



Washington Post photos by Ricky Carlotti
Huskies eagerly wait their turn to be harnessed for a sledding tour at Yellow Snow Dog Sled Adventures in Garrett County, Md. After learning some basic commands, Tad Nelson of Richmond, Va., below heads into a refuge with owner Kim Trickett.

MUSH PUPPIES

MARYLAND TOURS PUT NOVICES IN THE DOG-SLED DRIVER'S SEAT.

By DARRAGH JOHNSON
The Washington Post

DEER CREEK LAKE, Md. — At dawn, Kim Trickett is in a desperate race against the winter sun, hustling 19 dogs into a trailer and rushing to meet her clients before the snow begins to melt. It's 20 degrees ... 24 ... 28 ... and heading quickly toward the dreaded melt-line, with the high near 50.

"I don't think we're going to have much snow," she will murmur by midafternoon, comparing this Saturday with the previous one, when the snow lay lush and quick and her company gave 31 rides. "If we get two in, we'll be lucky."

She and her partner, Patti Glotfelty, climb into their blue Dodge Dakota Sport pickup. The dogs — Acadia, Apache, Bambi, Beaudi, Cherokee, Chester, Drifter, Eilu, Gonzo, JT, Jena, Newton, Nikita, Phantom, Reese, Rocky, Skippy, Takotna and Wee Willy — follow behind in their custom-built trailer with the personalized license plate.

The plate says it all. When Glotfelty went to order it last fall, the bureaucrat at the Motor Vehicle Administration office got interested and asked, "You want a personalized plate for a trailer?"

"It's a business," Glotfelty remembers explaining. "What's the business?" "Dog sledding." The woman chortled. "In Maryland?" It's a reaction Glotfelty and Trickett are used to. Trickett has always laughed back, undeterred. And when the MVA employee asked, "What do you want the plate to say?" Glotfelty was ready. "Yellow snow," she answered, and basked, she says, as the MVA employee roared anew.

Stranger still than the debut of one dog-sledding company south of the Mason-Dixon line this winter was the appearance of two. Both brand-new. Both in Garrett County, a mountainous area of far western Maryland. Both offering adventures in mushing.

"Isn't that odd?" says cheerful Linda Herdering, co-founder of Husky Power Dog Sledding, the competition to Yellow Snow Dog Sled Adventures.

Thing is, "sled-dog tourism is a huge, a very big, growing part of the adventure vacation thing ... which is a huge part of the vacation industry," says Greg Sellentin, publisher of Sled Dog Sports magazine in New Jersey and a board member of the International

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Dogs rocket over the hills and through the woods.

Northern Lodges In The Woods As Cozy As A Fire In Winter

By BETH GAUPER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

ST. PAUL, Minn. — In the north woods, only the passage of time creates a classic. There's nothing like the feel of a vintage lodge. Whatever it comes from — the burnished logs hewed by ax, the hearths made of stones picked from local fields, the faint fragrance of aged pine and cedar — it can't be ordered from a furniture store.

Jim Kerkow and Craig Mason know, because they own a furnishings business and they love old lodges. They were building a cabin near Hayward, Wis., and staying at nearby Spider Lake Lodge when its elderly owner pointed out the obvious.

"She said, 'You'll never be able to re-create this place so why not just make this your own?'" Kerkow said.

They bought the old log lodge, built in 1923 by an auto mechanic from Chicago and an Ojibwe carpenter, and they fixed it up. They were careful not to extinguish the personality it had acquired from years as a lake resort, hosting parties of vacationers.

"I like to tell people that the logs absorb all the laughter, all the neat stuff that has floated through here over the years," Kerkow says. "People touch the logs, and they can feel it."

Once, the north woods of Wisconsin and Minnesota were full of lodges. The first were built as fishing camps, after loggers left in the 1890s, and guests were affluent sportsmen who arrived by rail.

Then, roads were built in the 1920s, and automobiles became more affordable. Families streamed north, and the now-familiar log-cabin look — massive beams, field stone fireplaces, boulder foundations — became synonymous with the north woods.

The next four decades were the golden age of lake resorts. A log lodge was built in 1901, with additions in 1911 and in the '20s and '40s, when it was Long Lake Lodge.

By 1993, it was falling apart and had been vacant for two years. Then, Iowans Joel and Janet McClure saw it, fell in love with it and bought it for a bed-and-breakfast.

"Then, we started with the vast repairs," Joel McClure said. "At first, we were just putting out fires. We replaced over 50 windows; their frames were totally rotted."

Today, the log walls and beamed ceilings are warmly

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Former fishing camps treated for their history.



Photo by MAX HAYNES



Knight Ridder/Tribune

Bent's Camp in northern Wisconsin near the Michigan border was founded in 1896 as a sportsmen's camp. Far off the beaten path, the resort is known for its restaurant. At top, the porch at Spider Lake Lodge near Hayward, Wis., overlooks the woods and placid waterfront. The restored log lodge was built in 1923 and boasts many features of a vintage resort, such as fieldstone fireplaces and exposed beam ceilings.

Old photos illustrate the early history of lakefront resorts in the north woods of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and fires crackle in the stone fireplaces.



Photos from Knight Ridder/Tribune

The cozy Inn at Pinewood, built in 1934 as a hunting and fishing lodge, reflects the owners' fondness for antiques. The bed-and-breakfast overlooks a private lake near Eagle River, Wis.

Lodges Burnished With Warmth

CLASSIC LODGES

Continued From Page 1

lit by Arts and Crafts lamps. Leather sofas surround the original granite fireplace, and a blond Kodiak grizzly stands near an archway adorned with grapevines. Upstairs, rooms are filled with classic knotty-pine decor.

"You have to have that," McClure said. "That's what people are looking for when they come up here."

Rustic Interior And Fine Dining

Not far away, near the Michigan border west of Land O' Lakes, Bent's Camp began life in 1896 as a camp for sportsmen, who were brought over from the railroad landing in a wooden scow called the Tar Baby. A log restaurant was built in 1906, with interior walls covered by thick squares of birch bark held in place by cedar strips.

Today, it's one of the north woods' most treasured spots. In the bar, old photos illustrate the resort's early history, and a fire crackles in the stone fireplace; diners sit in a room lined with paneled windows overlooking Mamie Lake or in the wood-paneled big room, under the gaze of a giant stag head.

It's as far off the beaten path as it can be, but the dinner specials on a recent night were pure uptown: Chilean sea bass with a langoustine cream sauce, duck confit and a delectable, phyllo-wrapped lamb with Gorgonzola, rosemary and garlic.

"We have a new chef, and he's cooking some pretty wild things for us," a waitress said.

A half-hour to the south, Eagle River draws hordes of snowmobilers but also is surrounded by very good cross-

Here are some of the places to nestle into on a cold night:

- Spider Lake Lodge B&B near Hayward, Wis.: It was built in 1923 as Ted Moody's Camp, and an old film shows Moody hewing the logs and Hank Smith shaping the wood chinking between them. The resort is not far from Al Capone's 1925 retreat near Couderay; in Chicago, Moody worked as a mechanic at a garage that serviced Capone's cars.
- With no TV sets and no cell-phone service, the atmosphere is intentionally quiet and for adults only. A full breakfast is served. Seven rooms go for \$139 to \$179. Call 1-800-653-9472; www.spiderlakelodge.com.
- Inn at Pinewood B&B near Eagle River, Wis.: This B&B on the shore of private Carpenter Lake, started in 1934, is a very good spot for a group. All eight rooms have king beds, and many have additional twins.
- It caters to skiers, and the Anvil Lake Trail is three miles east, with 12 miles of groomed trails and a shelter where chickadees feed from skiers' hands. Eagle River, five miles west, has many good restaurants.
- Eight rooms go for \$104 to \$154, and a three-bedroom home next door is \$265 to \$290. Call (715) 477-2377; www.inn-at-pinewood.com.
- Hazen Inn near Phelps, Wis.: This inn also is a good place for

for two nights in winter. Call 1-800-335-6904, www.hazeninn.com. (The inn is for sale.)

- Bent's Camp near Land O' Lakes, Wis.: This is a great destination even for a beer, but try to make time for a meal at the Lodge Restaurant. It serves burgers and such, but order one of the specials, \$17 to \$25. Entrees include a very good soup and salad bar. Don't skip dessert.
- Two cabins open in winter, \$100 to \$150. It's 10 miles west of Land O' Lakes. (715) 547-3487; www.bentscamp.com.
- Garmisch USA near Cable, Wis.: The past of this 1927 resort is rooted in notoriety, though not gangsters. It was built by wealthy Chicago businessman Jacob Loeb after the 1924 trial of his teenage nephew, Richard Loeb, convicted with friend Nathan Leopold of murdering a young boy for the thrill of it. Jacob Loeb paid celebrated lawyer Clarence Darrow to save his nephew from the electric chair, which he did.
- The restaurant and many rooms have views of Lake Namekagon. Seven rooms, six with fireplaces, and a suite go for \$75 to \$215. Other rooms and cottages are \$85 to \$2,560. Call 1-800-794-2204; www.garmischresort.com.
- Naniboujou Lodge near Grand Marais, Minn.: This lodge, 15 miles northeast of Grand Marais on the shore of Lake Superior, has 10 rooms, six with

weathered cypress shakes and red and cream window frames. Inside, a fine restaurant occupies the Great Hall.

In winter, the lodge is open only weekends, through March 11-12 this year. Rates are \$345 to \$405 for two, including two nights, five meals and taxes. (218) 387-2688; www.naniboujou.com.

- Lutsen Resort in Lutsen, Minn.: This was the oldest family-run resort in Minnesota until its founding family sold it in the 1980s. It began life as a North Shore hunting and fishing camp on land homesteaded by Swedish immigrant Charles Axel Nelson in 1885.
- Its 1952 timber lodge is cozy and inviting, with its big stone hearth, polished-leather chairs and picture windows overlooking the lake. There are 31 old-fashioned rooms upstairs, \$79 to \$139, and cabins, villas and condos nearby. There's a restaurant in the lodge and an adjoining pool. Call 1-800-258-8736, www.lutsenresort.com.
- Golden Eagle Lodge on the Gunflint Trail: This resort on the central Gunflint has a rustic 1945 lodge with walls lined with old logging-camp tools and a mixture of older and new cabins, some with whirlpools. Ten cabins and a suite go for \$136 to \$292 through March 13; then, they drop to \$125 to \$229. Usually, there's good skiing into April. Call 1-800-346-2203; www.northern-

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