

# Mackinac Island Lilac Festival Culminates in Grand Parade Sunday

## Lilacs Blooming for 56th Annual Event June 10 - 19

By Jessica Delaney

Lilacs are in bloom on Mackinac Island in time for the 56th Annual Lilac Festival, which began Friday, June 10, and culminates with a Grand Parade Sunday, June 19, at 4 p.m.

The Parade will follow the theme of "The Lilac Fairy," based on a collection of stories by Victorian author Andrew Lange. The parade will feature horse-drawn floats, carriages, bicycles, military units, bands, and the returning Scottville Clown Band. The parade will follow the downtown route from Mission Point to Windermere Point.

Prior to the Grand Parade will be a band overture at Marquette Park from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The free concert will feature school bands, fife and drum corps, and Celtic pipes.

A concert at Windermere Point will follow the parade at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15, provides a day of tours, including the tour of the Governor's Summer Residence, a tour of Grand Hotel's gardens, a tour of the historic downtown buildings, and a tour of the 4-H barn at Mission Stables.

The Mackinac Island Community Foundation will host a Feast of Epona and silent auction of many horse-related items at Seabiscuit & Grog Cafe



At left: The week-long 2005 Mackinac Island Lilac Festival started Friday, June 10, with the coronation of Lilac Queen Blisse Beardsley in Marquette Park. Pictured are (in back, from left) Miss Michigan Teen Catherine Laurion of West Branch, and the 2005 Lilac Queen and Court members Emily St. Onge, Kristi Kamphuis, Lilac Queen Blisse Beardsley, former Lilac Queen Jennifer Wightman, Christina McLean, Karlena Mosley, and (in front) Lilac Princess Shelbie Mosley.

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## Sunset Cruises Begin on Monday Evenings

Sunset cruises under the Mackinac Bridge will be offered on Monday nights by the St. Ignace Visitors Bureau. All three Mackinac Island boat lines will host the cruises.

The 1.5 hour narrated cruise begins at 8:30 p.m. and will cost

\$15 per person. Children age 5 and younger ride free. Reservations are required by calling the Visitors' Bureau at (800) 338-6600.

Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry will have sunset cruises June 6, 13, 20, and the 27th. Arnold Transit Company will hold sunset

cruises on July 11, 18, 25, and August 1. Star Line will finish out the series of cruises with cruises on August 8, 15, 22, and 29. Star Line's cruises depart at 8 p.m.

Vesper cruises hosted by the St. Ignace Ministerial Association will begin in July.

## Hotspots Internet Ribbon Cutting June 18

A ribbon cutting dedication for the St. Ignace Hotspots Wireless Broadband Internet Project will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 18, at the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce.

The new program will offer wireless connection to the Internet from four hot spots in St. Ignace: St. Ignace Public Library, the Chamber of Commerce, Little Bear East Arena, and the city marina.

Invited to the ceremony are U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak (D-Menominee), State Representative Gary McDowell (D-Rudyard ), and Mayor Bruce Dodson.

## Couple Works To Revitalize Brevoort Lake Camp Store

Business Picking Up for Dan, Sue Fenlon at Log Cabin Store

By Ryan Schlehuder

In the Hiawatha National Forest on Brevoort Lake lies Sue and Dan Fenlon's Brevoort Lake Camp Store, a business that has stood since at least the 1940s and which they hope to revitalize.

Nestled under the towering white pines on the western sandy shore of Brevoort Lake in Boedne Bay, the Camp Store, a small log cabin, has, for the past few decades, provided campers and local residents with the small necessities of living, such as fishing and recreational equipment, bait, ice, snacks, and dairy and meat products.

When the St. Ignace couple purchased the business last fall, their first order of business was to re-establish a good relationship between the store, local residents, and campers, adjusting daily hours, and stocking items in high demand. The Camp Store opened May 15 and is open seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. until September.

The Camp Store is in the Forest Service Brevoort Lake Campground on Brevoort Camp Road. The Hiawatha Forest spans 500,000 acres on the east side of St. Ignace, and has two camp grounds near St. Ignace, Brevoort Lake, which has 70 camp sites, and Lake Michigan, which has 35 sites.

The Fenlons plan to expand the store to include a drive-through ice cream parlor as soon as they can find an ice cream display freezer, said Mr. Fenlon. They also plan to expand the picnic area on their one acre of land, provide Internet access for visitors, and perhaps install a small deli for fresh cold cuts and sandwiches.

They offer 11 rental paddle boats, and Mr. Fenlon said people can launch their boats at the Camp Store free. Those who



Sue and Dan Fenlon of St. Ignace are the new owners of the Brevoort Lake Camp Store. The Fenlons are providing locals and campers with small necessities, boat rental, and free boat launching. They plan to add more this summer, possibly including a drive-through ice cream parlor.

launch at Forest Service boat launches are charged \$5, a policy that started June 8.

Business for the summer has already begun picking up with the arrival of warmer weather and campers.

"We've gotten a ton of support from the people of Brevoort area already," said Mr. Fenlon.

"The residents are starting to come here now instead of driving all the way into town to just buy milk, for example," said Mrs. Fenlon. "People are realizing that we'll be open much of every day for the entire summer. A five-minute boat ride beats a 15-minute drive into town."

The Fenlons are interested in being a part of Mackinac County Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) idea to create a community kitchen incubator program, which local

businesses can use to make and label food products such as cheese, jerky, and jellies. The Fenlons are interested in making pasties and fudge for the Camp Store. The EDC is now seeking a suitable facility for such a program.

Mr. Fenlon is a former Department of Transportation employee, while Mrs. Fenlon is a clerk at the Mackinac County Friend of the Court. They are both graduates of LaSalle High School in St. Ignace, she in 1979, he in 1976.

The Camp Store was just what the couple was looking for.

"We always knew about it and we've always liked it," said Mr. Fenlon. "Our neighbor, Jim Lovegrove, ran the store in the 1940s. We like the people that come in, and we love the area."



Members of 36 Red Hat Societies enjoyed a "Popcorn, PJs, and Plenty of Fun Cruise" on the Straits at the St. Ignace Red Hat Society Convention. (Photo courtesy of Kelly Simmons)

## Red Hat Groups Enjoy Convention

St. Ignace Hosts Clubs

The St. Ignace Red Hat Society has adopted a new name, Jewels of the Straits, reported club member Kelly Simmons. The group helped with registration and information booths at the Red Hat Society Convention June 3 to 5, which was attended by 155 visitors from Red Hat Societies in other communities.

The convention committee consisted of four people, Janet Peterson of St. Ignace Area Chamber of Commerce, Glen King of Quality Inn, Mrs. Simmons of the Visitors Bureau, and Tonya Valetta of Little Bear East Arena.



Participants at the St. Ignace Red Hat Convention enjoyed vendor displays, a cruise, and a fashion show June 3 to June 5. (Photograph courtesy of Kelly Simmons)

## DeTour Reef Light Schedules July Tours

Tours of the DeTour Reef Light are scheduled for the week-ends of July 9, 16, and 23 at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Tours are limited to six people each. Cost of each tour is \$90, including boat transportation from DeTour Village and light refreshments at the lighthouse.

Visitors must be physically capable of climbing and descending a 20-foot ladder, during

which each person will wear a safety harness, requiring visitors to be at least 50 inches tall, weigh less than 300 pounds, and be older than 12 years.

Restoration work is ongoing at the historic lighthouse, one mile offshore in northern Lake Huron at the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula, between DeTour Village and Drummond Island.

The light was built in 1931

using an 1861 tower, spiral stairs, watch room, and lantern from the DeTour Point Light, which it replaced. Major restoration was completed in 2004, and the site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in March 2005. In May, it received the Michigan Governor's Award for Historic Preservation.

For information about tour availability on these dates, call (906) 493-6609.