

Florence County offers excellent horseback riding trails

Two of the state's best horseback riding trails are located right here in Florence, Wis. off County C in Homestead.

The trailhead horse camps offer picnic tables, fire rings, potable water, a privy or porta potty, mounting blocks, high-lines and areas for portable fencing with accommodations for the biggest rigs or the day rider. No reservations are required as these trailheads are first come first serve. No elec-

tricity is available and cellphone service may be limited. The drilled wells can be pumped by hand or plugged in to your portable generator capable of supplying 110V.

These trail systems are accessible to hikers, hunters, and horseback riders, offering something for everyone with your choice of grassy roads to single track trails. Please note that you will cross intersections with ATV trails, automobile, and

county roads, but trails are not shared with bikes or motorized vehicles. Please wear blaze orange during bow and hunting seasons. Trails are open May 1 to November 1.

Blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries are abundant through the trails, so stop and enjoy a snack. Keep alert as bear and other wildlife are often seen on these trails. Logging may be occurring, so at times a trail

maybe closed or rerouted.

These trails are located on Florence County property, and you can explore the county's forest off-trail also, but please do *not* horseback ride on the hiking trail into LaSalle Falls.

Horse trails and camps are maintained by the Northern Saddle Club Inc. in conjunction with the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department.

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New state-record flathead catfish tops 53 pounds

While fishing with cut bait recently in Berrien County, Michigan, an angler from Hobart, Indiana, caught a new state-record fish: a flathead catfish weighing in at 53.35 pounds and measuring 48 inches!

Lloyd Tanner was fishing the St. Joe River, a tributary of Lake Michigan, in the early-morning hours of Sunday, May 29, when he reeled in the record-breaker.

This fish beats the previous state-record flathead catfish – 52 pounds, 46.02 inches long – caught in 2014 by Dale Blakley, of Niles, out of Barron Lake in Cass County.

Tanner's fish was verified by Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin coordinator with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



Lloyd Tanner, from Hobart, Indiana, was fishing the St. Joe River in Berrien County in the early-morning hours Sunday, May 29, when he caught a flathead catfish weighing 53.35 pounds and measuring 48 inches.

A passion for catfish

"I've been fishing Michigan for almost 30 years," Tanner said.

"What draws me to Michigan is fishing for big catfish."

Tanner said that he usually comes here every weekend to fish with friends in the Michigan Catfish Anglers Trail, or MCATS, an amateur fishing club.

"We have several fun tournaments that anyone who enjoys fishing for catfish can come out and fish," he said.

About state-record fish

Michigan's state-record fish are recognized by weight only. To qualify, fish must exceed the current listed state-record weight, and identification must be verified by a DNR fisheries biologist.

To view a current list of Michigan state-record fish by species, visit Michigan.gov/StateRecordFish.

For more on planning your next fishing adventure, visit Michigan.gov/Fishing.

Dining GUIDE

Barb's Cafe

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DAILY SPECIALS

Homemade Desserts



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Life jackets save lives; make safety part of the fun



Be ready for the unexpected and always wear your life jacket.

Photo credit: iStock/Anton Ilchanka

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds anyone hitting the water this summer to wear a life jacket. Life jackets are a must before you shove from the shore for the year's first paddle.

"Safety is an important part of water fun. Most drowning victims on Wisconsin waterbodies were not wearing life jackets," said DNR Lt. Darren Kuhn, DNR Boating Law Administrator. "Putting safety first by wearing a life jacket and having respect for the water are

two important things to remember when going to any Wisconsin river and lake to enjoy warm spring days."

Nearly 80% of last year's 25 boating fatality victims were not wearing life jackets. Of those, 91% were male, with an average age of 46.

The department does not track all drownings – only those fatalities linked to the use of a recreational activity item, such as a boat, kayak or canoe. Current and past boating incident reports are available on the DNR website.

"Wardens have responded to numerous drowning deaths only to find a life jacket stuffed inside a kayak or floating near the capsized canoe," Kuhn said. "Deaths from drowning are preventable. Putting on a life jacket before wading, playing along shores or getting in a boat gets you ready to focus on the fun."

Today's life jackets are much more comfortable, lightweight and stylish. There are innovative options, such as

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