

The Place To Be
**OSCODA-
AUSABLE
MICHIGAN**

2025
**Community Guide
& Member Directory**





Charter Township of AuSable

ON THE GLORIOUS SUNRISE SIDE OF LAKE HURON!

Located on scenic Heritage Route 23 on the shores of spectacular Lake Huron, AuSable Township is a destination spot for tourists, golfers, hunters, fishermen, birders and outdoor sports enthusiasts of all ages. Developed during the lumber boom era, AuSable was the first township to be established in Iosco County in 1848. Countless miles of rivers and streams and 93 lakes are ready and waiting for a myriad of water activities.

Gently rolling hills are filled with forests, wetlands and prairies with almost a hundred miles of gorgeously groomed trails for hiking, biking, skiing, and snowmobiling throughout the seasons. There are more than a dozen parks to visit such as the Children's Park in town, Old Orchard Park on the banks of the AuSable River and the well-known AuSable Shoreline Park which hosts the trailhead to Michigan's Shore to Shore hiking and horseback trail along the AuSable River within the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

Come fully experience nature the AuSable way!

Heart of the Sunrise Side

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF AUSABLE

4420 North U.S. Highway 23 • AuSable, MI 48750 • 989-739-9169

www.ausabletownship.gov



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*Welcome to our beautiful shoreline paradise,
where every day is better when you just add water!*

This guide is carefully crafted to contain the best things to do, places to explore, and spots to relax in our easygoing towns. Oscoda and AuSable are family favorite vacation locations for every season.

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Special thanks to our local photographers. Thank you for sharing your talent and skill with us!

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Oscoda-AuSable Chamber of Commerce

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989-739-7322
oscodachamber.com
4440 N. US-23
Oscoda, MI 48750

Oscoda and AuSable


Where the Sun spends the Summer

Just 45 miles south of the 45th parallel, the Oscoda and AuSable communities enjoy the summertime benefits of being halfway between the equator and the North pole.

In Oscoda, the days between the Summer Solstice and the beginning of the fall season feature 15 ½ hours of daylight in the month of June, 15 in July, 14 in August, 13 in September, and finish the summer with 12 ¼ hours of daylight on the first day of fall. Compared to popular southern states that average between 12 and 14 hours of daylight during the same period, Oscoda offers more daylight hours to enjoy outdoor activities and sights, including our beautiful Lake Huron.

Richel Stephenson

Bordered by Ontario, Canada, and the State of Michigan, Lake Huron is 206 miles long and 183 miles wide with almost 3,200 miles of shoreline. Standing on the sandy shore at the Oscoda Beach Park and viewing the horizon of the blue waters of Lake Huron, one cannot see the Canadian side of the lake, nor the bordering states. The view is similar to what one might experience while at the ocean, listening to the rhythmic lapping of the waves, watching seagulls floating on gentle breezes, vocalizing overhead, or scampering along the shoreline.



In addition to Lake Huron, Oscoda and AuSable offer visitors and residents many enjoyable activities. Located within the Huron-Manistee National Forests, comprised of nearly one-million acres, more than 60,000 acres are located within the Oscoda Township.

All who come here can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities. Popular outings include kayaking, canoeing, and floating the AuSable River, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and birdwatching, to name a few. Oscoda and AuSable Communities provide vacationers and residents with plentiful year-round activities.

Laurie Ferguson

Looking for a great place to be in in
Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall?

Visit Oscoda and AuSable - We have it all!

Laurie Ferguson

FESTIVALS AND FUN



ART ON THE BEACH

Held Saturday June 28 and Sunday, June 29 at the Oscoda Beach, this event features craft vendors, food trucks, and lots of fun for the whole family!



DWIGHT STREET LIVE

Dwight Street Live features music and dancing on Dwight Street in downtown Oscoda. Join us Wednesdays June 4 - August 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. for the fun.



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Oscoda Rotary Club sponsors live music concerts on the beach every Thursday night at 7 p.m. from June 19 to August 14.



Band Schedule

June 19 - Shoreline Players
June 26 - Motor City Memories
July 3 - Grounded
July 10 - Twice Sky
July 17 - Between the Lines
July 24 - No Baloney
July 31 - Rock Band Crash
August 7 - Flipside
August 14 - Jerry Schmidt & Friends



MOVIE NIGHTS AT THE PIER

Provided by the Oscoda Area Convention and Visitors' Bureau (CVB). Family-friendly movies are shown every Wednesday evening at the Oscoda Beach Bandshell beginning the end of June through Mid-August. Movies are free. Bring a chair, a blanket, and a snack to enjoy the movies with family and friends.

AUSABLE RIVER CANOE MARATHON

Now in its 76th year, this 120-mile race from Grayling to AuSable is one of the oldest marathon races in the United States. It is also the only canoe-only race in North America. This year, the race begins on Saturday July 26 at 9 p.m. in Grayling and ends 14 or more hours later in AuSable, MI. Many fans follow the entire race, cheering teams throughout the night.

FINISH LINE FESTIVAL

This family friendly event is hosted Sunday, July 27 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be live music, food trucks, vendors, and games!

PAUL BUNYAN DAYS

The annual three-day event begins on Friday, September 12 at 4 p.m. and continues through Sunday, September 14 on Furtaw Field in Oscoda.

The event features skilled chainsaw carvers from around Michigan and surrounding states who compete for cash prizes. Carvers also offer their finished one-of-a-kind pieces for sale at the event. The festival also includes a carnival, craft shows, and a special performance from the **Jack Pine Lumberjack Shows**.

Coming from Mackinaw City, Michigan, their Saturday and Sunday shows will include events such as the standing block chop, axe throwing, log rolling, and more! This popular fall event provides food and entertainment for the entire family.





FALL HARVEST BLOCK PARTY

Scheduled for Saturday, October 11, on Dwight Street, this event provides fun and activities for the entire family. Games, a bounce house, pumpkin carving, a petting zoo, treats, and cider.



NORTHERN LIGHTS PARADE & WINTERFEST

Oscoda's Annual Christmas parade will celebrate 20 years at 6 p.m. on December 6, 2025. The event features lighted cars, trucks, and floats with music in this traditional after dark event through downtown Oscoda. Prizes are awarded for the best floats.

Experience the magic of Christmas at the Northern Lights Winterfest before and after the parade, from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. This is a family friendly event filled with bonfires, s'mores, winter games, a Christmas market, food, and drinks.



Event Calendar

Shannone Bondie

All year long – Wednesdays

Sip 'N Paint Queen Bee Soiree
QueenBeeSoiree@gmail.com

May 3

ABWA Northeast Sunrise
Charter Chapter Annual
Kentucky Derby Tea
Belinda Kusibab
586-764-4544

May 26

Memorial Day Flag Raising
Ceremony
1 p.m. at Circle of Flags at
Oscoda Veteran's Memorial
Park. Free and open to public.

June 4 - August 27

Dwight Street Live
Wednesdays on Dwight Street
6 - 8 p.m.

June 6-8

27th Annual Villages of Oscoda
Community-Wide Yard Sales
On the former Wurtsmith Air
Base, open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
daily. Contact 989-739-4915

June 7

ABWA Northeast Sunrise
Charter Chapter Roper Romp
kd.demeter@gmail.com

June 21

Fairies in Flight
The Tea Corner Emporium
Grettiew@gmail.com

June 28-29

41st Annual Art on the Beach
Oscoda Beach

July 4

Fourth of July Parade
US-23 in Oscoda-AuSable

July 12

Annual Veteran's Memorial
Park Trunk Craft Show
On the grass near the Pentagon
Service Monument at the
Oscoda Veteran's Memorial
Park. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
\$15 for crafters and \$1 each
for public.

July 25

Canoe Marathon Themed Paint
Party
Queen Bee Soiree
QueenBeeSoiree@gmail.com

July 26

Witches on the Water
ShannoneBondie@gmail.com

July 26-27

AuSable River Canoe Marathon

July 27

AuSable River Canoe Marathon
Finish Line Festival
989-739-7322

August 1-2

Pirates and Mermaids Festival
PiratesAndMermaidsFestival.org

August 2

Pirates and Mermaids Paint
Party
Queen Bee Soiree
QueenBeeSoiree@gmail.com

August 10

Battle for the Paddle Golf
Tournament
Red Hawk Golf Course
989-739-7322

August 24

Remembrance Ceremony
for the 13 Military Killed in
Afghanistan
At the Afghanistan Mural at the
Pentagon Service Monument
located at the Oscoda
Veteran's Memorial Park.
1 p.m. Free and open to public.

September 6

ABWA Northeast Sunrise
Charter Chapter Roper Romp
kd.demeter@gmail.com

September 11

Remembering 9/11 Candlelight
Service
8 p.m. at Circle of Flags at
Oscoda Veteran's Memorial
Park. Free and open to public.

September 12-14

Paul Bunyan Days Festival
Furtaw Field

September 19

National POW / MIA
Recognition Day
Oscoda Veteran's Memorial
Park, 6 p.m. Free and open to
public

September 28

Gold Star Mother's and Family
Day
Oscoda Veteran's Memorial
Park, 6 p.m. Free and open to
public.

October 9

ABWA Northeast Sunrise
Charter Chapter Fashion Show
AuSable Inn Riverview
Restaurant and Bar

October 11

Fall Harvest Festival
Dwight Street

October 24-25

Witches on the Water
QueenBeeSoiree@gmail.com

October 25

Witches Team
The Tea Corner Emporium

December 6

Northern Lights Winterfest
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

December 6

Northern Lights Parade
6 p.m.

DINING & SOCIAL

Dining

AuSable Inn Riverview Restaurant & Sports Bar

600 S. State St.
Oscoda, MI 48750
ausableinnriverview@gmail.com
facebook.com/profile.
php?id=100068576087956
989-569-3363

Biggby Coffee

5401 N. Huron Rd.
Oscoda, MI 48750

Burger King - Oscoda

5325 N. US 23
Oscoda, MI 48750
bk.com/store-locator/store/
restaurant 2744
989-266-8240

Cakes 2 Di For

3753 N. Huron Rd.
AuSable, MI 48750
cakes2difor@outlook.com
facebook.com/Cakes2DiFor
989-254-0717

Dairy Queen - Oscoda

100 N. State St.
Oscoda, MI 48750
dairyqueen.com
989-739-0884

G's Pizzeria

5226 US 23
Oscoda, MI 48750
gpsizzeria.com/oscoda
989-739-1133

Hilltop Bar & Grill

431 N. Mill Street
Oscoda, MI 48750
facebook.com/HilltopBarandGrill
989-739-0344

Hungry Howie's

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oscoda/5160-north-us-hwy-23
989-739-1300

Irish Pub, Inc.

4709 F-41
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facebook.com/profile.
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989-739-5611

Kentucky Fried Chicken & Taco Bell

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locations.kfc.com/mi/oscoda/5150-
us-23-north
989-739-3339

Mama's Country Kitchen

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Oscoda, MI 48750
mamacountryskitchen.wordpress.com
989-739-4333

Sunrise Kava Café

120 E. River Rd.
Oscoda, MI 48750
sunrisekavacafe.com
989-569-6575

Vista Lane & Lounge

5214 N, US 23
P.O. Box 481
Oscoda, MI 48750
vistalanes@gmail.com
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989-739-0090

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partyandfoodcenter.com
989-739-2091

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989-569-6304

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oscodapress.com

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LODGING & CAMPING

Campground

Camp Nissokone YMCA
6836 F-41
Oscoda, MI 48750
camp@ymcadetroit.org
ymcadetroit.org/nissokone
989-739-2801

Huron Forest Camp CedarRidge
1154 W. River Rd.
P.O. Box 574
Oscoda, MI 48750
info@campcedarridge.org
campcedarridge.org
989-739-3571

Oscoda KOA Holiday
3591 Forest Road
Oscoda, MI 48750
koa.com/campgrounds/oscoda
989-739-5115

Lodging

Americinn
720 E. Harbor St.
Oscoda, MI 48750
wyndhamhotels.com/mericinn/
oscoda-michigan/mericinn-
oscoda-near-ausable-river/overview
989-739-1986

Blue Horizon Court
P.O. Box 151
Oscoda, MI 48750
BlueHorizonct@hotmail.com
989-739-8487

Holiday Inn Express
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Oscoda, MI 48750
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us/en/oscoda/oscod/hoteldetail
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lakelifecottages.com
989-214-3435

Mai Tiki Resort
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AuSable, MI 48750
989-739-9971

Moonrise Beach
2301 S. US 23
Greenbush, MI 48738
moonrisebeachmichigan@gmail.com
facebook.com/moonrisebeach
989-724-3155

Oscoda Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 572
Oscoda, MI 48750
oscoda.com
989-739-0900

Oscoda Lakeside Hotel
4270 N. US 23
Oscoda, MI 48750
info@oscodalakesidehotel.com
oscodalakesidehotel.com
989-739-8822

Pine Ridge Bay Condominium Association
5678 N. US 23, #13
Oscoda, MI 48750
989-545-4513

Sandcastle Beach Resort
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Oscoda, MI 48750
sandcastleoscoda@yahoo.com
sandcastlebeachresort.com
989-739-7977

Sid's Resort
4321 S. US 23
Greenbush, MI 48738
sidsresortcottages.com
989-739-7638

Sweetwater Sea Bed & Breakfast
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thesweetwaterseabedandbreakfast.com
989-820-1005

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Tawas City, MI 48763
facebook.com/p/Northeast-Michigan-Regional-Farm-Market-100057491116929
989-362-3531

Tawas Blueberry Farm

838 Leggett Rd.
Tawas City, MI 48763
tawasblueberryfarm@gmail.com
tawasblueberries.com
989-362-4638

Arts, Culture, & Entertainment

Besser Museum for NE Michigan

491 Johnson St.
Alpena, MI 49707
bessermuseum.org
989-356-2202

Harrisville Arts Council
112 N. Third St.
P.O. Box 102
Harrisville, MI 48740
harrisvillearts@gmail.com
harrisvilleartscouncil.com
989-724-7197

Huron Shores Artisan Hall

112 N. State St.
Oscoda, MI 48750
huronshoresartisanhall.org

Northeast Academy of Dance

4200 California St.
P.O. Box 681
Oscoda, MI 48750
neadancemi@gmail.com
neadancemi.org
989-739-7955

Northern Blend Chorus

Oscoda, MI 48750
facebook.com/northernblendchorus
989-798-2934

Queen Bee Soiree LLC

Oscoda, MI 48750
queenbeesoiree@gmail.com
facebook.com/QueenBeeSoiree

Shoreline Players Inc.

6000 N. Skeel Ave.
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Oscoda, MI 48750
newsletter@shorelineplayers.org
shorelineplayers.org
989-739-3586

Sparkle Time - Dance & Drum LLC

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Oscoda, MI 48750
gbrenoel@hotmail.com
989-305-2959

Tawas Bay Players



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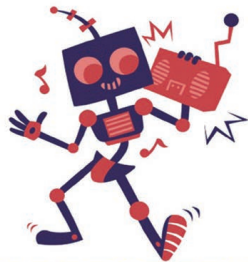


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Shoreline Players
Photo By Shannone Bondie

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North Country Canoe Rental
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Red Hawk Golf Club
350 W. Davison Rd.
East Tawas, MI 48730
proshop@redhawkgolf.net
redhawkgolf.net
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River Ratz Rentals
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riverratzrental.net
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Salons

A Head of Time
5737 US 23, Unit 8
Oscoda, MI 48750
989-739-3168

MJ's Salon and Spa
403 E. Main St.
Oscoda, MI 48750
mjsalon_nails@yahoo.com
mjsalonandspa.com
989-739-8559

Salon 121
839 S. State St.
AuSable, MI 48750
knchairflair121@yahoo.com
facebook.com/Salon121
989-739-0399



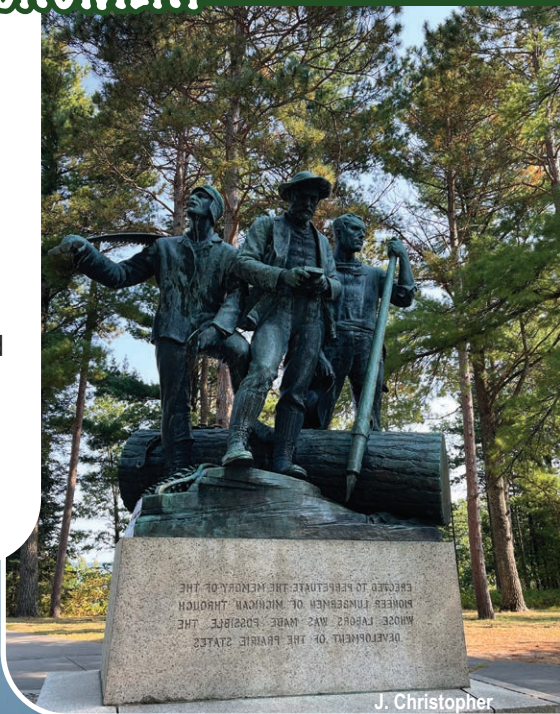
Northeast Academy of Dance Duet
Photo By Manuela Kress



Northeast Academy of Dance
Photo By Manuela Kress

LUMBERMAN'S MONUMENT

Located off River Road in Oscoda, the Monument and Visitor Center together, preserve the area's lumbering history and explain the industry that helped to build northern Michigan. The visitor's center is open from May through October. Here, one can learn how lumber was cut and moved from the forests to the mills. A huge bronze memorial sits on a high bluff overlooking the AuSable River. Explore the life of a lumberjack through videos and displays, enjoy a Kid's Day Program or take a guided nature hike. For the more adventurous, hike the 260 steps to the edge of the AuSable river and board the Wanigan, a replica of the floating cook shacks that followed the river drives.



J. Christopher



Jim Kirchner



LARGO SPRINGS

A popular destination, Largo Springs provides a panoramic view of the AuSable River Valley from an observation deck 300 feet above the river. For those who want a closer look at the springs, a 294-step wooden staircase takes you down to where the underground springs come together to form large pools of crystal-clear water. It is one of the most beautiful spots in northeast Michigan. Revered by Native People as a sacred place, the solitude of the area provides an almost magical experience. The sounds of water flowing, gentle breezes, and cries of eagles add to the ambiance and serenity of the area. Located on the River Road Scenic Byway, Largo Springs offers visitors a unique day trip of beauty and tranquility.



Jerry Malone



Jerry Malone

SHOPPING & SPECIALTY RETAIL

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judy@jkpromotionsinc.com
jkpromotionsinc.com
989-820-6349

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Oscoda, MI 48750
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facebook.com/AuSableCollisionandglass
989-569-6600

AuSable Trans & Gear

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ausabletransandgear@gmail.com
989-739-5000

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Oscoda, MI 48750
budget.usedcars@yahoo.com
989-739-5342

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sevankinc@yahoo.com
clearviewcarwash.net
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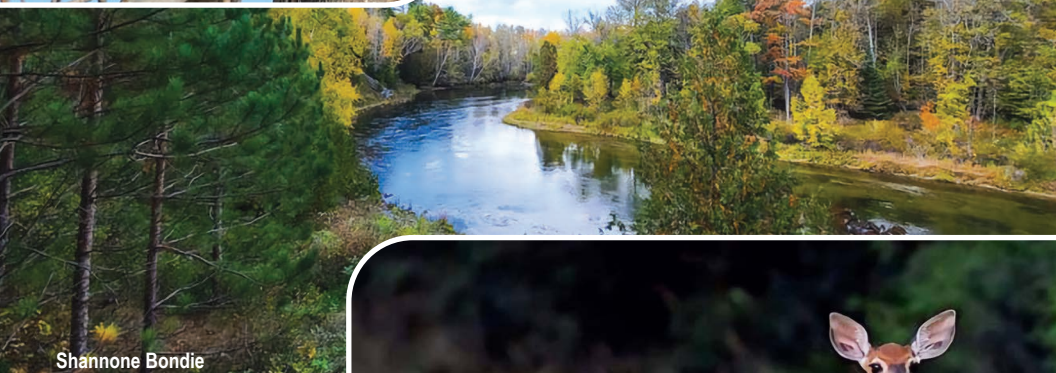
Konnie Spenceley



Konnie Spenceley



Shannone Bondie



Shannone Bondie



Konnie Spenceley



Konnie Spenceley

Key

-  **Huron Manistee National Forest**
-  **US 23 Heritage Route**
-  **Parks**
-  **Other Points of Interest**
-  **Dam**
-  **Grocery**
-  **Boat Launch**
-  **Shopping**



Huron National Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf
Huron Shores Ranger District
989-739-0728

AuSable Valley Scenic Vista Just off Bamfield Rd.

1. Canoers Memorial & Eagle Overlook

River Road National Scenic Byway
Monument to paddlers who challenge the AuSable River in the past, present, and future

Corsair Trail System

South on Monument Rd. off River Rd.
28 miles of groomed trails, cross-country skiing, nature hiking

3. Eagle Run Cross-Country Ski and Hiking Trail

River Road National Scenic Byway
Groomed trails, skiing, hiking, fat-tire and mountain biking

4. Highbanks Trail

River Road National Scenic Byway
7 mile trail from Largo Springs to Sawmill Pointe Campground

Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area

Huron National Forest
M 65 & M 72, North of Glennie
More than 10,000 acres for hiking and cross-country skiing

5. Largo Springs

River Road National Scenic Byway
Observation deck, 300 steps to underground springs, panoramic view of AuSable River

6. Lumberman's Monument

Junction of River and Monument Roads in the Huron National Forest
Visitor's Center: 989-362-8961
Lumbering monument and artifacts, lookouts, interpretive exhibits, handicap trail, wildflower viewing

7. National Forest Westgate Scenic Overlook

Spectacular view of Alcona Pond and AuSable River Valley area

Reid Lake Foot Travel Area

M 72 & Kohler Rd., North of Glennie
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US 23 Heritage Route

www.us23heritageroute.org
Sightseeing highlights along the Lake Huron coast

1. Clark's Marsh Wildlife Area

Perimeter Rd.
Ponds, wildlife, and wildflowers

Sturgeon Point Lighthouse

Five miles north of Harrisville

Tawas Point Lighthouse

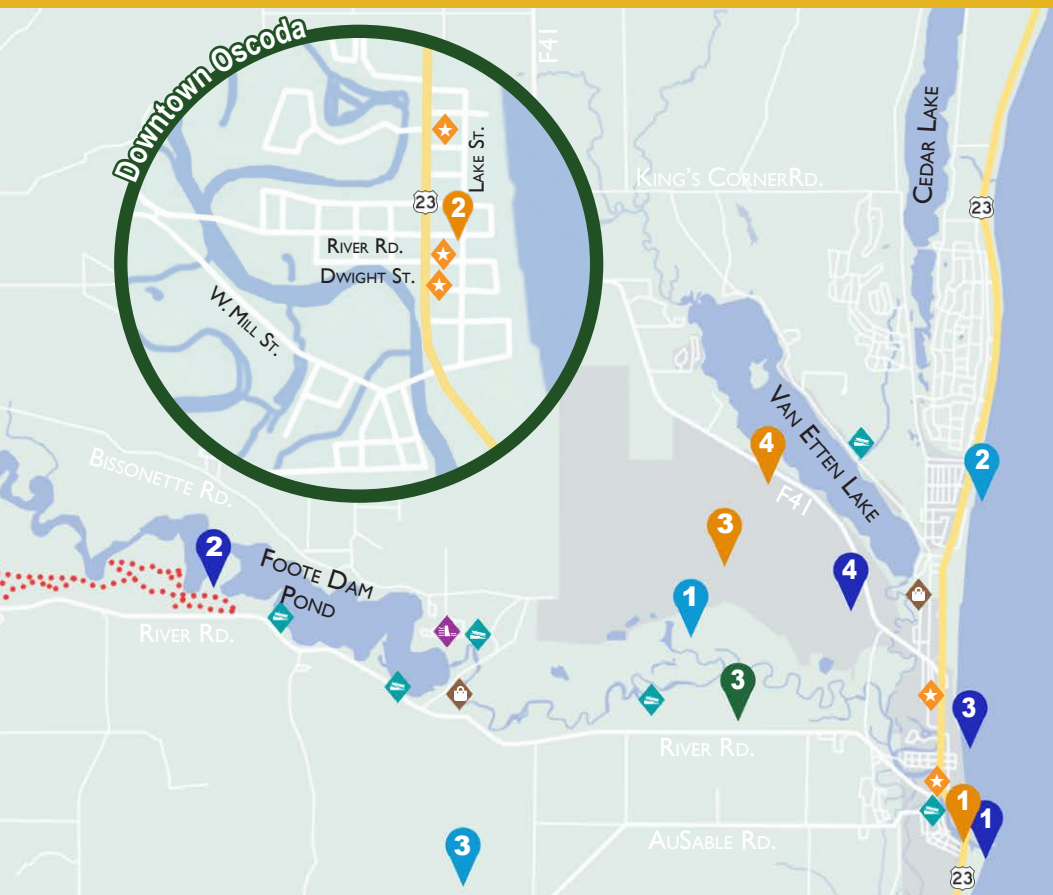
Tawas Point State Park
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2. Three Mile Beach Park

Three Miles north of Oscoda
Natural condition, sugar-sand beach, public area

3. Tuttle Marsh Wildlife Area

(Huron National Forest)
5,000 acre wildlife management area for deer, fox, coyote, muskrat, beaver, otter, weasel, and birds



Parks

1. Shoreline Park

US-23, where Lake Huron meets AuSable River
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Blueways Water Trail access, paved and lighted access to sugar-sand beach, viewing platform, picnic area, weekly farm markets from May-Oct.

2. Old Orchard Park

overlooks AuSable River and Foote Pond
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3. Oscoda Beach Park

Downtown Oscoda
E. River Rd., US-23

Beach, playground, basketball court, skateboard park, bathhouse, grills, picnic tables, bandshell, boardwalk, and splash pad

4. Veterans Memorial Park

4000 Skeel Ave.

989-739-8152

Veteran's memorial, circle of flags and pentagon memorial plaques

Other Points of Interest

1. Oscoda AuSable Chamber of Commerce

4440 US 23

989-739-7322

2. AuSable-Oscoda Historical Society & Museum

114 E. River Rd.

989-739-2782

Museum & local artifacts

Iosco County Historical Society

405 W. Bay St., East Tawas

989-362-8911

3. Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport (OSC)

3961 E. Airport Drive, Oscoda

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www.oscairport.com

4. Wurtsmith Air Force Museum

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Oscoda-AuSable History

Tidbits from the 40's and 50's



Note: The following information is a compilation of information from personal interviews with Oscoda and AuSable residents who lived in the area in the late 1940s and 1950s. Other information was obtained from articles published in the *Oscoda Press* in 1952, plus photos and confirmation of facts provided by William "Bill" Parsons of the Facebook page, *Oscoda AuSable History*.

by Gaylynn Brenoel

Following the end of World War II, the people of the Oscoda and AuSable townships experienced a myriad of adventures, events, and everyday happenings that are now the canvas on which the future of these two great communities will be painted. Those happenings speak to the creativity, resilience, leadership, and comradery that promises a bright future for growth and sustainability for the next generations to enjoy.

This story begins some 77 years ago and takes us through the 1950s...

In 1947, two businessmen met for a cup of coffee at Sie & Gert's Restaurant at 208 South State Street in Oscoda. Sie & Gert's was a 24-hour restaurant, a Greyhound Bus stop, a gas station, a garage, and a wrecker service. Howard Brubaker and Frank Davis were looking for a way to draw people to the area after Labor Day. At that time, Brubaker was the president of the Oscoda Chamber of Commerce, and Davis was the executive manager of the Eastern Michigan Tourist Association.

Their brainstorming session led to the first AuSable River Canoe Marathon held on Sept. 6-7, 1947. The marathon was then and still is a 120-mile race between Grayling and Oscoda, considered one of the oldest marathon canoe races in the United States. It is also recognized as the ONLY canoe-only race in North America.

In 1948, another adventure occurred in Oscoda. A film entitled *Fighter Squadron* was filmed at the Oscoda Army Airfield in Oscoda (later renamed to Wurtsmith Air Force Base). The movie was an American World War II film in Technicolor from Warner Bros. starring Edmond O'Brien and Robert Stack.

The movie was loosely based on the activities of the 4th and 56th Fighter Groups before the Normandy landings in World War II.

Filming for the movie took place over two weeks at the airfield because the terrain was similar to the fictional English air base needed for the movie.

The film featured several dozen Republic P-47D Thunderbolts from the Air National Guard and eight North American P-51 Mustangs from the California Air National Guard.

In addition to the novelty of filming a movie in Oscoda, an even more notable element was that Rock Hudson made his acting debut in the film *Fighter Squadron*.

Rock Hudson's movie career started right here in Oscoda, Michigan!

The first indoor movie theater in Oscoda, the Iosco Theater, was located at 216 South State Street. The building was demolished in 2011 and is now a vacant lot between Chee Peng and Gilbert's Pharmacy. It was owned and operated by Drace and Ann E. Affelt (née Furtaw) until 1952 when the Lake Theatre opened. It had 200 seats. Local residents remember the theater affectionately. It had one screen, wooden benches, and a pot-bellied stove.

One life-altering invention that had a major impact on the people living in AuSable and Oscoda during the early 1950s was television. Television sets (TVs) became a popular consumer product in electronic form, using a cathode-ray tube.

The challenge in those early days was how to get good reception on their black and white TVs from the two channels available – one in Saginaw and one in Bay City.

Stan Hall, a lifelong AuSable resident, and his wife Eileen had a 10-inch black and white TV housed in a huge wooden cabinet in their living room. Stan had installed an antenna attached to a long pole to the ground as a way to get the best reception. The antenna pole extended above the roof for reception but had to be manually adjusted from the roof top. Stan had to climb onto the roof and straddle the roof top while hanging onto the antenna pole. Eileen stood in the doorway as Stan rotated the antenna carefully to find the correct direction for transmission. Eileen would coach Stan to turn the antenna to the left or right until the snowy TV screen produced a visible picture. Stan would then climb down from the roof only to find that the snowy picture had returned. So up on the roof once again to adjust the antenna. It was an exhausting daily chore.

With the invention of the Alliance Tenna-Rotor, the antenna could now be rotated by pushing a button inside the home. A better solution but still not ideal. When Eileen heard that Cable Television was coming to the area she exclaimed, "I'll dig the trenches myself for laying the cable."

Popular television watching in the early 1950s included *The Gillette Cavalcade of Sports* featuring Friday night boxing that aired throughout the 1950s until 1960.



It was the longest continuous boxing program in television history, and featured famous boxers such as Rocky Marciano, Joe Lewis, and Sugar Ray Robinson.

Other popular TV programs included the *Amos 'n' Andy Show*, *The Roy Rogers Show*, *The Gene Autry Show*, and Saturday morning cartoons.

Every evening, at the end of the broadcast day, the television stations would have a "sign off sequence" that included "High Flight," the playing of the *Star-Spangled Banner*, and ended with the Test Pattern at midnight that continued until the next morning.

"High Flight" is a 1941 sonnet written by war poet John Gillespie Magee Jr. that was inspired by his experiences as a fighter pilot of the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II.

Although television was growing in popularity, many area families preferred the radio. In the evenings the entire family gathered around the large wooden cabinet that housed the radio to listen to the evening news and popular music. Radio shows that were popular in the late 1940s and through the 1950s included the *Ed Sullivan Show*, the *Lone Ranger*, and *Our Gal Sunday*, a popular American Soap Opera.

The evolution of telephone service was another interesting highlight of the 1950s. Dial telephone service arrived in 1952, but prior to that people faced a number of obstacles with contacting friends, relatives, and emergency services.

Not everyone could afford a telephone in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Those that did have telephones could call someone else with a telephone by going through a switchboard operator. In the 1950s, the local switchboard was located at the Mill's house on State Street. Later, the home was moved around the corner to Division Street.



In those early days, it was common for people to share a telephone line, called a party line. You were assigned a number of rings on the telephone that indicated that a call coming in was for you. If you were assigned "one ring," that is when you answered your phone. A "two ring" assignment meant you waited for the second ring

before lifting the phone handset. One of the challenges with party lines is that the other “party” could eavesdrop on your phone call. At times it was necessary to interrupt a telephone conversation if you needed to make an urgent call. And sometimes when youngsters had been on the telephone for a long time, you had to interrupt their call to tell them to get off the phone.

Also, during that time, people were assigned a number. For example, the bakery in town was “21.” So, if you wanted to call the bakery, you lifted the telephone handset and waited for the switchboard operator to say, “number please.” For the bakery, you responded “21.”

In Oscoda in May of 1952, due to the upcoming changes in the phone system from manual to automatic dial, the Fire number became “63.” An article in the May 1, 1952, *Oscoda Press (The Press)*, notified residents that the new fire number of “63” would be used beginning on May 6. Sie & Gert’s 24-hour restaurant would handle the siren and emergency calls for the volunteer Fire Department. The new number “63” would be used until the new dial telephone system was in place and then a permanent number would be assigned to a special phone at Sie & Gert’s place.

Dial service did come to Oscoda and AuSable in 1952. The telephone numbers started with “SE” to represent the Seneca Exchange in the Oscoda and AuSable townships. Each telephone central office area had their own exchange. The Ta-was area had the “FO” to represent the Forest exchange. In the 1950s, the phone number for the *Iosco County News-Herald*, for example, was FOrEst 2-3456. (If you check the alphabet on your phone, you will see that the *Iosco County News-Herald* phone number has carried through since 1952.)

In the 1950s children rode the bus, walked, or peddled their bicycles to school. In those days every student attended the same school. The red brick school building,



constructed in 1902 and located behind Vinny’s AuSable Hardware, has three floors. The main floor was for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. The top floor housed classrooms for seventh through 12th grade. The cafeteria and stage were located in the basement of the school.

Area children spent most of their free time outside playing, fishing, or riding their bikes. During the winter, many children enjoyed sledding on the area’s snow covered slopes. Those that did not own sleds would visit the local junk yard and remove hoods from old cars to use as sleds or to be pulled behind a jeep along snowy roads.

The men, women, and children of the late 1940s and 1950s in AuSable and Oscoda brought their struggles, challenges, achievements, and love for this area into this time and this place we call home. They have shown us how to persevere with a hopeful heart.

Many agree that we have come a long way since those days following World War II. They also believe that with love, hope, and hard work, the best is yet to come!

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Perhaps you are wanting to take a tour of the waters via boat, canoe, kayak, jet ski, or pontoon. Maybe get in a little fishing while enjoying the most scenic views you can imagine. If that is your ideal vacation entertainment, you might consider taking a ride over to Cedar Lake, AuSable River or Van Etten Lake where the fish are biting, and the fun is never ending.

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If a dam is more your style, we have a few of those that are worth making a visit to.

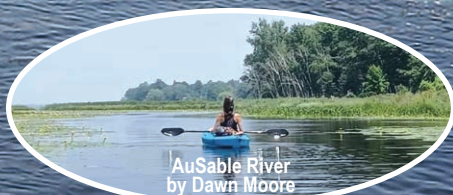
Loud dam at just over thirty feet deep is one of a few hydroelectric dams on the AuSable River. You can launch a small boat or wade the waters to test your catching skills by hooking a Panfish, Walleye, Smallmouth bass, or Northern Pike.

Cooke Dam is another hydroelectric dam on the AuSable river that runs through the Oscoda area. The dam is thirty-eight feet deep and holds its fair share of Bluegill, Bass, Northern Pike, and Walleye.

Foote Pond Dam, also a hydroelectric dam on the AuSable River has one of the best scenic overlooks around at the top of a bluff known as Champagne Hill. The dam is over forty feet deep and is a great place for game fishing. Foote Pond hosts Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Smallmouth bass, Walleye, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed, and Rock Bass.

If good old fashion river fishing is your ideal, the AuSable River is one of the absolute best destinations to choose. Whether you wish to launch a small boat, wade in the waters for some fly fishing, or stand on the river's edge, the AuSable has a spot for you. The AuSable River has a current that averages three to four miles per hour and runs about two to four feet deep. Make a day of it and try your hand at catching some Bass, Brown Trout, Perch, Walleye, Steelhead, Sunfish, and Salmon.

Come take a nice relaxing vacation living the fisherman's dream and find your favorite fishing hole, right here in Oscoda/AuSable!



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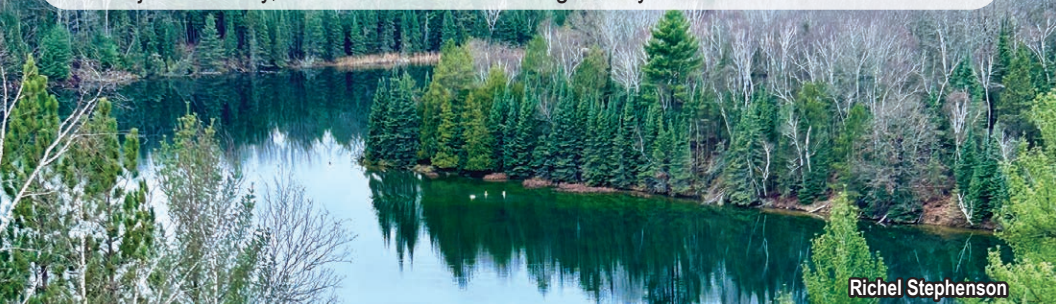
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Richel Stephenson

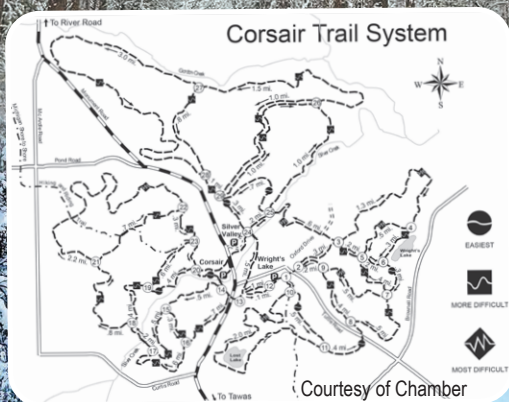


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land@headwatersconservancy.org
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huronshoresgs.org
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Iosco County Historical Society
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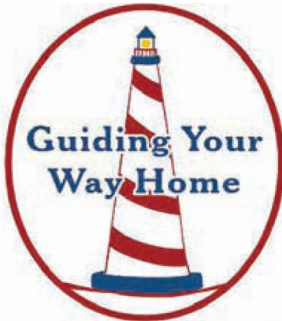
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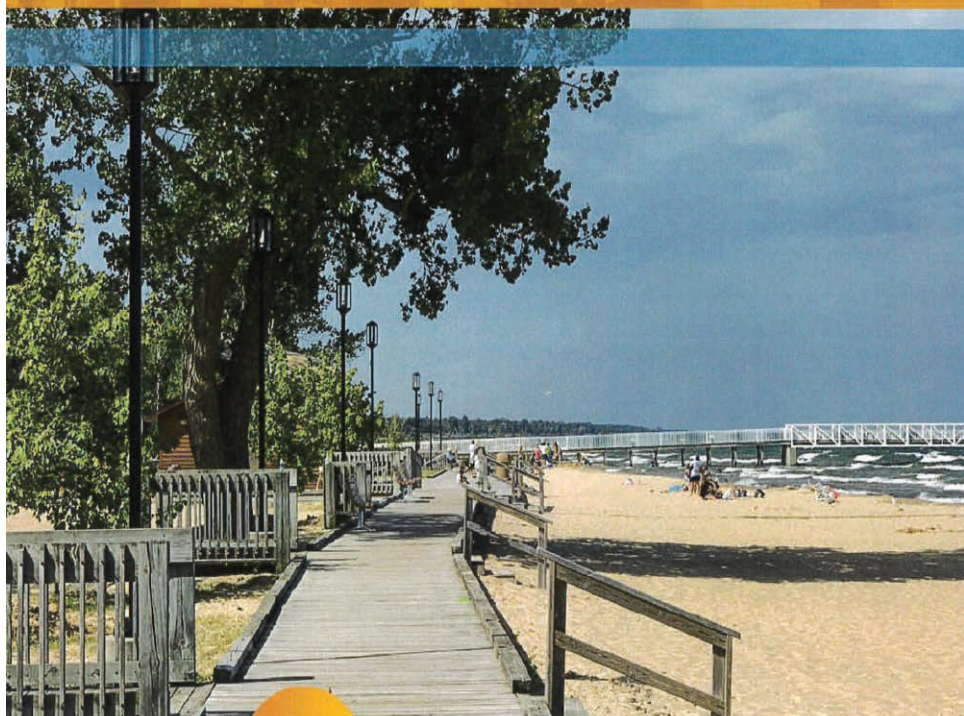


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