

Summer Excursions in and Around Saline/Michigan

Compiled by Barb Cey

Saline

Benny's Bakery: Enjoy a trip to an independently owned bakery. Call for a tour and learn about careers in the baking business and what it is like to own, run, and market a small business. When you return home, you may enjoy baking some donuts of your own. 429-9120

Lodi Township Cemetery: If children are interested in local history, the Lodi Township Cemetery may be a fine starting point (*ironic*). Learn about health, families, symbolism, graphic design.

Maplewood Lanes: Take a break and go bowling with a small group of children or just your own family. Children work together as a team and learn the strategies used in bowling. Keep score and find the pattern used in scoring. Contact 429-5457 for information on groups and special children's rates. As a follow-up, develop a paper-pencil version of the game. Compare the ways in which different sports keep track of scores. Develop other scoring devices. Change the game rules or research the history of the game.

Mickey's Dairy Twist: Is a locally independently owned ice cream business. There are tours for children during off hours or at the beginning or end of the ice cream season. Learn how a small ice cream business is set up and run, the common problems small businesses face, and how small businesses compete with national chains. 429-4450, Peter & Laurie Tourmina

Mill Pond Park: Wooded trails, a gazebo, soccer fields, a giant play structure and the millpond are all part of this public recreation area. Locate different habitats. Participate in individual and team activities/sports. Take environmental walks wearing socks over your shoes and mittens on your hands. Just what will you find sticking to your clothes? A 3-D scavenger hunt is also fun. What are the parks needs? Is there a community problem that might need to be solved here at the park?

Rentchler Farm: A 1906 "living history" museum that is part of the Saline Historical Society. Explore local history, agriculture, science, arts and crafts. Contact 429-9621 or the Chamber of Commerce for information on special events.

Saline Area Culture and Commerce Center: The Culture Center offers brochures for an historic walking tour of Saline. On the tour, notice the gold stars on the fronts of some buildings. These were underground railroad safehouses. The Bixby Puppets Co. also exhibits some of their marionettes. Meredith Bixby donated his tremendous collection to the City---one of the few museums in the country dedicated to puppetry. Descriptions of the puppets accompany the exhibit. Ask for a guided tour. 429-4494.

Saline Area Fire Department: Visit the station (call ahead for times and information on special events) and discuss safety and fire prevention. Prepare your own fire escape and prevention plans.

Saline Community Education Program Offerings: Look for the *Summer 2001 Program Guide* to be published later this spring. "Kids on Campus" will again be offered for interested Saline students. Last year participants enjoyed learning about and discovering first-hand about sharks, sharks, SHARKS! For information, contact Kim Covert at 429-8000 Ext. 2051.

Saline Depot: Contact Wayne Clements for hours of operation and an informative tour. 429-9621. Explore two small rooms in which artifacts and information related to Saline's past are displayed. The museum is open on Saturday mornings.

Saline District Library: Contact Leslie Niethammer at 429-5450 for information on children's summer reading programs and events. The tax-supported district library provides informational and recreational materials in a variety of formats and at different reading levels. Internet access is available and a full range of programs for young people is offered.
<http://serversaline.lib.mi.us>

Saline District Library nature trails: Donated by Carl F. Schrant in memory of his wife, the woodlands covers approximately 7 acres. Printed brochures are available. These brochures explain the trail markers.

Saline Evangelical Home: Children and seniors enjoy the interaction as they share literature, stories, and play games with one another. Learn about each other's life and experiences, medicine, health, and the value of human relationships. Contact Roger Meillor (Administrator) at 429-9401.

Saline Recreational Complex: Join the Rec. Center and become physically fit. The center provides many opportunities for recreation, physical fitness, and health. Call 429-3502 for information.

Sewage Disposal Plant: At 243 Monroe St. visit the site. How does this environment compare to Mill Pond Park? How does this recycling center help Saline's environment? 429-4907

US Post Office/Saline Branch: Call ahead and ask if you could tour the Post Office. If you are bringing a group of children, there is probably a better likelihood for a tour. Please call ahead to schedule. 429-8496. Observe mail sorting and the mail carriers preparing for their routes. Mail a letter while you are there. Learn about the different jobs, stamps, delivery systems, and step into a mail delivery truck. Follow the mail route around the globe/map; calculate the cost for delivering different types of mail.

Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum: Spend an afternoon interacting with the various exhibits. Or, call 995-5439 for information on the numerous class and camp offerings (Summer Science Camp) for the summer months.

Exhibit Museum of Natural History: Get up close and personal with the Mastadon (found on US 12 west of Saline). Examine Native American artifacts and learn about Michigan wildlife. For information on workshops, special events, planetarium shows, or for a brochure call, 734/763-6085.

Kesley Museum of Archaeology: While visiting the museum, discover information about the various artifacts excavated by the University's Mediterranean and Near Eastern digs. For information about workshops and hours, contact 734/764-9304.

Leslie Science Center: The center is part of the City of Ann Arbor Parks Department. Outdoor education programs are available for youth and families. Call 734/662-7802 for information and a brochure.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens: Walk the nature trails and visit the conservatory. Call 734/998-7060 for information on special events. There are wonderful programs at MBG such as edible wild plant classes and educational programs about bats and plants. Enjoy the garden for the sight impaired. (Hidden Lake Gardens, MSU's botanical gardens, west of Tecumseh on M-50 (35 minutes from Saline) provides another EXCELLENT adventure. Picnic, hike, and enjoy the arboretum. Special programs are available throughout the season.)

Museum of Art: View prints and drawings, art from around the globe. Tours are available free of charge. For concert, program, and other information call 734/747-2067.

Ann Arbor Art Center: Summer at the Art Factory offers an art day camp for children ages 6-12. Participants draw, paint, and sculpt. For information contact 734/994-8005.

Young People's Theatre: Summer workshops are available for beginners, participants who have had some basic theatre experience, and for advanced performers. Contact 734/996-3888 for information on classes and shows.

Chelsea

Chelsea Milling Company-Jiffy Baking Mixes: Take a tour through the Jiffy Company and follow corn/wheat from the field to the mix. At the tour's conclusion take home a Jiffy Mix. Call 734/475-1361 for reservations and tour information.

Gerald E. Eddy Geology Center: Crystals, fossils, rocks and minerals from the Great Lakes region, along with a hands-on museum, walking trails and guided hikes are just a stones throw away. Contact 734/475-3170 for information on programs and information about the Waterloo Recreation Area.

Waterloo Recreation Area: Miles of natural resources that provides a natural setting to explore and enjoy earth sciences. Call 734/475-3170 for a schedule of special events and programs.

Lansing/East Lansing

Abram's Planetarium: On the campus of MSU. Call for information on special programs on astronomy, hours and admission (no pre-school children). 1-517/355-4676.

Impression 5 Science Center: Each summer the museum offers a series of half-day and whole-day camps open to 1st-6th grade students. Call 1-517/485-8116 for a brochure.

Michigan Historical Museum: Trace the State's social, political and industrial development through multimedia presentations, artifacts, and photographs. 1-517/373-3559.

MSU Agriculture and Livestock Experimental Farms: For hours and special events call 1-517/355-8383.

Potter Park Zoological Society and Sundown Safaris: For information on the summer school program and the unique experience of camping with the zoo animals contact 1-517/371-4155.

State Capitol: Tours lasting 45 minutes are offered every 30 minutes. Tour the capital and visit the museums all in one day. It is worth the hour and one half drive from Saline to Lansing. 1-517/373-2353.

Jackson

Ella Sharp Museum: Enjoy 19th century farmstead life as you tour this 1800's Victorian home and barn, country store complex, print shop, doctor's office. Visit the hands-on science exhibits and art museum,. Farmhouse tours are available on each half-hour from 11-3:30. 1-517/787-2320.

Michigan Space and Science Center: Visit the space center for a day or sign up to attend a half-day, week long summer camp, where participants learn to build and launch rockets and learn about space history. For information, call 1-417/787-4425.

Battle Creek

Binder Park Zoo: This natural park setting offers over 250 exotic plants and endangered animals. There are wetland trails and picnicking, children's petting zoo, zoo railway, and hands-on activities. For information, contact 1-616/979-1351.

Kellogg Bird Sanctuary: This is a MSU experimental facility with wild ducks, geese, swans, peacocks, pheasants, birds of prey and other upland species on display. 1-616/671-2510.

Grand Rapids

Gerald R. Ford Museum: Visitors become historic participants. Experience the Oval Office and a day in the life of a president. 1-616/41-9263.

Grand Rapids Nature Center: Explore a variety of natural areas while hiking on trails at this 143 Nature Center. Inquire about the popular Wildlife Care Program that is available during July. 1-616/453-6192.

John Ball Park Zoo: Is one of the state's largest zoos, housing 500 animals. Ask about their summer programs and classes. There is a school on the zoo grounds. 1-616/336-4300.

Grayling

Hartwick Pines Lumbering Museum and State Park: (Open June through Labor Day) 8 miles north of Grayling visit the visitor center and lumber camp log buildings. Ride your bikes throughout the many maintained trails. Visit the exhibits and period rooms that tell the stories of the loggers, rivermen,

mill hands and entrepreneurs who powered Michigan's white pine industry. This excursion is a MUST for any boy or girl (and their family) entering grade 4. Experience and explore the life of the Michigan logger. A paved forest trail leads visitors to the 300-year old Monarch pine, a remnant of the ancient forests that had disappeared by the beginning of the 20th century. Camp among the stars with your family, but reserve a spot early. The campground is extremely popular. Inquire about special programs and events prior to your arrival. There is always something exciting happening here. Rent a canoe in Grayling and experience the (shallow) river for 2-4 hours. 1-517/348-7068/Hartwick Pines.

Northville

Maybury Living Farm: This State Park offers a petting farm and chores. Chores begin at 4:00 PM. Try milking a goat. 1-810/349-8390

Mill Race Historical Village: Open on Sundays, the 19th century village features several homes, a school, church, blacksmith shop and gazebo. Call for information on special events. 1-810/348-1845.

Schoolcraft College: Kids on Campus. Choose from over 100 classes for Kids 5-17 years old. Full day summer camp programs are also available. Classes run from July-August. Call early for schedule and registration information.
734/462-4448.

Dearborn

Henry Ford and Greenfield Village: Visit the museum and the village or call for further information about their summer Tech Trekkers Camp. This day camp is available for children, ages 11-14, interested in science, technology and adventure. For dates, fees, and availability call 1-313/982-6100, Ext. 2254. (Limited space). Other classes are also available. Inquire about the 4th of July celebration where picnickers (on the green) can enjoy the Detroit Symphony and fireworks from July 2-4 from 6:00-10:30 each evening.

Henry Ford Estate, Fair Lane Mansion: Tour the mansion, gardens, and the powerhouse. Call for tour hours. 1-313/593-5590.

Grose Pointe Shores

Edsel and Eleanor Ford House: This elegant Cotswold-style house is set on 87-acres along the Lake St. Clair. The house features original furnishings and many outstanding works of fine art. Summer highlights include bird walks, astronomy lectures, and the Skylands Children's Festival. Call 1-313/884-4222 for programs and details.

Detroit

Channel 50/WKBD-UPN (Southfield): Call 1-248/350-5050 for tour information.

Detroit Fire Department Historical Museum: Tours are by appointment only. Experience exhibits and movies on the history of the fire department. Contact 1-313/224-2035.

Detroit Institute of Arts: The DIA offers hands-on workshops for children and families. Call for a brochure or to register for workshops. 1-313/833-1454.

Detroit News and Free Press: Call 1-313/222-6400 for tour information.

Detroit Police Horse Stables: Call to schedule a tour (ages 5 and up) several weeks in advance. 1-313/876-0061.

Museum of African American History: The museum offers the largest exhibition ever created in the nation on African American people. For information call 1-313/833-9800.

Pewabic Pottery: Tours are by appointment. For information on the museum, gallery and workshop call 1-313/822-0954.

Detroit Zoological Park (Royal Oak): 125 acres of landscaped grounds and spacious cage-less exhibits are grouped by continents and designed to simulate the animal's natural habitats. 1-810/398-0900.

Flint

Alfred P. Sloan Museum: For Genessee County history, Flint auto history and the hands-on Science Discovery Center call 1-810/760-1169. The museum also offers special events, programs and classes.

Frankenmuth

Frankenmuth Flour Mill: Call for information about hours. Come see the layout of this reconstructed mill and displays that explain the mill's operation. 1-517/652-6850.

Frankenmuth Riverboat Tours: 45 minute, narrated trips depart daily. The excursion takes you along the Cass River. Hear folklore and learn about the area's history from the riverboat captain. 1-517/652-8844.

Upper Peninsula

Fayette

Fayette Historic Townsite: Between Escanaba and Manistique visit historic Fayette. It is worth the trip. The walking tour consists of 26-stations at which authentically dressed guides describe the building and its relation to the town and people. For information about Fayette and the park call 1-906/644-2603.

Hancock

Quincy Mine Hoist: Take a tour of the Quincy Mine and experience the life-style of the miner. Call 1-906/482-3101.

Munising/Grand Marais

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore: While you are in the UP take a boat cruise from Munising and enjoy the natural beauty of Michigan as you experience Pictured Rocks. The only way to view the beautifully colored cliffs that have been carved into spectacular shapes is from the water. The views are breathtaking. The Grand Sable Dunes are also at Pictured Rocks. Remember the sunscreen. 1-906/387-2379.

Porcupine Mountains State Park: Take a ranger-lead hike to Lake in the Clouds. Visit a guided-tour through the ghost-town mine of Nonesuch. Camp in the wilderness and drive along the park's roads. Walk along the many trails to splendid waterfalls.

Sault St. Marie

Soo Canals: Board a sightseeing tour boat and travel through the canals. The canals permit ships to travel between Lake Huron and Lake Superior through the huge locks. If you are lucky enough to be in a lock with an ore ship, you really do feel that you are the size of a pea. 1-906/632-3301.

Newberry

Tahquamenon Falls: You cannot leave the UP without spending a day in Michigan's splendor known as *Little Niagara*. Take a canoe ride to the island. Visit both falls and wear insect repellent. It's a MUST.

Mackinac Island

Mackinac Island: Located in the Straits of Mackinac lies the small island of Mackinac. Take the ferry from St. Ignace, rent a bike or a horse-drawn carriage and spend the day. Visit historic Fort Mackinac and sit on the porch of the Grand Hotel. All *Trolls* who visit the island must eat fudge. Ferries depart each morning. Call the Michigan Travel Bureau for information and a brochure for Michigan summer adventures.