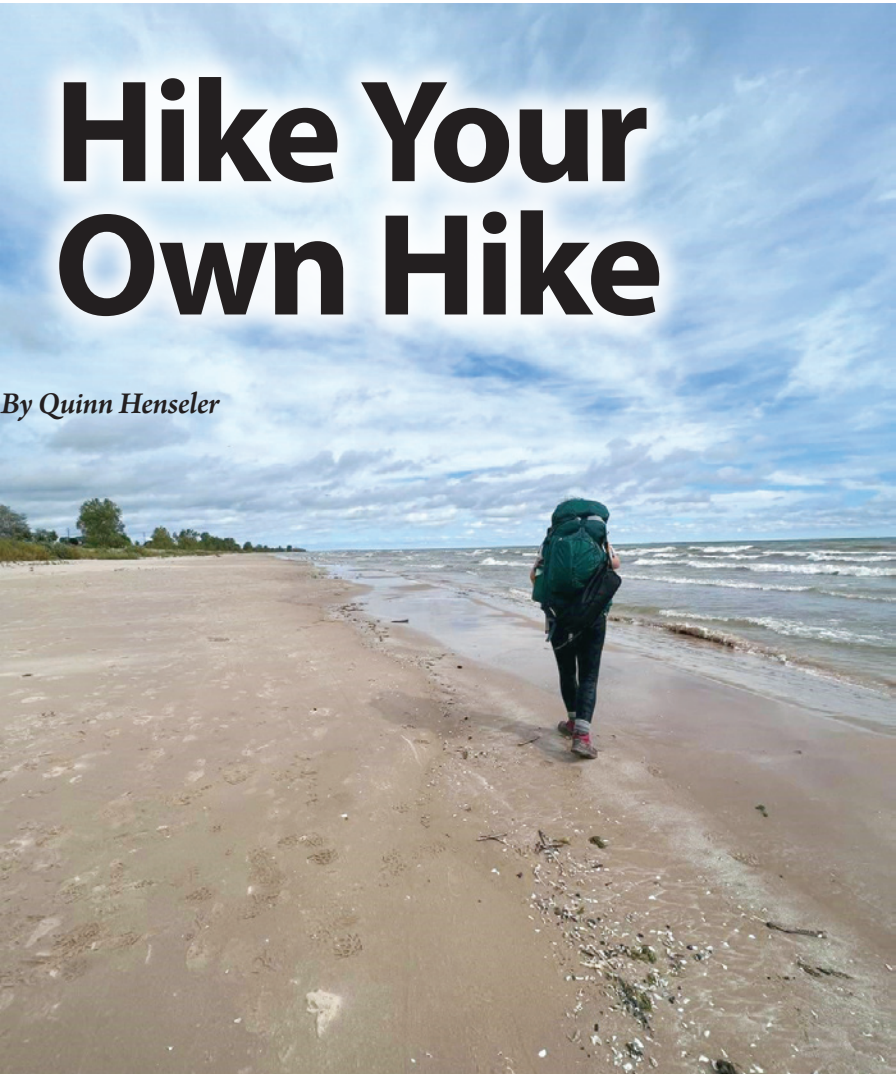
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We encourage you to explore the lakeshore area and the wonderful experiences it has to offer. We hope you enjoy your stay enough to come back and visit again. So, what are you waiting for? Grab a calendar and start planning your next trip.

We'll See You Again Soon! The Scheffel Family



By Quinn Henseler

Are you interested in an Ice Age Trail segment that is very hiker friendly, even for backpacking beginners?

Katie Helland is telling the story of her first empowering group backpacking trip from the Manitowoc to Point Beach State Forest Ice Age Trail segment.

What interested you into coming to Point Beach State Forest?

I had been to Point Beach multiple times before (in all seasons) to hike and enjoy the beach! It’s an absolutely beautiful area. So, when planning our first segment hike of the IAT, I couldn’t think of a better area to explore further!

How long did it take you to plan the backpacking trip?

It probably took about a week to get our route figured out (start and end points) as well as reserving the camp sites we were going to stay at. The meal prep probably took an additional week or so!

How much experience do you have backpacking?

This was actually mine as well as another hiker in our group’s first backpacking trip. We had just one hiker in our group that had any backpacking experience (which was very helpful).

How many miles did you hike on your adventure?

Our trip was right around 23 miles, we completed it in just over two days.



Pictured left to right; Katie Helland, Marissa Steffens and Torry Dulle

What did you enjoy about the IAT and Point Beach State Forest?

The IAT trail segment that we took itself is very hiker friendly, even for beginners! We started with the City of Manitowoc segment and hiked through the Point Beach segment. The segments ran either right through the cities, or pretty close! Being that it was our first trip out together, it was reassuring to have access to things that we may need or forgot. It was easy to find routes and camping locations with the resources on the Ice Age Trail website. Point Beach State Forest was a perfect location to end our trip because the grounds are just beautiful! There’s nothing quite like having your morning coffee on a beach.

Do you have any camping or hiking rituals?

After each trip I get a new patch for my pack. Something that reminds me of the trip or a fun memory from the trip. For this trip I got a Turkey Vulture patch because on our second day we saw a large group of them feeding on a fish carcass on the beach and it was just a memorable thing for me as I am a huge bird nerd.

What are your favorite memories?

There are so many amazing memories, but I have two that really stick out to me; I think the best was that we made it a point to stop each night and drink some warm tea before bed. It was a perfect way to recap our day, wind down, and share some good laughs!

The other one is our first night we had some very strong winds on the beach, and it made setting up our tent nearly impossible. With the entire marina full of fishermen watching us—we struggled together to get the tent up, two of us lying sprawled out on the ground trying to hold down the tent footprint while the other staked it down. We laughed until we had tears running down our faces (either from laughing so hard or all of the sand getting in our eyes. We’ll never know for sure) and eventually got it pitched and we crawled inside. Every time I think about that night, I start laughing all over again. I think some of the best memories come from the worst situations!

“We laughed until we had tears running down our faces.”

What do you do for meals for backpacking?

For our meals we had to plan them out in advance. Because our trip was relatively short, we were not as concerned with our calorie intake as we would have been if we were out for a longer duration. For breakfast: tea and coffee were both easy and light to carry, and we ate pancakes both of our mornings. For lunch, we really all brought things that we would be able to share and eat on the go. We ate things like granola bars, crackers and cheese, tuna packets, dried fruit, etc. For dinner, we ate dehydrated meals of risotto and minestrone soup! My biggest food advice is to make sure to save room in your pack for some of your favorite candy! There is no better pick-me-up throughout the day than a good sugar rush.

What advice would you give to others who would like to get into backpacking/hiking the IAT?

One of the biggest pieces of advice that I have gotten that really helped me was simply to “Hike your own hike,” meaning to do what you need to feel comfortable. Don’t worry about getting all ultralight gear or packing too much and adding weight. If you can handle the weight of your pack, you will figure out how to drop pack weight little by little as you get comfortable and figure out what you really need and don’t. My pack was about 30lbs, and I will be slowly taking weight off that with each trip and upgrading my gear.



Horse Trails at Point Beach State Forest

For those of you who have ridden the horse trail at Point Beach State Park in the past, you know how beautiful and serene it is. This summer we added another loop that is a little over a mile long. We now have over four miles of these serene trails.

For those of you that have never ridden the trail, you are missing a great ride. The scenery is beautiful and very peaceful. You can see the famous sand dunes, whitetail deer, turkeys, owls and bald eagles. It’s a great place to start young horses as it’s closed to bicycles and ATVs. They are sand based, so no mud and no shoes needed.

The trails are well marked and maintained and are wide enough for carts or riding side by side. Our new trail is not on the pamphlets, but is on the map at the park office. It’s off the original trail, so it’s easy to find.

We have a nice gravel parking lot that is large enough for bigger rigs. There are picnic tables to eat on and use for mounting blocks. There are no fees to ride, but you will need a Wisconsin State Park sticker. These can be purchased at the office across from the entrance to the horse parking lot.

Trails are open in the spring by the decision of the Point Beach State Forest staff. Depending on weather conditions, they are usually open May through October, closing early November.

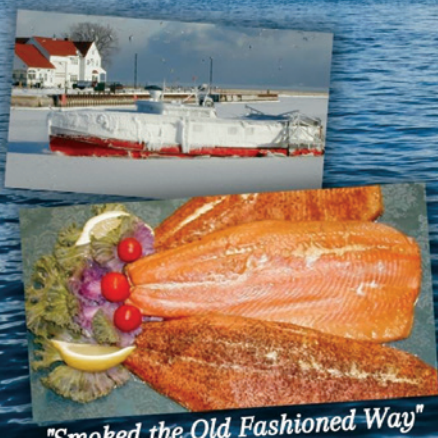
*Come ride at
Point Beach State Forest!*

Horse / Bike Trails

North System: 2.5 miles | South System: 5.0 miles

RULES:

1. Hikers and bikers yield right-of-way to horses.
2. Never pass a horse from behind. Calmly call out that you want to pass, so the rider can turn the horse around to face your bike. Then you can safely pass.
3. If there is a horse coming towards you, stop, say hello, and allow the horse to pass.



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Find us on Facebook:
Friends of Point Beach State Forest

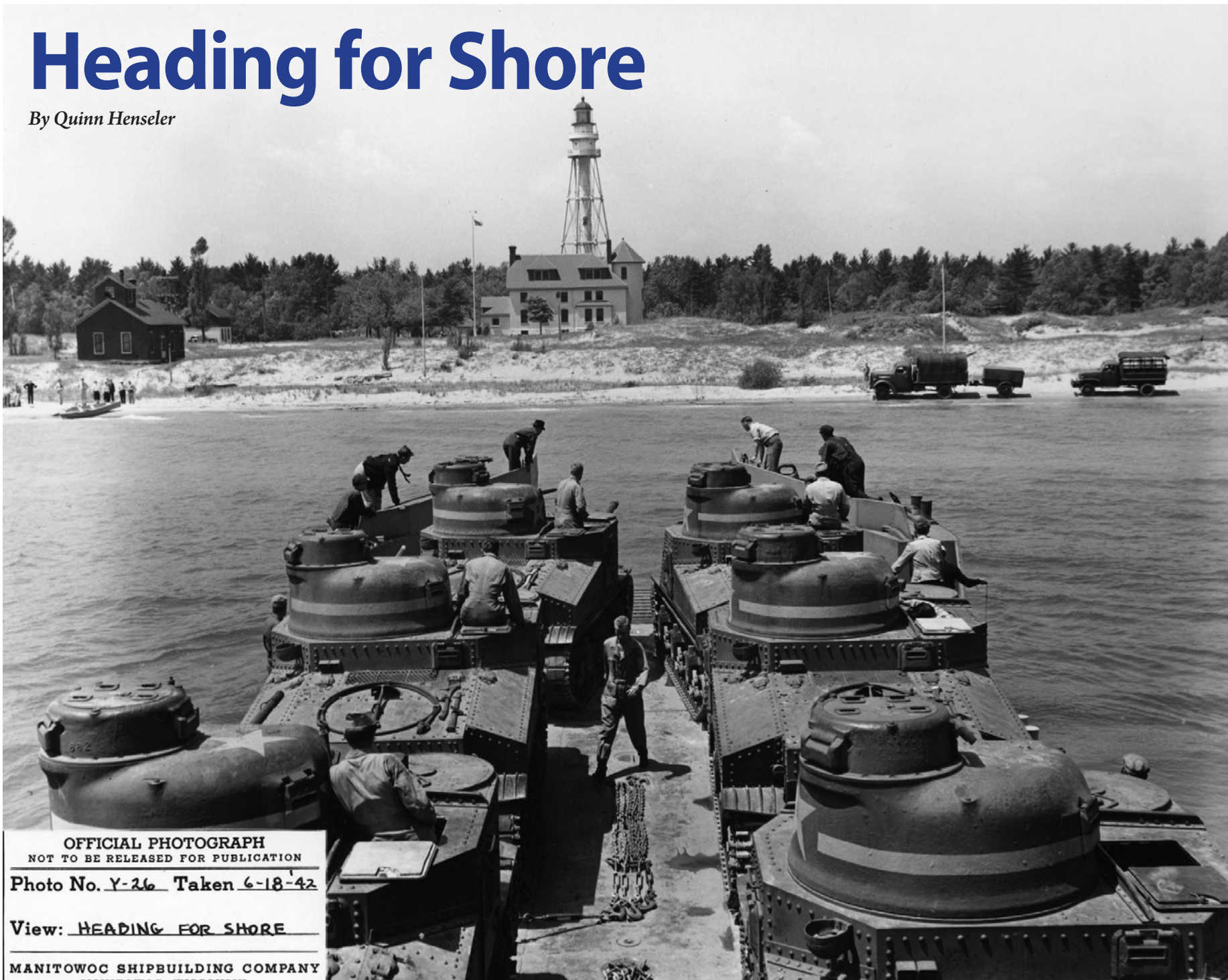
Red Forest Bed & Breakfast



1421
25th Street
Two Rivers, WI
920-793-1794
www.Redforestbb.com

SHARE YOUR STORY EXPLORE MORE

Tag #OutWIGo
& @FriendsOfPointBeachStateForest
on Instagram



Harry F. Berns was the official photographer for the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company.

The photograph above was captured June 18, 1942 to document practice landings of LCT(5) invasion barges. The Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company crafts ranged from invasion barges to ferry tanks and other heavy equipment. LCT (5) s were about 114 feet in length, and had a bow ramp. The landing crafts, submarines, and tanks were made in preparation for planned invasion of North Africa and other operations. The purpose of the practice landings was to test equipment and techniques.

In this photograph, the barge carries six tanks heading to the shore at Point Beach State Forest. The shipyard men just opened the gate located on the bow. Straight ahead is the Rawley Point

Lighthouse and keeper's house. On the beach there are military and shipyard workers observing the action. Due to the almost secret practice landings, Rawley Point was constantly guarded by the Coast Guard and Army personnel.

On June 18th, 1943 a test took place on the Lake Michigan Shore of Point Beach State Forest that would play an important role for WWII. The test of the landing craft tank 6 (501), provided crucial information needed for upcoming landings from Sicily to Tarawa. During this time, America was at war, and it wasn't an uncommon site to look out over the shores of Point Beach and see one of the 28 submarines. The submarines were built in Manitowoc for undergoing sea/

lake trials.

There was an urgent "Triple A priority" issued, leading the Navy program and the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company to built crafts and practice planned invasions. The men pictured in the photos were part of the Red Arrow of the 32nd division. Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company had built 36 similar landing crafts. The LCT(6) had both bow and stern ramps. The LTC 6 was delivered to the Navy on August 12, 1943 and was used on D-Day on June 1944 on Gold Beach. After all the successful operations, Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company was the leader in furnishing plans and materials for over 1,300 LCT(6) invasion barges made in the Midwest.



"Third Landing" at Point Beach State Forest



A recently landed tank stages on the beach.



By *Melanie Kozlowski and John Wyrstek*

Point Beach State Forest is home to some very interesting shipwrecks. Here is a brief history on some of the most famous ones.

CONTINENTAL

The steam-powered Continental was built in 1882 by George Presley in Cleveland, Ohio. It was approximately 245 feet long, with a wooden hull. It was originally designed to transport iron ore and coal as it traveled (generally) between Marquette, Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio.

The Continental was on its way to Manitowoc on December 12, 1904 for service, repairs, and winter dry dock when it sank off of Rawley Point in about 15 feet of water. It was running empty at the time which caused the hull to ride higher in the water, allowing for it to navigate more shallow waters. There was a bit of a snowstorm which caused the captain to become disoriented and steer towards the shore. The hull caught on a sandbar and all of the crew members were rescued by a nearby fishing vessel so thankfully no lives were lost. They tried to pull it off the sandbar, but it was no use. Over the winter, the currents and wave action destroyed the ship beyond salvage.

There is an excellent story board just north of the concession stand. Its location is marked with a buoy.

VERNON

The Vernon was built in 1886 and cost about \$78,000. She launched on August 16th of that year in Chicago at the Chicago Drydock Company. She was built for speed (15 mph) and passenger comfort. See picture above.

The Vernon’s final, fateful voyage began on October 20, 1887. She left Chicago for Cheboygan, Michigan. The northbound trip went as planned. After leaving from Michigan on October 26th, the Vernon stopped several times to embark and disembark passengers at various locales. (Thus it is impossible to know exactly who or how many people were on board when she sank; during this time, the active passenger lists were kept on board the vessel.) On the 28th of October, she began to head over to the western shores of the lake to begin the final leg of the journey. At around 10:00 PM that evening, a northeast gale came up, and the weather continued to worsen as the night progressed. Finally, the mountainous seas swamped the steamer and filled the lower holds with water and extinguished fires needed to propel the ship. Without power, the ship soon foundered in deep water. The final sinking occurred somewhere between 3:00 and 4:00 AM on October 29th just east of Rawley Point. All but one life was lost to this tragedy.

ROUSE SIMMONS

Built in 1868 by Allan McClelland and Co. in Milwaukee, the Rouse Simmons was already 42 years old—a very old and worn boat by any standards—when Herman Schuenemann purchased his 1/8 interest. She carried three masts, and her registered dimensions were 124.2 feet in length, 27.6 feet in breadth and 10.1 feet in depth of hold. A vessel purposely built to serve in Lake Michigan’s lumber trade, the ship was named for the major financial backer, Rouse Simmons, whose family was a manufacturing power in Kenosha, Wis., and founder of the well-known Simmons Mattress Co.

Each November, August and Herman Schuenemann loaded the schooner the Rouse Simmons with evergreens in Thompson, Mich. After sailing south, the pair moored their vessel to a downtown Chicago pier, hoisted a decorated tree up the mast and strung electric lights throughout the rigging. Herman Schuenemann gave away many of his trees to the city’s churches and poor, acts that earned him the name Captain Santa.

August Schuenemann was lost carrying a load of Christmas trees aboard his schooner S. Thal just short of their home port in a late November storm in 1898.

Late in the afternoon on Nov. 22, the barometer was falling and the winds were increasing as the Rouse Simmons, fully loaded with evergreens, departed from Thompson, Mich., on her final voyage of the 1912 season. Captain Schuenemann knew the dangers of sailing in November, but there was little option for a Christmas tree merchant. Before departure, the kind-hearted Schuenemann invited a number of lumberjacks aboard to catch a ride back to Chicago to spend the holidays with friends and family. Captain Schuenemann, the Rouse Simmons, and her estimated 16 crew and passengers never arrived at Chicago. Christmas trees washed up along the coastline for years to follow and in 1923, Captain Schuenemann’s wallet came up in a fisherman’s net near Two Rivers, Wis. It was not until Milwaukee diver Kent Bellrichard discovered the vessel’s remains 12 miles northeast of Two Rivers, Wis., in 165 feet of water that the story began to unfold.

Last seen by the Kewaunee Life-Saving Station, the Rouse Simmons was flying a distress flag five miles offshore while being driven southward by a northwest gale. With no chance of catching the fleeing vessel, the Kewaunee station’s captain telephoned the Two Rivers’ Life-Saving Station, 25 miles to the south. The station immediately launched a lifeboat to intercept the distressed vessel and bring her crew to safety. When the lifeboat motored onto the lake, however, the Rouse Simmons had vanished. An estimated 16 people lost their lives.

ALASKA

ALASKA was built in Sheboygan in 1869 by well-known shipbuilder Smith Neville, Sr., as a scow schooner, and it operated in the coastal lumber trade for its entire career. Scow schooners are incredibly unique ships that were designed to access the small, unimproved hinterland ports throughout the Great Lakes region.

ALASKA spent ten years carrying lumber up and down Lake Michigan’s shoreline until March 23, 1879, when the vessel was caught in a gale while sailing light to the lumber pier in Ahnapee (today Algoma) to pick up a cargo. Just north of the Rawley Point Lighthouse, the vessel was pushed far up on shore by the wind and the waves. All of the crew were able to get to shore safely, but the vessel remained grounded in the notorious “quicksand” of Rawley Point. Multiple efforts were made to remove the vessel and after a particularly harsh winter (1879-80), the vessel was determined to be a total loss.

Today, ALASKA sits in 5 feet of water, partially covered by sand, only a few hundred feet off of Point Beach State Forest’s beach. The constantly moving sand of the point covers much of the vessel in most years. Archaeologists from the Maritime Preservation and Archaeology Program at the Wisconsin Historical Society recorded the exposed portions of the wreck. The vessel’s bow, deck machinery, centerboard trunk, some rigging implements, and much of its hull structure, remain intact, with the vessel’s stern extending beneath the sand nearby.

Although the shifting sands, can make this site difficult to catch, when the vessel is exposed, it can clearly be seen from the water’s surface, and is a great spot for paddling or snorkeling. The wrecks of the schooner LOOKOUT and canal schooner LASALLE are located only about 1000 feet to either side of the ALASKA site, making the area a great small paddling trail, close to shore.

To learn more about ALASKA, and scow schooners, visit: <https://wisconsinshipwrecks.org>.

LA SALLE

The three-masted schooner LaSalle was launched into the Niagara River on April 11, 1874 from the Parsons & Humble shipyard in Tonawanda, New York. The hold capacity was approximately 23,000 bushels of grain. The ship measured 139 feet in length, 26-foot beam, with nearly an 11-foot depth of hold.

Late into her second season, on October 22, 1875, LaSalle loaded 22,000 bushels of wheat at Chicago, and departed for Buffalo. As the schooner sailed north into the teeth of a gale on the night of October 25, she unshipped her rudder while abreast of Two Rivers Point (now Rawley Point). Before Captain Parker could get the vessel to come to anchor, she struck bottom and drifted shoreward. There, she became imbedded in hazardous quicksand on the point. The vessel filled with water, forcing her crew into the rigging. The men remained aloft all night where they anxiously awaited daybreak. Come morning they were rescued by fishermen from Two Rivers. Several days later, the tugs Leviathan and J.J. Hagerman were sent from Milwaukee to lend assistance to the stranded vessel. They could not free LaSalle. Moreover, the ship was determined to be badly damaged and proved a total loss. The schooner was subsequently stripped of her anchors, spars, and some of her rigging, and abandoned.

Nearly three years after her loss, during the last week of August 1878, Parsons & Humble’s schooner W.H. Rounds called on Two Rivers and took aboard the spars, anchors and rigging saved from the LaSalle and returned them to the shipyard at Tonawanda to be used on other vessels. (Source: Wisconsin Shipwrecks .org)



Trails offer scenic views, opportunities to explore

Point Beach’s trails give you exercise while providing access to the forest’s scenic locations and interesting natural features. There are 17 miles of hiking and ski trails, 4 miles of surfaced biking trail, 4 miles of mountain bike trail, and 3 miles of snowmobile trail.

All forest roads are open to bicycle use, but use extreme caution because they are heavily traveled by cars, campers, and trailers. Please follow one-way signs.

 **Rawley Point Bicycle Trail**

The Rawley Point Bicycle Trail is a 5 mile hard packed limestone base trail that links Point Beach State Forest with the 7 mile asphalt base Mariners Trail. The trail begins at the Lodge Parking Lot and goes south through the campground and then further south through pine and hemlock forest where it crosses Highway O and connects to the Two Rivers Trails and eventually to the Mariners Trail along the Lake Michigan Shoreline to downtown Manitowoc. Through the Forest, the trail follows the natural, gently rolling terrain and some steep grades. If you bike the entire 12 miles, you will traverse through dense pine and hemlock forest, ancient sand dunes, open grasslands, urban areas, city parks, and breathtaking views of Lake Michigan Shoreline. The diversity of scenery and habitat make this ride one you will want to do over and over.

 **Ridges Trail**

The Ridges Trail, which starts at the Lodge parking lot, has three connecting loops so you can hike or ski varying distances:

- Red Loop (3 miles or 5 kilometers)
- Red and Blue Loops (5.5 miles or 9 kilometers)
- Red, Blue, and Green Loops (7.25 miles or 12 kilometers)

In early evening in season, trail

users can hear a loud chorus of frogs singing from the swales between the ridges. Dogs are prohibited during ski season but permitted at other times of the year.

 **Red Pine Trail**

The Red Pine Trail begins at the parking lot west of County Highway O across from the forest entrance road. The trail is 3.1 miles or 5 kilometers long. This trail is open to mountain bikes and hikers in the summer and skiers in the winter. Dogs are prohibited during ski season but permitted at other times of the year.



 **Swales Nature Trail**

This self-guided nature trail is 1/2 mile long. It’s a great place to look for wildflowers, birds, and animals as well as to learn how this terrain was formed.

 **Ski Trails**

Ski trails (Ridges, Red Pine, and Swales) are marked for one-way travel only.

 **Snowmobile Trail**

A through trail connects the forest with the county snowmobile trail system and the City of Two Rivers. Vehicles and trailers may be parked at Port Sandy Bay, about 2.5 miles south of the forest entrance road, where there is access to the trail.

GEOCACHING in the Forest

Are you a geocacher, or the owner of a handheld GPS receiver? There are four geocaches located inside Point Beach State Forest waiting to be found. Just enter the coordinates below and start hunting!

FRIENDS OF POINT BEACH (N 44 13.146 W 087 31.022)
De BARKING CACHE (N 44 13.173 W 087 30.907)
FROG BOG (N 44 13.033 W 087 30.867)
THE GANGS ALL HERE (N 44 11.454 W 087 31.211)

If you don’t find those four challenging enough and would like to find some others, there are two more caches hidden in the Rahr Memorial School Forest located about two miles north of Point Beach.

RAHR MEMORIAL SCHOOL FOREST
(N 44 14.331 W 087 30.843)(multi cache)
TURKEY TRAIL (N 44 14.646 W 087 31.193)

For rules policies and more information, go to www.geocaching.com
Geocaching - The Official Global GPS Cache Hunt Site.

Have fun riding the waves at Point Beach

Visitors to the Point Beach State Forest soon discover one of the most outstanding features of the location - Lake Michigan! One of the five Great Lakes, Lake Michigan provides the aquatic adventurer with the opportunity to explore the park from a unique off shore prospective. The six miles of pristine beach within the state forest provide an easy access to the water for canoe or kayak. Once on the water, visitors can paddle for miles along the shoreline and witness both the beauty of the forest and the presence of undisturbed wildlife from the solitude of the water. Other features you may visit from the water are the barge wreck just north of the park boundary or Molarsh Creek, a small lake tributary, which is a comfortable three mile paddle south of the Lodge.

If the wind and waves are up, kayakers can also enjoy the day plunging through and over the surf. Just remember to wear your PFDs and dress for the lake water temperature (cold most days). Recognize your limitations and stay off the water when the wind and waves get too heavy.

If you did not bring your water craft to the beach this visit, make a note to be sure to car top or trailer your canoe or kayak the next time you're here and see the park from a whole new direction.



Annual Photo Contest

Join the FUN! From January 1 until November 30, Point Beach State Forest and the Friends Group will be sponsoring their annual photo contest. For a complete list of contest rules, judging and awards see the Friends of Point Beach Facebook page. Winning photos are displayed in the Rangers Check-in Station.

CATEGORIES

- Plants (wildflowers, shrubs, trees)
- Wildlife (animals, insects)
- People (release form needed)
- Open (landscape)
- Vintage (photographs taken before 1950)





The Ice Age Trail

Wisconsin’s Gift of the Glaciers

More than 10 miles of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail runs through Point Beach State Forest and the neighboring Rahr School Forest. This Point Beach Segment of the Trail includes a primitive camping area, as well as a kayak launching site. One of 11 National Scenic Trails, the Ice Age Trail (which totals 1,200 miles) is located entirely in Wisconsin, tracing the edge of the last continental glacier, which receded 12,000 years ago. *You’ll know you’re on the Trail when you see its mark: a yellow blaze (rectangle).*

The Ice Age Trail is a textbook of glacial geology. As you explore it, you’ll encounter some of the world’s finest examples of glacial landforms like moraines, kettles, eskers, drumlins, and erratics. In Point Beach State Forest, the Ice Age Trail follows the largest Ice Age feature along its route: Lake Michigan. The Trail also winds through many towns, including those that are officially designated Trail Communities (including nearby Two Rivers and Manitowoc).

The Ice Age Trail is primarily a footpath, open for you to explore as a walker, hiker, backpacker, snowshoer, and/or cross-country skier. No matter how you explore the Trail, you can add ColdCaching to your journey and learn about the many fascinating natural features you’ll encounter. ColdCaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game, which uses GPS or other navigational techniques to seek out natural features formed by glaciation. Three ColdCache sites are located in the Point Beach State Forest. For more information on ColdCaching, visit the Trail Resources section of IceAgeTrail.org or check out an Ice Age Trail Backpack, with information about ColdCaching, from the Forest Contact Station.

The Trail is a Work In Progress

Those exploring the Trail should know it is a work in progress. Every day, the Trail’s volunteers and managing partners (Wisconsin DNR, National Park Service, and Ice Age Trail Alliance) work to conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Trail. As of December 2022, 683.7 miles of the Trail are open and blazed for hiking. The remainder of the miles are made up of connecting routes, generally quiet country roads which link completed Ice Age Trail segments. The goal is to have all segments connected, and a blazed path complete from the Western Terminus of the Trail (in Interstate State Park) to the Eastern Terminus (in Potawatomi State park).

Learn All About the Trail at IceAgeTrail.org

Many resources are available to help you navigate the Ice Age Trail. The best place to start if you are considering an Ice Age Trail excursion is to visit the Ice Age Trail Alliance website: IceAgeTrail.org. There you’ll find up-to-date maps, hiking itineraries, trail alerts, and more. You can also order an Ice Age Trail Atlas or Guidebook from the Alliance’s online store.

Volunteers are Key to the Trail’s Success

In addition to being a recreational resource, the Ice Age Trail is a great community building resource. That’s because the Trail is created and maintained by thousands of volunteers. Volunteer activities range from building Trail, to leading hikes, or working at events to spread awareness for the Trail. There’s a role for anyone and every ability level. For more information about volunteering, visit IceAgeTrail.org/volunteer. The Lakeshore Chapter of the Alliance creates and maintains the Trail in Manitowoc County. To get involved with the Lakeshore Chapter or learn about their activities, visit IceAgeTrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/chapters/lakeshore.

Whether you’re a long-distance hiker, a weekend day-hiker, a geology buff, a nature lover, or a Trailbuilding volunteer, the Ice Age Trail offers something for everyone. A visit to the Ice Age Trail will leave you with a strong appreciation for Wisconsin and its remarkable gift of the glaciers. Don’t be surprised if you find yourself wanting to explore the entire Trail.



Weather Information Point Beach State Forest

Be Informed . . . listen to the local daily weather forecasts either by telephone, radio, television, or the National Weather Service Reports.

Tune Your Radio To: 980 AM WCUB 92.1 FM WLTU
1240 AM WOMT 102.3 FM WQTC
1590 AM WTRW

Be Prepared . . . Before setting up your campsite, develop a plan of action beforehand so members of your camping party will know what to do in the event of bad weather. Also take note of trees that may fall in the event of strong winds. As campers, you need to be aware of changing weather. Keep an eye on the sky, listen for thunder, and learn to identify threatening clouds.

TORNADO WARNING



- **Get out of your car, tent, or camper--** they will not protect you from falling trees.
- **Seek shelter in the closest concrete building--** crouch down and cover your head.
- **If you cannot get to a building,** lie flat in a ditch or low area away from wooded areas.
- **Plan your route before a storm develops.**



SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING

- **Get out of your car, tent, or camper--** they will not protect you from high winds.
- **Seek shelter in the closest concrete building--** crouch down and cover your head.
- **Stay away from areas prone to lightning strikes--** the beach, lake, or tall isolated trees.

THE LODGE OR SHOWER BUILDINGS MAY BE OPEN

If a ranger is on duty at the time a severe weather warning is issued, an effort will be made to drive through all campgrounds and recreation areas to announce the warning over the squad loudspeaker system. (or with lights & siren activated). We are NOT available 24 hours per day.

Non-Emergency: 920-683-4201

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In any emergency contact forest personnel first; if not available; call 911

Illness or Injury

Doctor

Aurora Two Rivers Clinic, 2219 Garfield St., Two Rivers
Phone: 920-793-6350 **EMERGENCY:** 920-793-2281

Hospitals

Aurora Medical Center 5000 Memorial Dr., Two Rivers Phone: 920-794-5000	Holy Family Memorial 2300 Western Ave., Manitowoc Phone: 920-320-2011 EMERGENCY: 920-320-2603
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Ambulance

• Manitowoc County Sheriff’s Department • Phone 911

Poison Control Center Phone Numbers

• Green Bay 1-800-815-8855 • Wisconsin: 1-800-222-1222

Coast Guard- Two Rivers Coast Guard Station at 920-793-1304 or
920-793-1305-Emergency

Fire

Notify forest personnel or call Manitowoc County Sheriff’s Department at 911. Do not attempt to extinguish any spreading fire until you are sure that authorities are notified

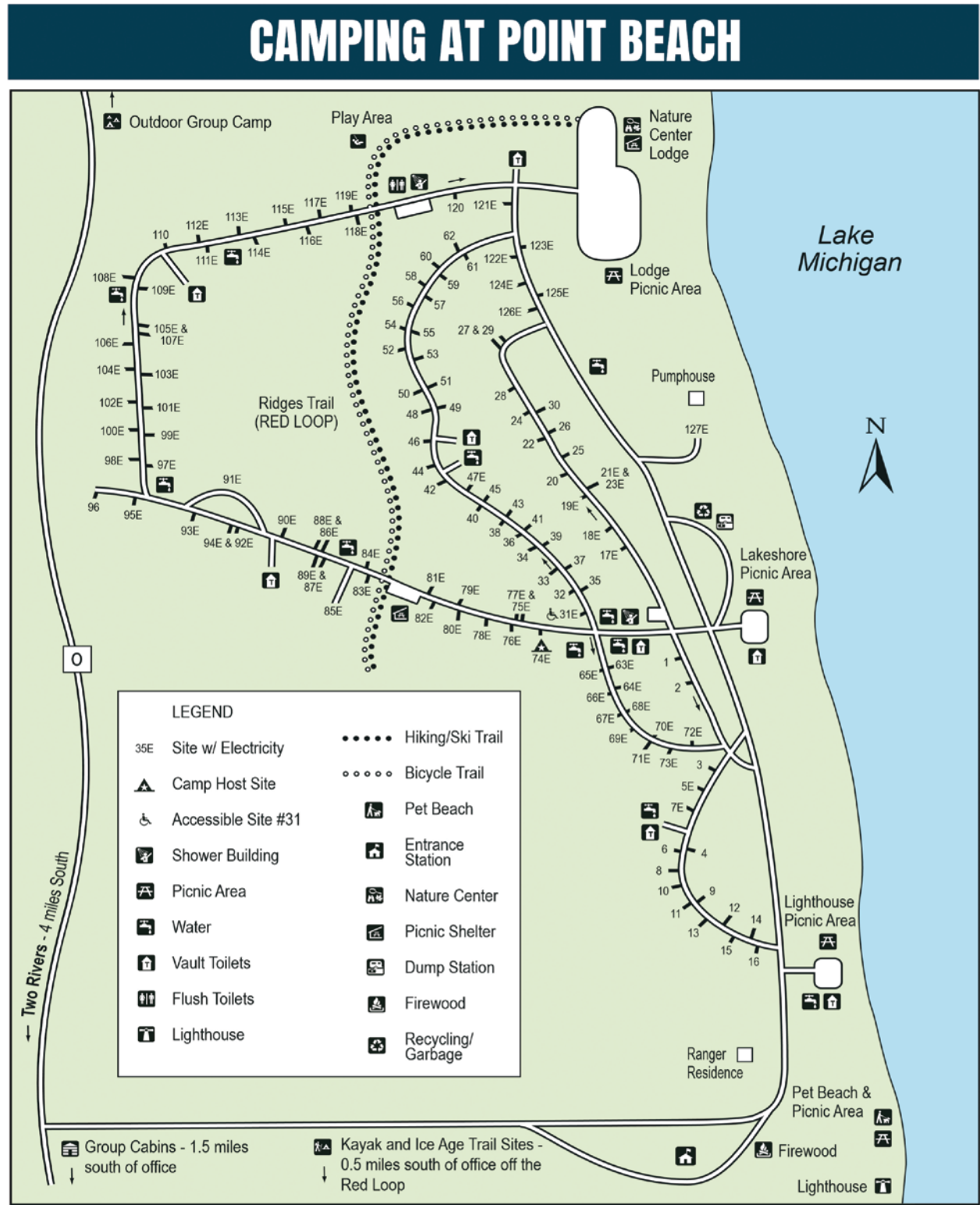
1-800-TIP-WDNR

Forest Office 920-794-7480

Contact for FOPB friendsopointbeachsf@gmail.com



There is an AED located at the main office and in the Ranger vehicle. In a medical emergency contact forest personnel first; if not available; call 911.



Registration - Campers must register prior to occupying a site. Registration expires at 3 p.m. on the last day of the permit period. Stays may be extended, if the site is available, by registering at the park office not later than the day before your scheduled departure.

Camping Party - Six (6) persons may occupy a site or a family plus two (2) guests. A family consists of parents and children under 18 years old.

Vehicles - Only two motor vehicles are allowed per site or up to six (6) motorcycles. Extra parking is available near the campground shelter or at the Nature Center.

Camping Units - Only one wheeled camping unit may occupy a site.

Camping Area - Please set up camping units on designated camp pad areas. Park motor vehicles and trailers in gravel site drives. Your cooperation will minimize soil compaction that would damage tree roots and disturb shrubs and other vegetation.

Generators - Please note that generators are not allowed to be run in the park

Recycling Station - Please help reduce waste and conserve resources by placing your recyclable materials in the appropriate bins located adjacent to the parking lot at the campground shelter. Do not deposit trash that cannot be recycled into these bins, but place it in the dumpster at the same location.

Dump Station - Located across from the main campground. Gray water must be disposed at the dump station or in the vault toilets.

Camping Reservations- Reservations are available by visiting wisconsin.goingtocamp.com or by calling toll free 888-947-2757

The features on official park maps, such as trails, roads, picnic areas and campgrounds, depict “designated use areas” per 23.115 of Wis. Statutes. Please limit your activities to these areas. Unplowed roads are closed to vehicular travel.



Pets are allowed in the forest but must be on a leash at all times and under control. Pets are not allowed in picnic areas or buildings, on nature trails, ski trails or on the beach north of the Lighthouse. Please ask for a copy of Pet Rules and Regulations publication when arriving with a pet. A dog-friendly picnic area and a trail to beach is located near the office. Please clean up after your dog.



Because of the emerald ash borer threat, visitors may not bring in firewood from anywhere more than 10 miles away or from another state. Kilndried dimensional lumber is exempt from the rule. The office sells firewood, or you may collect dead wood lying on the ground. Please do not move the fire rings, and build all fires in the designated pit. Watch the wind direction to ensure sparks aren’t getting on flammable materials. Don’t remove hot materials from the fire ring or grill. If using your own grill, place the hot coals in park or forest grill, fire ring.

