

UP NORTH summer fun guide!

The 75 things
to see and
places to be.



(How do we know?
A little gnome told us.)

TEXT BY EMILY BETZ TYRA PHOTOGRAPHS BY TODD ZAWISTOWSKI

1 Start a gazpacho garden—sweet Spanish onions, red beauty and Valencia orange bell peppers, burpless cukes, and giant tomatoes—from baby plants at Plant Masters in Suttons Bay. PLANT-MASTERS.COM. Find an authentic recipe for the hot-day soup you can sip at MYNORTH.COM/LINKS.

2 When the mercury soars, take to The River, a tree-shaded mini-golf oasis on the lazy Crystal River in Glen Arbor. Drizzle instead? Find old-school Ping Pong, pinball, and Donkey Kong games inside. Break a top score and your next golf game is on the house. THERIVERGLENARBOR.COM.

3 Yes, the 18th-century water-powered sawmill blade ripping through a log is stirring. But tiptoeing in the treetops on the Forest Canopy Bridge then winging it down the Eagle's Flight Zip Line makes a tour at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park even livelier. Tickets are \$7. MACKINACPARKS.COM.

4 If there's room to buckle in a fine art souvenir in your back seat, focus your already beautiful Leelanau Peninsula joyride on inspiring stops at a dozen art galleries. [DETAILS AT MYNORTH.COM/LINKS](http://DETAILS.AT.MYNORTH.COM/LINKS).

5 If you're going to prove your mettle, you may as well enjoy the scenery. Swim .3 miles in Lake Charlevoix, bike 19.9 miles along the waterfront and through the rolling lush valley, run 3 miles to the finish line of the 24th Jordan Valley Triathlon, June 27, 2009. EJCHAMBER.ORG.

6 Secure a sunny seat (first base side) on the brand new, budget-savvy Traverse City Beach Bums half-season plan—24 games with a firework show after five of them, for \$216. TRAVERSECITYBEACHBUMS.COM.

7 Ride the *Ranger III* out of Houghton six hours across Lake Superior to Rock Harbor, Isle Royale and explore a rare, roadless and rugged island abundant with wild orchids in the bogs and moose in the boreal forest. NPS.GOV/ISRO.

8 Take a Michigan microbrew tour from Ludington to Lake Superior. Self-guided stops at Jamesport Brewing Co., Right Brain Brewery, Jolly Pumpkin Brewery, Short's Brewing Company and Lake Superior Brewing Co. with plenty of snacks—and naps—along the way. For tips visit MYNORTH.COM/LINKS.

9 Trace the tip of the mitt on foot, following the sidewalk that stretches from the entrance of Colonial Michilimackinac to downtown Mackinaw City with nonstop views of the big bridge. Afterward find the key to the city at Key Hole Bar on Central Avenue. MACKINAWCITY.COM.

10 Slip into your own luge-style sled and maneuver Crystal Mountain Coaster's tracks as they curve and dip 1,600 feet down the ski mountain. Control your own speed—it's no kiddie ride if you go full tilt. The lift ride to the mountaintop is a blast, too. \$8 FOR A SINGLE RIDE, \$20 FOR A DAY PASS. CRYSTMOUNTAIN.COM.

11 Get your cheeseburger in Paradise. Find freshly ground chuck, a variety of Wisconsin cheeses and premium beers in Paradise Township's old-fashioned, hometown meat market, Paradise Meats. PARADISEMEATSLLC.COM.

12 The Spa at the Homestead's massage therapists use 5,000-year-old Ayurvedic techniques to release toxins, nurture your muscles and calm the nervous system in a spa perched high above Lake Michigan, with blue as far as your eyes can see—if you can keep them open. THEHOMESTEADRESORT.COM

13 Toe tap to live music on the banks of Torch Lake and refresh yourself with Michigan strawberries on homemade shortcake with real whipped cream at Alden's good ole summertime strawberry festival. Alden Depot Park, June 16, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., or last berry standing. 231-533-5421.

14 Snack on smoked whitefish pâté and sip Bahama mamas around the tiki bar at Scott's Harbor Grill, the best seat in town for the spinnaker-flying Grand Traverse Yacht Club Wednesday evening races. SCOTTSHARBORGRILL.COM.

15 Step right *into* the diorama at the ghost town of Fayette, where the coastal beauty of the Garden Peninsula is the backdrop to the eerie abandoned remains of what was once the Upper Peninsula's most productive iron-smelting town. MICHIGANDNR.COM.

16 There is something about uncorking a bottle of bubbly that cues relaxation. Imagine that, times six. At L. Mawby's sparkling wine dinner in the vineyard, Chef Jim Milliman caters five-course dinners paired with six sparkling wines. July 18 and August 1, \$70 per person. LMAWBY.COM.

17 Many attempt the Dune Climb at the Sleeping Bear Dunes. Only the bravest complete the entire thigh-burning rite of passage. Climb and descend a series of steep sand mountains until, at last, you hit the reviving blue oasis of Lake Michigan. Round trip is about 3.5 miles and may take 3 hours, but you can eat two waffle cones at The Cherry Republic in Glen Arbor afterward, no regrets. NPS.GOV/SLBE.

18 Build a sandcastle, nay, a sand palace. For tips from a sand-sculpting expert, go to MYNORTH.COM/LINKS.

19 Fish Walleye Alley on Burt Lake, between the mouth of the Sturgeon River and the headwaters of the Indian River. Put in at Burt Lake State Park. Indian River Marina rents fishing boats. INDIANRIVERMARINA.COM

20 Paddle the easy-peasy Cedar River. Bring your own watercraft and put in at the Cedar ball fields. A lazy current means you can paddle out to Lake Leelanau and back—no car spotting needed!

21 Blueberry pick on Old Mission Peninsula's Buchan's Blueberry Hill. Make it even more of a thrill and approach the farm from the east, via Nelson Road, a rambling sun-speckled dirt two-track off M-37. Once home, put your plunder into blueberry purses, recipe on MYNORTH.COM (CLICK FOOD & WINE, CHOOSE RECIPES). LOCALDIFFERENCE.ORG.

22 A leisurely paddle that ends with Lake Michigan lapping on a silky soft sandy beach? Sign us up. Rent your craft at Riverside Canoe Trips and lolligag down the Lower Platte River. CANOE MICHIGAN.COM.

23 The wildly talented Young Americans perform Broadway tunes while you dine at Boyne Highlands' popular dinner theater, June 26 through August 29. TICKETS ARE \$46; 12 AND UNDER \$28, 231-526-3152, BOYNE.COM.

24 Do a Mackinac Island Fudge-Off. Since you stumble upon a fudge shop every few yards on this magical island, do like Alton Brown and figure out which chocolate reigns supreme. Buy three bricks of the same flavor—plain chocolate for the most pure results—find a quiet park bench and conduct your blind taste test. MACKINACISLAND.ORG.

No Sneezy jokes, please. #42

25 Gather the fam at a storybook farm to catch 'n' keep or catch 'n' release. Staff at Jordan Valley Trout Pond provides tackle and poles and will clean and ice your rainbow trout should you choose to make it supper. JORDAN VALLEYTROUTPOND.COM.

26 Take home the very best bottle from each of the seven wineries on Old Mission Peninsula. Plot a seven-course wine dinner to serve your very best friends. WINERIESOFOLDMISSION.COM.

27 Grab the hubby and make it a date at Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel. The rooms are too luxurious to not spend the night. TURTLECREEKCASINO.COM.

28 Live well and eat well all day on a guided agri-culinary tour of the Leelanau Peninsula. Stops may include: Leelanau Naturals beef farm, Carlson's Fisheries, Leelanau Cheese Co. and Bel Lago Vineyards. Then enjoy a cooking demo and dinner with the day's gleanings in the herb garden at Sweeter Song Farm in Cedar. JUNE 3, 10, 17 AND 24. LEARNGREATFOODS.COM.

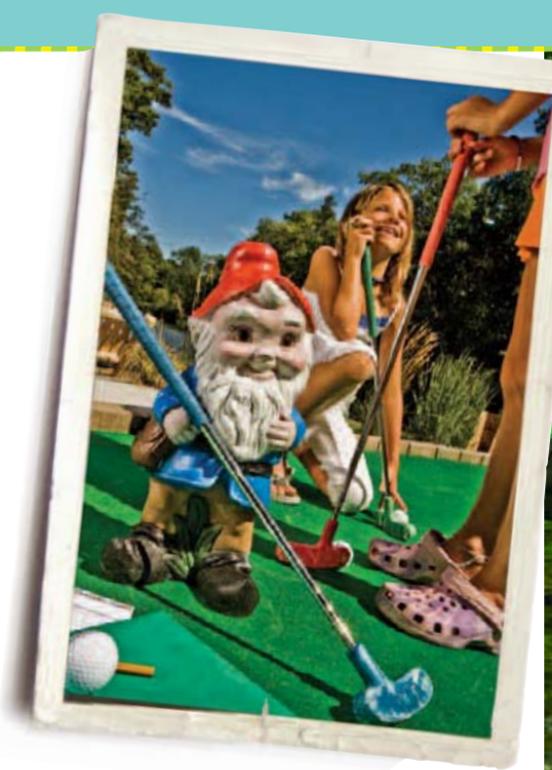
29 Elk Rapids' downtown block-parties, known as Evenings on River Street, are Americana at its best. Wednesdays June through August. ELKRAPIDSCHAMBER.ORG.

30 Take a full moon hike. Lady luna is out June 7, July 7, August 6, and September 4. Find great public preserves at GTRLC.ORG.

31 Be moved by the raw and extraordinary talent of the prodigies of Interlochen Summer Arts Camp at the sell-out Collage event, July 7, in the open-air Kresge Auditorium. INTERLOCHEN.ORG.

32 Pack a purely downtown Petoskey picnic: a loaf from Crooked Tree Breadworks, a jar of Roast Apple and Onion Relish from American Spoon Foods, a bit of brie and a bottle of bubbly from Symons General Store.

33 A dark cloud over Traverse City? Bring on the bowling at Wilderness Crossing. WILDERNESS CROSSING.COM.



I play a mean short game. #2

34 Stroll the lawns of the Grand Traverse Commons (formerly Traverse City State Hospital) with a frozen cheesecake-on-a-stick you snag at The Underground Cheesecake Company. It's in the sweet little brick root cellar on the former hospital grounds. UNDERGROUND CHEESECAKE.COM.

35 Bon Appétit magazine's "The United Plates of America—a guide to the best things to eat, drink, and buy in all 50 states," named the sour cherry pie at Cherry Hut in Beulah the one to try in Michigan. Taste why. CHERRYHUTSTORE.COM.

36 Be a spectator at the longest nonstop canoe race in North America, the Weyerhaeuser Au Sable canoe Marathon from Grayling to Oscoda. You'll swear these silent-sport types have motors in their arms. JULY 25-26, AUSABLE CANOEMARATHON.ORG.

37 Lap up the lingering light of the longest evening of the year on a solstice pontoon cruise along the Grass River. Look for loons, beaver and sandhill cranes. Bring life jackets for children. JUNE 22, GRASSRIVER.ORG.



Stroke! #22



You call 'em minnows,
I call 'em dinner.

#60



This is more fun when you can see over
the counter.

#43

38 Cruise across the Mackinac Bridge to St. Ignace with the windows down. Get a Big C burger at Clyde's Drive-In. Wait 20 minutes before going swimming in Lake Michigan. Lucky you, it's a perfect 20 minutes west on U.S. 2 to the sandy beaches by Brevort. (Turn around and loop back to park on the south side of U.S. 2).

39 Unleash some sea shanties aboard the Grand Traverse Bay's majestic schooner *Manitou*, which offers freshwater sailing adventures ranging from two hours to four days. TALLSHIPSAILING.COM.

40 You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll learn. You'll eat Michael Moore's favorite popcorn. The fifth annual Traverse City Film Festival is July 28 through August 2, 2009. TRAVERSECITYFILMFEST.ORG.

41 Cruise up Fruit Stand Alley—U.S. 31 along the Lake Michigan coast is a gold mine of roadside fruit markets. Find out what's cream of the crop at each. (Folks are such fans of the piecrust at Royal Farms, the baker rolls out extra to shape into snail cookies with cinnamon and sugar.) ROYALFARMSINC.COM.

42 Pick up a paperback of *Michigan Wildflowers in Color* by Harry C. Lund and go on a flower scavenger hunt. Skipping through meadows allowed.

43 Swing by Sleeping Bear Orchards' peach stand one mile north of Empire for a bushel to pit and freeze for Michigan summer smoothies all year. LOCALDIFFERENCE.ORG.

44 The petting zoo at Black Star Farms in Suttons Bay is abuzz with lambs, llamas, pot-bellied pigs, baby bunnies. Have you ever seen a *baby* mini horse? BLACKSTARFARMS.COM.

45 Stay at a historic B&B. The 1910 Terrace Inn, set in the Victorian gingerbread cottage village of Bay View, is a perfectly serene home base for a beach and boutique shopping weekend. THETERRACEINN.COM.

46 Go early and find your very own blue lagoon along the 23-mile ribbon of coast at Wilderness State Park, just west of Mackinaw City. Go very early and find warm blueberry doughnuts at the Wilderness General Store, just west of the campground. 397 WILDERNESS PARK DR., CARP LAKE, 231-436-5774.

47 Golf one of the most serene and stunning courses in Michigan, then unwind on the porch at the Arcadia Bluffs clubhouse as the strolling bagpiper—and the sunset—take the day over the top. ARCADIABLUFFS.COM.

48 August 12, your backyard is the late-night hot spot. Lay down a blanket and watch the Perseids meteor shower produce about 60 meteors per hour.

49 Putter through the Chain of Lakes on your own private pontoon. Dewitt Marine in Bellaire offers daily and weekly rates. DEWITTMARINE.COM.

50 Author Joe David named Chateau Chantal among the top 50 cooking schools in the U.S. in his new release, *Gourmet Getaways—50 Top Spots to Cook and Learn*. We've got our eye on June 20's class, Pan Sauces, where Chef Nancy Krcek Allen reveals the secrets to preparing restaurant-style dishes like salmon with beurre blanc and shrimp in Thai coconut curry. CHATEAUCHANTAL.COM.

51 Wake up your kid super early. Catch one of the first ferries to Mackinac Island, then explore the kid-way: bike rides, Butterfly House, ice cream cones, cannons at Fort Mackinac, kite demos from Great Turtle Toys and a kiddie cocktail on the famous Pink Pony patio—all before catching the evening ferry home. MACKINACISLAND.ORG.

52 Cool summer day? Simply perfect for some cheese and chocolate. Pellston Market in the town known as the Icebox of Michigan has a bounty of both, from all over the world. Pack your cooler. PELLSTONMARKET.COM.

53 Wine taste through Leelanau County. Pick a theme like Rieslings, fruit wines, or reds. LPWINES.COM.

54 Still time for one more cone at Shetler Family Dairy's Open Barn. Kalkaska's dairy ("our cows are not on drugs, but they are on grass") invites you out September 19 for hayrides, tours, petting zoo, and to sample their all-new line of homemade ice cream. How 'bout some Mookies-n-Cream, Hoofprints, Peanut 'Udder Bliss? SHETLERMILK.COM.

55 Snorkel the pristine waters off the south end of Beaver Island in search of the 1800's wooden schooner *Betsy Smith*. Inland Seas Kayaking leads weekly snorkeling trips. INLANDSEASKAYAKING.COM.

56 Watch pooch athletes perform incredible dock jumps at the National Cherry Festival's Ultimate Air Dog Competition. The gravity-defying feats begin Thursday, July 9. CHERRYFESTIVAL.ORG.

57 Pull on a summery sundress, shake the sand out of your loafers, take a romantic drive to dinner. Destination worthy: The Manitou on M-22 north of Frankfort, Rowe Inn in Ellsworth, La Becasse in Burdickville, blu in Glen Arbor. FIND OUT MORE IN OUR RESTAURANT GUIDE, PAGE 61.

58 Eat a bowl full of cherries. Even sweeter if you pick them yourself at Friske Orchards. APPLES-CHERRIES.COM.

59 Cherry Bowl Drive-In Theatre celebrates 55 years of cozy, star-lit family nights in Honor this summer. Our advice: go in August when the days are shorter, and the flicks start sooner. There's always a double feature. CHERRYBOWLDRIVEIN.COM.

60 Catch some bluegill for breakfast. No sure-bets in fishing, but we hear they're biting on Guernsey Lake, eight miles west of Kalkaska. MICHIGANDNR.COM.

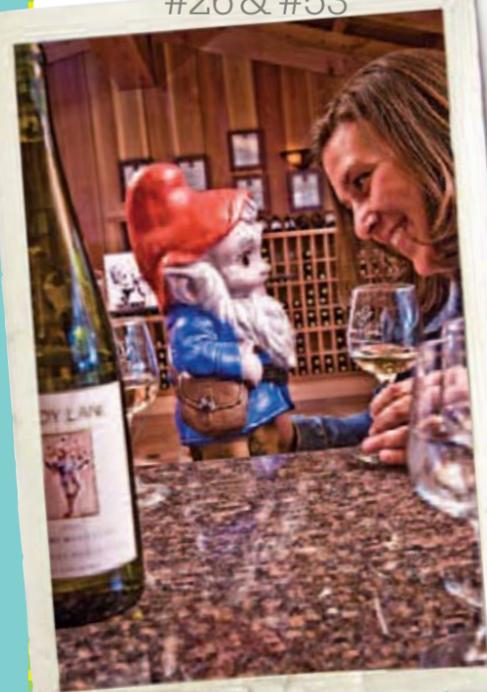
61 Inhale Legs Inn's legendary Lake Michigan view and clink an icy Zubrowka vodka tonic made with the authentic, aphrodisiac "bison grass" that grows only in eastern Poland. LEGSINN.COM.

62 Trout Unlimited was born on July 18, 1959 at George Griffith's cabin on the banks of the Au Sable River. Celebrate 50 years of conserving North America's coldwater fisheries with a few casts, and maybe an Arcadia Ales Angler's Ale. Talks are in the works to make it the official craft beer of this worthy organization. TU.ORG.

63 Bike a leg of the bewitchingly beautiful, forgivingly flat, 27-mile Betsie Valley Trail. BETSIEVALLEYTRAIL.ORG.

20 years under a mushroom, I still got it.

#26 & #53



Do you guys have any Lil' Smokies? #6

64 Bring your copy of the *Nick Adams Stories* to the beautiful mahogany bar at City Park Grill, where Ernest Hemingway once hung out. Order the Hemingway martini, Bombay gin and dry vermouth. CITYPARKGRILL.COM.

65 Dress up your dog and then high-tail it through the streets of Northport for the annual Northport Dog Parade. 1 p.m., August 8. Find out this year's theme at LELANAUCHAMBER.COM.

66 Take a kayak lesson along the protected coast of Harbor Point in Harbor Springs. The good folks at The Outfitter will have you paddling in peak form in no time. OUTFITTERHARBORSPRINGS.COM.

67 Go Lake Superior agate hunting. The beaches up by Grand Marais are primo. Find rock hounding tips at MYNORTH.COM/LINKS.

68 Check out the fine skater shoes and gear at Gordy's in Ludington then ollie your heart out at the small-town skateboard plaza right at the beach. LUDINGTONSKATECENTER.COM.

69 Promote family teamwork on a raft trip down the Sturgeon River, the fastest river in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Steer your crew around river bends and obstacles, but paddle easy knowing that this sturdy watercraft has a zero percent tipover rate—versus the 75 percent rate for canoes and kayaks. Departures every half hour. BIGBEARADVENTURES.COM.

70 Be a part of one of the longest-running festivals in the North at The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' Peshawbestown Pow Wow, August 14-16. GTBINDIANS.ORG.

71 Run around an island. The 39th Annual Mackinac Island Eight Mile Run & Walk traces the island's flat perimeter, so it's both doable and breathtakingly beautiful. Sept. 12, RUNMACKINAC.COM.

72 Grand Traverse Bay will be a back-in-time vision as more than a dozen schooners and sloops set sail Sept. 11-13 for Traverse City's inaugural Schooner Festival. MICHIGANSCHOONERFESTIVAL.ORG.

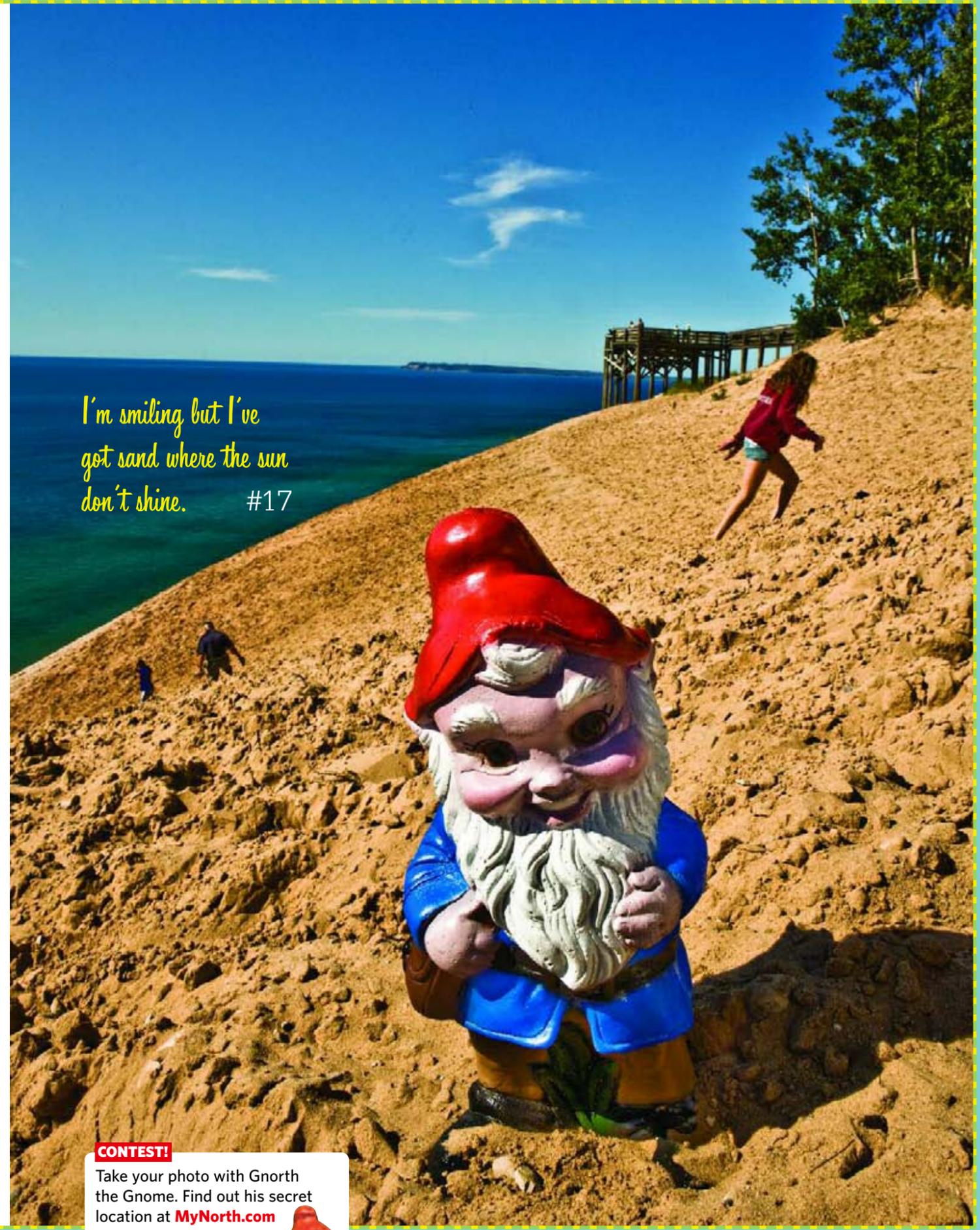
73 Mosey down the break wall to the circa-1932 Frankfort Light during twilight, and watch the parade of Lake Michigan boaters and charter fisherman retire for the evening. FRANKFORT-ELBERTA.COM.

74 Gather around the fire for spooky add-a-line stories. Begin them with: "On a dark and stormy night, just down the road from here ..." Proximity really amps the creepiness factor.

75 Need a classic metal watering can for the window boxes? A new stopper for the cottage sink? A pastel Adirondack for the patio? W.W. Fairbairn & Sons have it. (These handy guys also close your cottage down for the winter, so you can play until the very last day.) WWWFAIRBAIRN.COM.

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I'm smiling but I've got sand where the sun don't shine. #17



CONTEST!

Take your photo with Gnorth the Gnome. Find out his secret location at MyNorth.com