



Recycling Tidbits

The picture above was taken at the Horicon Marsh during sunset.

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Nature Inspired Trips

If there's one nature inspired trip you need to take it should be to the Horicon Marsh.



Sign located at one of the entrances of the Marsh.

The Horicon Marsh is the largest fresh water cattail marsh in the United States. Located in the southeastern part of the state this marsh is home to numerous activities and wildlife site seeing opportunities. Enjoying this beautiful gem is easy; visit the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center off Hwy 28 in Horicon, the Marsh Haven Nature Center off Hwy 49 in Waupun, take a boat tour, kayak, hike, or enjoy an auto tour on the US Fish and Wildlife

portion of the Refuge near Hwy 49.

Learn more at enjoyhoriconmarsh.com or dnr.wi.gov and type in the keywords Horicon Marsh.

If you're looking for something closer to home, tour the Crystal Cave, located in Spring Valley. This beautiful creation was discovered by farm kids in 1881. Tours of the longest cave in Wisconsin last an hour and staff members are very enthusiastic about the caves natural history. Don't forget a coat as the cave maintains a year round temperature of 50 degrees.



Crystal Cave (Travel Wisconsin)

Wisconsin has around 60 State Parks and Recreational Areas that offer hiking, camping, boating, educational classes, and more. The waterfalls at Willow River State Park,

Hudson, will take your breath away while the trails at Hoffman Hills, Menomonie, lead to a breath taking view. To learn more visit dnr.wi.gov and type in the keywords State Parks.

On a side note, the "Our Wisconsin" magazine has partnered with Russ Darrow, and Wisconsin State Parks to offer an incentive to visit the parks. Russ Darrow is offering a new car or \$12,000 towards the purchase of a new car, if you can find the hidden key at one of Wisconsin's State Parks. Pick up a copy of the magazine for clues on how to find the key. The best advice is to pick-up litter while looking for the key. This will keep others from learning your true motive.



Willow River State Park

Stump the Grump

How many species of birds have been spotted at the Horicon Marsh?

The answer may surprise you, 288! I dare you to check it out.

A Green Heron



Roadside Attractions

A great road side attraction is the Fred Smith’s Concrete Park located off Hwy 13 in Phillips. This amazing collection of concrete and beer bottles features over 200 figurines and is free to the public. Fred Smith, creator, used old beer and liquor bottles from his tavern to create this amazing scene. His first masterpiece was inspired by a large buck leaping over a log on a child’s sweater.



Another interesting sight is The Wegner Grotto located just south of Cataract on Hwy 71. The Grotto is full of sculptures created with ‘junk’.



The retired husband and wife duo created sculptures out of anything they could find; broken glass, sea shells, telephone insulators, concrete, marbles, etc. Included in the display is a large ocean liner, a star dedicated to mothers who lost their sons in WWI, a replica of their 50th wedding anniversary cake, and a glass church where Mr. Grotto’s funeral was held.

In Lake Nebagamon, off Oakdale Road, lies a 20,000 pound ball of twine. James Frank Kotera, or as he prefers JFK, has been working on his ball of twine since 1979. He reuses the twine from his neighbor’s farm to create this massive ball. When JFK is

not working on his ball of twine, he works at the Highland dump. "I'm the king of all dump people!" he exclaims. "People bring their garbage bags, and I pile them up in a great big dumpster, on top of each other." He saves the town money by stacking bags and neatly arranging recycling to keep hauling costs down. JFK is a true waste reducer! Please be mindful when visiting the ball of twine as it's located on private property. The ball can clearly be viewed from the road.



No matter where you go this summer there is sure to be a unique roadside attraction near by. Check out www.roadsideamerica.com for a list of potential stops.

Traveling with Kids

Packing snacks in peanut butter jars, mason jars or baby wipe containers is a great way to conserve space and resources.



Make magnetic games by reusing old pie pans, cookies sheets, or mint containers. Pack crayons or portion snacks in spice containers. DVD cases make a great travel journal or activity center for older kids.



Sustainable Travel

The kids are out of school, the sun is shining, birds buzzing, and mosquitoes biting. It sounds like the perfect recipe for summer fun. If you're lucky enough to get out of the state, save travels! If you're like me and need something more local, I have a few ideas.

Travel Green Wisconsin

(travelgreenwisconsin.com) offers a generous list of places and activities to do around the badger state that are certified as sustainable events or places. In particular the Northern Wisconsin State Fair in Chippewa Falls, the White Winter Winery in

Iron River, the Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien and the GreenLife Expo in Black River Falls are all travel green certified.

Travel Wisconsin

(travelwisconsin.com) has an up-to-date list of events that are happening all around our State, like the Northwoods Heritage Fest in Three Lakes, July 11 – 12, the Shrine Circus in Antigo on July 18 or Pulaski Polka Days, July 17-20, in Pulaski.

As Dr. Seuss would say, "Oh the places you'll go! You're off to great places! You're off and away! You

have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any direction you choose." Have a great summer and safe travels!



This is the first of 5 loads of recyclables from the I-94 rest stops, near Menomonie. Workers from Indianhead Enterprises sort the recyclables before bringing them to the Transfer Station.

Bubble Wrap Game

<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/how-to-make-a-recycled-bubble-121176>

What You Need

Bubble wrap (the kind with large bubbles)

8.5 x 11-inch sheet of paper

Scissors

Double-sided tape

Pencils, markers, crayons



Instructions

1. Cut a piece of bubble wrap so it fits over the sheet of paper

2. Using the bubble wrap as a guide, draw images on the paper of different road trip sights. Get your child involved by talking about what you might see and asking them for suggestions (even if you're unlikely to

see one, keeping them on the lookout for an elephant could occupy a lot of time). Depending on their age, use colors, numbers, letters and symbols to give the game an educational element. If they are old enough, kids can draw the images themselves — or give them a sheet to make their own game. If you're not comfortable drawing, find clipart online to print or cut out pictures from magazines and glue them in place.

3. Once the original is finished, make color copies of it so you'll have multiples for all your kids or future trips.

4. Put double sided tape around the edge of the bubble wrap and stick in place over the images.



When you're traveling, kids can pop the bubbles as they spot each of the items on the sheet. If your child is too young to have the patience to wait, they'll still have fun looking at the pictures and popping the bubbles on their own time.



Recycle the bubble wrap and other plastic film and bags at a drop-off location near you. Visit plasticfilmrecycling.org to find a location.