

DAY TRIPPIN' – Continued from page 40.

Tiger Typhoon Aquatic Center. Located across from the St. Robert Municipal Park on J.H. Williamson Drive, amenities include a zero-depth splash area, water play structure, two tube slides, a family slide, sunshades, party deck, and a rock-climbing wall. An indoor therapy pool and multipurpose room are also on-site.

For an overnight stay, but still a short journey by car, try the Brinkman Farmstead Bed and Breakfast, in Owensville, MO. Their website (www.coolcowcheese.com) describes it best: "The Bed and Breakfast rooms are in our new post-and-beam barn that features an interactive dairy processing area on the first floor and guest rooms in the 3,000 square foot hayloft with 18-foot ceilings. You are invited to come help us break in this new addition to our working farm. The structures on the farmstead date from 1857 to the farm's latest addition in 2012."

Brinkman's B & B is part of Martha & Tom's Farm, LLC, which also produces Cool Cow Cheese. The website further explains, "The farm is a working farm situated on a charming road just up from Third Creek between Highway 19 and Highway P. The farm is actively involved in producing farmstead artisan cheeses from our registered Jersey cow herd. You will see us working with our cows, feeding our new babies, making cheese, fixing fences, and playing with our team of Belgian horses."

What we sometimes miss in living somewhere day by day is the intrinsic beauty that surrounds us. Traveling across the country, one may see lovely mountains and rolling hills, crystal clear streams, wide and flowing rivers, pastoral scenes of hilltops dotted by cattle, grazing on green grass undulating in the breeze. Traveling across the countryside of Dixon, Missouri, one may see the exact same things. Yes, here at home are scenes so beautiful they cause the heart to soar with pride, the senses to respond with joy at their loveliness.

A float trip down the winding Gasconade River, covering miles and miles of vastly diverse terrain is one option. Fishing in the calm waters of Rinquelin Trail Lake can bring restfulness to the weary worker. Or, just lying back on the bank and soaking up some solar rays can provide some much-needed relaxation. For the die-hard tourist, take your camera along to snap pictures of the scenery, or some native birds in their natural habitats, or the deer feeding on surrounding grasses. Take in the breathtaking views of Portuguese Point or Rock Eddy Bluff.

Family time can be spent wading in the clear waters of nearby streams. An inexpensive bug-catcher (how about a mason jar with holes punched in the lid?) and a net for capturing minnows or tadpoles will give the little ones active enjoyment away from computers and televisions. Our local streams are gorgeous reminders of our wonderful creation and what it provides.

A picnic lunch at the park or near a river or lake provides variety to eating at home. And, by saving those hundreds of dollars in travel costs, you can even try out some local eateries that time and cost can normally prohibit you from enjoying! Local entertainment such as plays (Pulaski Fine Arts Association – Theatre on the Square, or Ozark Actors Theatre – Rolla), shows (Main Street Music Hall – Osage Beach), or local events such as Cow Days in Dixon, Old Settlers Day and the Annual Duck Race – Waynesville!

Instead of driving or flying hundreds of miles to view scenery, soak up the sun, sample local entertainment, or spend relaxing time with your family, try a few "day trips," originating in or near Dixon. You'll not only save large amounts of money, you'll help support local businesses and events, gain appreciation for what is offered locally, and find your affordable vacation, taken in "day-trip increments" was exactly what you needed!

