

# *On the Road Again*

**MTWA** 2005



*Who We Are*

*Where We're Published*

*Where We Meet*

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PO Box 83542  
Lincoln NE 68501-3542  
402-438-2253  
website: [www.mtwa.org](http://www.mtwa.org)  
email: [ghinz@alltel.net](mailto:ghinz@alltel.net)**

**Editor: Betty Stark  
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*Cover: The Cincinnati Reds are Cincinnati! This mascot was on hand to greet President Elizabeth Granger and MTWA at a lavish opening reception in Newport, Ky., just across the Ohio River.  
– Photo by Gary Knowles*



## Welcome!

**W**elcome to MTWA's year in review. We're excited to share our travels and the subsequent articles which we've produced, so sit back, take a look, and enjoy the ride.

For more than half a century now MTWA actives have been traveling the globe and sharing their adventures with readers everywhere. It's true that all of us are from the Midwest, but our interests and excursions cover the entire world. So do our articles. Likewise, the many publications which print our articles are from around the world.

Our associates, all representing Midwestern locales, share their sites with others from not only the United States but also a multitude of other countries. You'll find spirited articles featuring their sites in publications everywhere.

This edition of our yearbook showcases our 2005 articles with emphasis on those from our 2005 meeting sites. Because we visited Cincinnati in May and Traverse City in September, our articles logically post-dated those meeting times. Nevertheless, we were quick in getting some of our stories to our publications, and we proudly display a selection of the articles here. These articles are, however, but a fraction of the number of features we'll be producing about the Cincinnati and Traverse City areas. 2006 will undoubtedly have an even greater number of articles, given the long lead time for some of our magazines as well as the staying power of the sites themselves. Be assured that we'll be penning pieces about both sites for years to come.

That scenario plays itself out year after year after year, with our members continually updating information from long ago. Our meeting sites have always provided a wealth of diverse information which has piqued our interests – so much so that those sites stay with us and we make calls to update material long after our meeting dates. Recent articles have featured a myriad of earlier meeting sites dating back a decade or more. We've included some of those articles here, too.

If you represent a prospective meeting site, I invite you to get in touch with us so we can talk about visiting you. Sites coordinator Gary Knowles is waiting for you. Just contact him at [OPENAIR@aol.com](mailto:OPENAIR@aol.com).

If you're a prospective active or associate, I welcome your interest in joining us. We're small in comparison to many other organizations, and we choose to be. We may see each other only at meetings twice a year, but many of us stay in contact with one another through our informal but remarkably successful networking possibilities. For additional information about MTWA, and to get a member application, contact Glenda Hinz, our administrative assistant, at [glhinz@alltel.net](mailto:glhinz@alltel.net).

And at any time, you can also check us out at our website, [www.mtwa.org](http://www.mtwa.org). Come travel with us.



Elizabeth Granger  
MTWA President

# MTWA: Who We Are

Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Michigan  
Minnesota



Missouri  
Nebraska  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
South Dakota  
Wisconsin

**M**idwest Travel Writers Association is the oldest association of professional travel writers in the United States. Our first meeting was in 1951 in Chicago.

We are an organization of travel professionals. Our purpose is to protect and upgrade travel writing as a profession by exchanging ideas, encouraging high professional ideals, fostering communications between travel writers and readers, and

championing the cause of travelers from the Midwest.

Members of MTWA subscribe to the highest standards in the profession of journalism. The organization seeks to maintain truth and accuracy in all aspects of travel journalism. Each member agrees to abide by the MTWA Code of Professional Responsibility.

There are two categories of membership. Active Members are actively engaged in

travel writing or editing for a newspaper, magazine and/or news service. Associate Members are full-time editorial publicists for state and regional areas, public carriers, and travel writers and photographers assigned by public relations and advertising agencies.

Membership is limited to those living or working in 13 Midwest states. We live in the Midwest but, for many of us, the world is our workplace.

## 2005 Board of Directors

*Terms begin and end at our spring meetings. Unscheduled changes occur as needed.*

### President

Elizabeth Granger, *Fishers, Indiana*

### Active Vice-President

Dan Donarski, *Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan*

### Associate Vice-President

Gary Knowles, *Madison, Wisconsin* (to September)  
Jean Freidl, *Woodbury, Minnesota* (since September)

### Secretary

Shauna Lode, *Ames, Iowa* (to May)  
Kathleen Webster, *Galena, Illinois* (since May)

### Treasurer

Sharyn Kuneman, *St. Louis, Missouri*

### Active Directors

Mary Bergin, *Madison, Wisconsin*  
Jackie Sheckler Finch, *Bloomington, Indiana* (to May)  
Mary Lu Laffey, *Skokie, Illinois*  
Peggy Ammerman Sailors, *Indianapolis, Indiana* (since May)

### Associate Director

Jean Freidl, *Woodbury, Minnesota* (to May)  
Charlotte Morrison, *Davenport, Iowa* (since May)

### Immediate Past President

Mike Whye, *Council Bluffs, Iowa*

### Administrative Assistant

Glenda Hinz, *Lincoln, Nebraska*



Active members Mary Bergin , Elizabeth Granger and others enjoy the scenery at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore near Traverse City.  
- photos this page by Don Engle



# Active Members

*Active Members are writers who are actively employed by a regularly published magazine or newspaper, or regularly engaged in travel writing or editing in news or feature media reaching the general public, or regularly published freelance writers.*

**Kelly Aiglon**, Evanston, Ill.  
**Leonard Barnes**, Traverse City, Mich.  
**Mary Bergin**, Madison, Wis.  
**Kit Bernardi**, Oak Park, Ill.  
**Tim Bewer**, Minneapolis, Minn.  
**Robert Bittner**, Charlotte, Mich.  
**Jay Black**, Clear Lake, Iowa  
**Laurie Borman**, Skokie, Ill.  
**Katherine Brown**, Lexington, Ky.  
**Barbara Cohen**, Indianapolis, Ind.  
**Ruth Chin**, Muncie, Ind.  
**Shirley Davis**, Davenport, Iowa  
**Nancy Depke**, Rocky River, Ohio  
**Dan Donarski**, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.  
**Amy Eckert**, Holland, Mich.  
**Lori Erickson**, Iowa City, Iowa  
**Jackie Sheckler Finch**, Bloomington, Ind.  
**Sylvia Forbes**, Fayette, Mo.  
**Dixie Franklin**, DeWitt, Mich.  
**Sherry Freese**, Bettendorf, Iowa  
**Elizabeth Granger**, Fishers, Ind.  
**Graydon Gwin**, Kirkwood, Mo.  
**John A. Handley**, Northbrook, Ill.  
**Jerry Harpt**, Wallace, Mich.  
**Ann Hattes**, Hartland, Wis.  
**Joan Hooper**, Sister Bay, Wis.  
**Don Ingle**, Baldwin, Mich.  
**Ron Johnson**, Fridley, Minn.  
**Frederick Karst**, Culver, Ind.  
**Sharyn Kuneman**, St. Louis, Mo.  
**Mary Lu Laffey**, Skokie, Ill.  
**Doris Larson**, Kent, Ohio  
**Becky Linhardt**, Cincinnati, Ohio

**Donna Tabbert Long**, St. Anthony, Minn.  
**Betsa Marsh**, Cincinnati, Ohio  
**Lisa Meyers McClintick**, St. Cloud, Minn.  
**Melanie Radzicki McManus**, Sun Prairie, Wis.  
**Madelyn Merwin**, Manteno, Ill.  
**Diana Lambdin Meyer**, Parkville, Mo.  
**Mike Michaelson**, Chicago, Ill.  
**Nancy Baren Miller**, Akron, Ohio  
**Joan Milne**, Munster, Ind.

All of us are from the  
Midwest, but our  
interests and excursions  
cover the entire world.  
So do our articles.



**Randy Mink**, Evanston, Ill.  
**Pamela O'Meara**, Arden Hills, Minn.  
**Joanne R. O'Toole**, Willoughby, Ohio  
**Thomas J. O'Toole**, Willoughby, Ohio  
**Barbara Gibbs Ostman**, Gerald, Mo.  
**Marge Peterson**, Ralston, Neb.  
**Janet Podolak**, Willoughby, Ohio  
**Susan Pollack**, Huntington Woods, Mich.  
**Mary Quinley**, Livonia, Mich.  
**Tom Reed**, North Olmsted, Ohio  
**Bob Retzlaff**, Rochester, Minn.  
**Rachael Reynolds-Soucie**, Kankakee, Ill.  
**Peggy Ammerman Sailors**, Indianapolis, Ind.  
**Marcia Schonberg**, Lexington, Ohio  
**Bill Semion**, Canton, Mich.  
**Joanne Prim Shade**, Chicago, Ill.  
**Betsy Sheldon**, Indianapolis, Ind.  
**Mark Shuman**, Crystal Lake, Ill.  
**Sally Snell**, Topeka, Kan.  
**Roberta Sotonoff**, Glenview, Ill.  
**Betty Stark**, Portage, Wis.  
**Janet Steinberg**, Cincinnati, Ohio  
**Kathie Sutin**, St. Louis, Mo.  
**Gail Todd**, Winnetka, Ill.  
**Alice Vollmar**, Minneapolis, Minn.  
**Barc Wade**, Omaha, Neb.  
**Carla Waldemar**, Minneapolis, Minn.  
**Susan Bayer Ward**, Evanston, Ill.  
**Barbara Wayman**, Dublin, Ohio  
**Todd Wessell**, Des Plaines, Ill.  
**Mike Whye**, Council Bluffs, Iowa  
**Sandi Witkowicz**, Lincoln, Neb.  
**Kathy Witt**, Taylor Mill, Ky.

# Where We're Published

*Stories by MTWA members are printed in hundreds of national and international publications every year. Here's a sampling of where we've recently appeared:*

AAA Go Magazine, AAA Home & Away, AAA Living, AAA Midwest Traveler, Accent on Living, A Guide to U.S. Doll Museums, Akron Beacon Journal, American Heritage, American Israelite, American Profile Magazine, American Way, Antique Trader, Aruba Nights, Associated Press Service, ASTA (American Society of Travel Agents), Atlanta Journal & Constitution, Bed & Breakfast Getaways (Cleveland), Best Driving Vacations, Better Homes and Gardens, Boston Globe, Buffalo News, Midwest Living, Campers Monthly, Capital Times (Madison, Wis.), Chicago Magazine, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, Cincinnati Enquirer, Cleveland Magazine, Columbus Dispatch, Columbus Travel Guides, Commercial Appeal (Memphis), Contemporary Doll Collector, Copley News Service, Country Discoveries, Country Lives Magazine, Country Living, Courier-Journal (Louisville), Current Magazine, Daily Herald (Suburban Chicago), Daily Tribune (Wisconsin Rapids), Dallas Morning News, Delta Sky, Des Moines Register, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Dog Gone, Doll News, Elks Magazine, Emirates Inflight Magazine, Endless Vacations, Expedia.com, Family Fun, Fodors, Frommers, Globe-Pequot Press, Golfer, Gourmet Magazine, Grand Rapids Press, Great Inn Getaways, Group Travel, Group Travel Leader, House Beautiful, Huntsville (Ala.) Times, Illinois Meetings & Events, Indianapolis Monthly, Indianapolis Star, Iowan Magazine, Janesville (Wis.) Gazette, Journal & Topics (Chicago Suburban), JUF News (Jewish United Fund), Kansas City CVB Visitors Guide, Kansas City Home & Garden, Kansas City Star, Kenosha (Wis.) Times, Kentucky Living, Lake Superior Magazine, Leader Telegram (Eau Claire, Wis.), Life Times Magazine, Long Weekends Magazine, Mabuhay (Philippine Inflight Magazine), Marco Polo,



*MTWA members take to Ohio's Little Miami River aboard rafts with Gary Morgan of Morgan's Canoe and Outdoor Centers. -Photo by Elizabeth Granger*

Marshfield (Wis.) News Herald, Mason City Globe Gazette, Mature Traveler, Meetings Media, Michigan Hunting & Fishing, Michigan Living, Midwest Gaming and Travel, Midwest Motorist, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Minnesota Monthly, Missouri Life Magazine, Mobil +, Modern Maturity, Montana Senior News, Motor Coach Magazine, MSNBC.com, National Geographic Traveler, National Motorist, National Wildlife, New Hampshire Senior Bulletin, New York Post, Nights Publications (Canada), Noblesville (Ind.) Daily Times, North American Inns, Northern Ohio Live, Now I Can Read (travel-themed series for kids), NY Times Regional Newspaper Group, Ohio Magazine, Ohio Motorist, Omaha World-Herald, Orbitz.com, Outdoor Canada, Outreach, Ozarks Maturity, Palm Beach Daily, Peoria Journal Star, Piecework Magazine, Pioneer Group Publications, Pioneer Press, Points North, Portland Oregonian, Press Gazette (Green Bay, Wis.), Providence (R.I.) Sunday Journal, Quad City Times, Rotarian, Reporter (Fond du Lac, Wis.), Restaurant Start Up & Growth, Rockford (Ill.) Register Star,

Rocky Mountain News, Rocky Mountain Sports, RV Traveler, San Antonio Express-News, Schwing Golf Magazine, Seabreeze Publications, Shape Magazine, Show Me Missouri Magazine, SoGoNow.com, Southern Traveler, South Bend Tribune, Post Dispatch (St. Louis), Star Tribune (Minneapolis), St. Louis Times, St. Paul Pioneer Press, St. Maarten Nights, St. Petersburg Times, Stevens Point (Wis.) Journal, Style Magazine, Subaru Magazine, Sunday Challenger (Northern Kentucky), The Crafts Report, The Quilter, The Peak (Hong Kong), The Plain Dealer (Cleveland), The (Nashville) Tennessean, Times of the Islands, Toronto Sun, Travel America, Travel and Entertainment, Travel Smart, Travel toWellness.com, Travel World International, Troika Magazine, Voyageur, Windy City Sports, Waukesha (Wis.) Freeman, Wausau (Wis.) Daily Herald, West Suburban Living (Milwaukee), Wine Enthusiast, Wisconsin Trails, Woman's Day, Woodalls, Woods 'n Waters

# Associate Members

*Associate Members are public relations professionals who are engaged full-time in publicity, promotion, public relations or advertising primarily in the field of travel.*

**Tracey Berry**, Communications Administrator  
Missouri Division of Tourism  
301 W. High St., Box 1055  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1055  
573-751-3438, [tracey.berry@ded.mo.gov](mailto:tracey.berry@ded.mo.gov)

**Joan Collins**, Pres., Joan Collins Publicity, Inc.  
2812 Waunona Way  
Madison, WI 53713  
608-222-2899, [jpublicity@aol.com](mailto:jpublicity@aol.com)

**Susan Dallas**, Mktg. Communications Manager  
Greater Louisville CVB  
One Riverfront Plaza  
401 W. Main St., Suite 2300  
Louisville, KY 40202  
502-560-1480, [sdallas@gotolouisville.com](mailto:sdallas@gotolouisville.com)

**Mary Ethel Emanuel**, Public Relations Director  
Nebraska Tourism Office  
301 Centennial Mall South  
PO Box 98907  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8907  
402-471-3797, [marye@visitnebraska.org](mailto:marye@visitnebraska.org)

**Beth Ervin**, Director of Communications  
Experience Columbus  
90 N. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215-3014  
614-222-6127, [BErvin@ExperienceColumbus.org](mailto:BErvin@ExperienceColumbus.org)

**Peter Fitzsimons**, Executive Director  
Petoskey-Harbor Springs-Boyne Country CVB  
401 E. Mitchell St.  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
231-348-2755, [peter@boynecountry.com](mailto:peter@boynecountry.com)

**Jean Freidl**, Owner  
Jean Freidl Communications  
9224 Duckwood Trail  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
651-493-3029, [JeanFreidl@aol.com](mailto:JeanFreidl@aol.com)

**Renee Graham**, Tourism Marketing Manager  
Columbia CVB  
300 S. Providence Road  
Columbia, MO 65203  
573-875-1231, [RYG@GoColumbiaMO.com](mailto:RYG@GoColumbiaMO.com)

**Wendy Haase**, Public Relations Manager  
Greater Milwaukee CVB  
101 W. Wisconsin Av. Suite 425  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
414-287-4254, [whaase@milwaukee.org](mailto:whaase@milwaukee.org)

**Jackie Hughes**, Communications, PR Manager  
Elkart County CVB/Northern Ind. Amish Country  
219 Caravan Dr.  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-262-8161, [jackie@amishcountry.org](mailto:jackie@amishcountry.org)

Associate member  
**Charlotte Morrison and keeper Erin White**  
get friendly with  
lorikeets at the  
**Newport Aquarium**  
in Kentucky.  
- Photo by  
**Elizabeth Granger**



**Beverly Hurley**, President  
Beverly Hurley Public Relations  
12724 Sagamore Rd.  
Leawood, KS 66209  
913-451-9023, [hurleypr@kcnnet.com](mailto:hurleypr@kcnnet.com)

**Sharon Johnson**, Public Information Officer  
Springfield CVB  
100 N. 7th St.  
Springfield, IL 62701,  
217-789-2360, [sjohnson@springfield.il.us](mailto:sjohnson@springfield.il.us)

**Steve Kappler**, Director of Communications  
The Beenders Marketing Group  
330-B E. High St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
573-636-8282, [tbg00sk@aol.com](mailto:tbg00sk@aol.com)

**Gary Knowles**, President  
Gary Knowles Marketing Communications  
487 Presidential Lane  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-231-3884, [OPENAIR@aol.com](mailto:OPENAIR@aol.com)

**Barbara Kravitz**, Director of Communications  
Grand Rapids/Kent County CVB  
171 Monroe Av., NW, Suite 700  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2694  
616-459-8287, [bkavitz@visitgrandrapids.org](mailto:bkavitz@visitgrandrapids.org)

**Charles Lennon**, Media Relations Manager  
Explore Minnesota Tourism  
1600 Metro Square, 171 7th Pl., East  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
651-297-3291, [chuck.lennon@state.mn.us](mailto:chuck.lennon@state.mn.us)

**Camie Lies**, Communications Manager  
Bismarck-Mandan CVB  
1600 Burnt Boat Dr.  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
701-222-4308, [camie@bismarckmandandvb.com](mailto:camie@bismarckmandandvb.com)

**Shawna Lode**, Public Relations Manager  
Iowa Tourism Office  
200 E. Grand Av.  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-242-4717, [shawna.lode@iowalifechanging.com](mailto:shawna.lode@iowalifechanging.com)

**Kent Love**, VP, Marketing Communications  
Greater Lansing CVB  
1223 Turner St., Suite 200  
Lansing, MI 48906  
517-487-0077, [kllove@lansing.org](mailto:kllove@lansing.org)

**Lisa Marshall**, Public Relations Manager  
Wisconsin Department of Tourism  
201 W. Washington  
Madison, WI 53708  
608-267-3773, [lmarshall@travelwisconsin.com](mailto:lmarshall@travelwisconsin.com)

**Nancy Milton**, VP, Marketing Communications  
St. Louis CVB  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 11  
St. Louis, MO 63102  
314-992-0651, [nmilton@explorestlouis.com](mailto:nmilton@explorestlouis.com)

**Charlotte Morrison**, VP, Mktg & Communications  
Quad Cities CVB  
102 S. Harrison St.  
Davenport, IA 52801  
563-322-3911, [cdoehler@visitquadcities.com](mailto:cdoehler@visitquadcities.com)

**Tom Nemacheck**, Executive Director  
Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association  
PO Box 400  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
906-774-5480, [tom@uptravel.com](mailto:tom@uptravel.com)

**Jennifer Schmitts Thomas**, Principal  
Hetrick Communications  
201 S. Capitol Av., Suite 800  
Indianapolis, IN 46225  
317-262-8080, [jen@hetcom.com](mailto:jen@hetcom.com)

**Kathleen Webster**, Vice President  
Webster's Unabridged, Inc.  
2170 N. Blackjack Road, PO Box 311  
Galena, IL 61036-0311  
815-777-2422, [websters@galenalink.com](mailto:websters@galenalink.com)

**Amy Weirick**, President  
Weirick Communications, Inc.  
7792 Olentangy River Rd., Suite F-1  
Columbus, OH 42335  
614-848-8387, [amy@weirickcommunications.com](mailto:amy@weirickcommunications.com)



# Rachael Reynolds-Soucie

Since 1955, the Mark Twain Awards have been given annually to Active members for excellence in travel writing and editing. Journalism industry veterans judge the blind competition, rating authors in: newspaper & magazine articles and series, recent meeting site articles, geographic area articles, photojournalism, books and specialty media. Each year, the Mark Twain Travel Writer of the Year Award is given to the member chosen as the best overall writer. The award for 2004 was presented to Rachael Reynolds-Soucie at MTWA's spring 2005 meeting in Cincinnati. Her three-part series on Portland and vicinity ran in the Daily Journal, Kankakee, Ill, where Rachael is Travel Editor. Excerpts follow:



Three hundred miles from New York City, off the back woods of New England, lies one of the country's undiscovered gems: **Portland**, Maine.

Nestled on a picturesque seascape, **Portland** is immersed in arts and culture, steeped in history, and inhabited by a culture-conscious public. The lobster capital of the world, **Portland** offers first-class museums, bargains at outlet stores, and of course, those famous Maine crustaceans. Add a mix of historic Federal-style buildings, fine dining, an art scene and sprawling outdoor adventure and you've got a great destination in one of the last untouched areas of the country.

After almost a week in **Portland** and its surrounding areas, I decided this was a city I could live in. If anything, a place I'd venture back to again and again. **Portland**, population 65,000, is everything you ever wanted in New England. Life is calm, salt spikes the air, and historic buildings lend an otherworldly charm. It's also everything you ever wanted in Maine, with the state's famous rocky beaches, the locals' thick East Coast accent, and hospitality you just can't beat.

...**Portland** is large enough to have that sprawling metropolitan feel, but small enough that you can tool around on foot. ...**Portland** is the largest city in the state, even though the tallest building is only 15 stories high. The tallest buildings can be found in the Old Port District, one of the most charming areas of the city. A shopping, dining and entertainment district that cradles a working waterfront, this area is home to restaurants, boutiques, galleries, and funky shops. You'll find chowder houses, coffee shops, brew pubs and exciting restaurants, which have given **Portland** the reputation of having more restaurants per capita than San Francisco.

...Lobstering comprises many people's livelihoods, and visitors like to walk along the wharfs and see the lobster traps stacked 10, sometimes 15 high. Maine hard-shell lobster, shipped all over the country, isn't such a delicacy here. It's so cheap – about \$5.99 a pound – people can afford to eat it several times a week. And they do, not just the traditional bib-and-butter way, but on a lobster roll (lump meat served on hot a dog bun, the classic Maine lunch), in creamy stew (a Christmas Eve tradition), and even steamed in seaweed (A.K.A the famous downeast lobster bake).

...Eighteen miles north of **Portland** lies Freeport – “the birthplace of Maine.” It's a quaint and curious town that has history tucked in every nook and cranny, from the 18th and 19th century homes that line the street to the town McDonald's, which is located in an old clapboard building.



Active Katherine Brown gets up close and personal with a lobster. – photo by Gary Knowles

One of the town's most beloved buildings is the Harraseeket Inn, a rambling resort in a refurbished Greek Revival mansion. The Harraseeket is steps from downtown, where you'll find a host of factory outlet stores including Banana Republic and Brooks Brothers, GAP, J. Crew and Nine West. Why, many people come to Freeport just for the bargains.

The biggest draw of them all is the L.L. Bean flagship store – where it all began 92 years ago. It has a massive collection of outdoor gear and apparel, luring some 3 million visitors a year.

...Whatever you do, don't miss a drink at the Jameson Tavern. .. The most famous historical event in the Jameson occurred on July 26, 1819, when Maine's forefathers signed its independence papers in the northeast corner of the second floor, separating it from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Since then, Freeport has enjoyed its “birthplace” moniker.

...Another 20 miles up the road in the town of Bath, you'll find a spectacular waterfront museum that explores the maritime history of Maine. This sprawling waterside center comprises 10 different buildings that detail fascinating seafaring stories told through exhibits, educational programs, narrated excursions and a historic shipyard.

When you visit Maine, it's almost a given that you'll have lobster. But a lobster bake is THE quintessential way to have a bona fide Down East dinner.

...Lobster, once poor man's food, is eaten many ways in Maine. Some people steam them; others prefer boiling. Lunchtime often calls for a lobster roll, where lump meat is piled atop a hot dog bun.

...For generations, people have fired up lobster bakes by the water, where the hard-shell sea creatures are steamed on hot coals under a canopy of fresh seaweed. They've been preparing them this way for 75 years at the Sebasco Resort, a down-home, family-friendly vacation destination that's spread out over 575 acres of coastal Maine heaven. The lodge has been catering to travelers since 1930, and in many respects you feel like you've stepped back in time to an old-fashioned summer resort. It's like a scene out of “Dirty Dancing,” where candlepin bowling, shuffleboard, and an ice cream parlor is the way of life for kids, and adults relax the day away by the saltwater pool. Peninsula hopping through the emerald green forests and along the craggy coast is a favorite off-site pastime.

...As diners sip beer that has been kept cold in big, gleaming pails, Chef Paul Smith tends to the clawed creatures. He layers coals in a shallow pit until they are red hot, then covers them with a layer of seaweed netted from the beach. The lobsters are put on top – yes, live – then blancketed with more stringy kelp before they're covered with a damp cloth tarp. The seaweed keeps the lobster moist, and the cloth creates a steamy environment for the crustaceans to cook.

...As guests sit down, they tie on a bib, grab a stack of paper napkins and a cup of drawn butter, and drool at the big, red crawfish looking up at them from their plate. Don't worry if you don't know how to pick it apart. Sebasco's staff will direct you in yanking the claws out, pulling the tail off, and prying away that nasty green “tomalley” – the liver. (Some say it's a delicacy, but I wouldn't try it.)

As a guitarist, violinist and accordion player ring out folk music, guests grab their nutcrackers and start dissecting the lobster. As they suck the tender bits from the legs, bite into the light, flaky flesh of the claws, and savor the thick, meaty tail, butter dribbles down their chins.

And they sigh. Only in Maine.

# 2004 Mark Twain Awards

The following were presented in ceremonies in Cincinnati:

## Newspaper Articles

1st place: Susan Bayer Ward, *On the Waterfront*  
2nd place: Rachael Reynolds-Soucie, *One Tank Wonders: Family Memories Don't Have to Cost a Fortune This Year*  
3rd place: Randy Mink, *Touring Two Irelands*  
Honorable Mention: Ron Dean Johnson, *Longfellow, Lobsters and Lighthouses*

## Magazine Articles

1st place: Lori Erickson, *Ontario's Sands of Time*  
2nd place: Randy Mink, *Stepping Up to the Plate in Cincinnati*  
3rd place: Sylvia Forbes, *Big Art, Small Towns*  
Honorable Mention: Barbara Gibbs Ostmann, *Home on the Range*

## Series, Newspaper or Magazine

1st place: Jackie Sheckler Finch, *St. Patrick's Day*  
2nd place: Janet Steinberg, *Luxury Goes Exploring the British Isles*  
3rd place: Jackie Sheckler Finch, *Halloween*  
Honorable Mention: Janet Podolak, *Oh, Canada*

## Recent Sites Articles

1st place: Rachael Reynolds-Soucie, *The Maine Event*  
2nd place: Rachael Reynolds-Soucie, *Love Those Lobster*  
3rd place: Carla Waldemar, *Duluth is Superior*  
Honorable Mention: Pam O'Meara, *A Taste of Wilderness*

## Geographic Area Articles

1st place: Randy Mink, *Beards, Bonnets and Buggies*  
2nd place: Ann Hattes, *Lands of Ahhhhhhs - Ohio's Hocking Hills*  
3rd place: Carla Waldemar, *Three-Day Getaway*  
Honorable Mention: Sharyn Kuneman, *Shea's 66 Museum Fills a Full Tank of Old-Fashioned Gas Station Memories*

## Photojournalism

1st place: Mike Whye, *Iron Trail*  
2nd place: Lisa Meyers McClintick, *California Coastin'*  
3rd place: Betsa Marsh, *A Frozen Foray*  
Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Granger, *Columbia, California's Gold Rush*

## Books

1st place: Doris Larson, *Great Inn Getaways From Cleveland*  
2nd place: Mike Whye, *The Great Iowa Touring Book*  
3rd place: Tim Bewer, *Moon Handbooks Minnesota*  
Honorable Mention: Kathy Witt, *Doll Directory: A Guide to US Doll Museums Collections & Hospitals*

## Specialty Media

1st place: Sharyn Kuneman, *Through the Eyes of a Civil War Soldier*  
2nd place: Jackie Sheckler Finch, *Las Vegas, New Mexico*  
3rd place: Susan Pollack, *Destination: Romance - Make Room for Love at These Sensual Hideaways*  
Honorable Mention: Mike Whye, *Nebraska: Simply Beautiful*

*This is a good group, with a blend of camaraderie and friendly competition. Over time, we build up a catalogue of each other's strengths, specialties and idiosyncrasies. Old friends become like a pair of well-worn jeans. The fit is comfortable and we know what to expect. –Active member Joanne Prime Shade*

## Previous Mark Twain Travel Writers of the Year

2003 – Jackie Sheckler Finch  
2002 – Betsa Marsh  
2001 – Jackie Sheckler Finch  
2000 – Betsa Marsh  
1999 – Ann Hattes  
1998 – Jackie Sheckler Finch  
1997 – Mike Michaelson  
1996 – Betsa Marsh  
1995 – Susan R. Pollack  
1994 – John Whitman  
1993 – Leonard R. Barnes  
1992 – Sharon Lloyd Spence  
1991 – Joy Schaleben Lewis  
1990 – Joy Schaleben Lewis

1989 – Susan Bayer Ward  
1988 – Dixie Franklin  
1987 – Leonard R. Barnes  
1986 – Frederick Karst  
1985 – Leonard R. Barnes  
1984 – Iris S. Jones  
1983 – Leonard R. Barnes  
1982 – Rick Sylvain  
1981 – Janet Steinberg  
1980 – Iris S. Jones  
1979 – Leonard R. Barnes  
1978 – Iris S. Jones  
1971-77 – No Awards  
1970 – Henry Bradshaw  
1969 – Richard Dunlop

1968 – Richard Dunlop  
1967 – Bill Hibbard  
1966 – No Award  
1965 – Leonard R. Barnes  
1964 – William J. Trepagnier  
1963 – No Award  
1962 – Lucia Lewis  
1961 – Kermit Holt  
1960 – Lucia Lewis  
1959 – William J. Trepagnier  
1958 – Paul M. McMahan  
1957 – William Yates  
1956 – Dave Roberts  
1955 – Lucia Lewis

# Fred Burns Memorial Award

*This award is given to a tourism department, travel bureau, carrier, resort, or similar travel-related service agency judged to have offered outstanding information or support to travel writers.*

**2004:** Nancy Milton, St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission  
**2003:** Jean Freidl, Jean Freidl Communications  
**2002:** Shawna Lode, Iowa Tourism  
**2001:** Mary Ethel Emanuel, Nebraska Tourism Office  
**2000:** None  
**1999:** Glynis Steadman, Griffith/Steadman & Associates, Inc.  
**1998:** Lois Smith, Greater Cincinnati CVB  
**1997:** Joe Taylor, Quad Cities CVB  
**1996:** None  
**1995:** None

**1994:** Patti Young, Delta Queen Steamboat Company  
**1993:** Patti Spaulding, Tucson CVB  
**1992:** Gil Stotler, Baltimore Area CVB  
**1991:** Eileen McMahon, St. Paul CVB  
**1990:** Kathryn Usitalo, Metropolitan Detroit CVB  
**1989:** Nicky Stratton, Springfield CVB  
**1988:** Gary Knowles, Wisconsin Department of Tourism  
**1987:** Kathryn Usitalo, Metropolitan Detroit CVB  
**1986:** Chris Dancisak, Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association

**1985:** None  
**1984:** Norman Phillip Bermes, Baton Rouge Area CVB  
**1983:** Gail Shore, Republic Airlines  
**1982:** Charles Ridgeway, Walt Disney World  
**1981:** Lois Smith, Greater Cincinnati CVB  
**1980:** Richard Newman, Richard Newman & Associates  
**1979:** W. Ray Scott, Kentucky Department of Tourism  
**1978:** Bob Helwig, Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association.

## Spotlight Award 2005 – Jean Freidl

*This award honors exceptional works by Associate members who focus attention on travel destinations, services, events, facilities, or areas. Emphasis is placed on works that rise above the ordinary, deserve notice, and have brought success to clients of the Associates.*



**2004** – Beverly Hurley  
**2003** – Wendy Haase & Beverly Hurley

**2002** – None  
**2001** – Beverly Hurley

**2000** – Julia Hertel,  
 Gary Knowles & Glynis Steadman

## Committees & Positions

*Much of the work done on behalf of MTWA takes place in committees, performed by members who volunteer their time and services.*

### Professional Development Committee

Daniel Donarski  
 Gary Knowles to September  
 Jean Freidl since September

### Sites Revision Committee

Daniel Donarski  
 Gary Knowles  
 Jean Freidl

### Member Applications Committee

Nancy Milton  
 Betsy Sheldon  
 Barc Wade

### Member Requirements Committee

Jen Schmits Thomas  
 Roberta Sotonoff  
 Peggy Ammerman Sailors to May  
 Katherine Brown since May

### Membership Recruitment Committee

Mary Lu Laffey  
 Amy Weirick  
 Diana Lambdin Meyer to October  
 Wendy Haase to November

### Nominating Committee

Steve Kappler  
 Susan Pollack  
 Alice Vollmar

### GEMmy Awards Committee

Lisa McClintick  
 Tom Reed  
 Diana Lambdin Meyer to October  
 Marge Peterson since October

### By-laws Revision Committee

Mike Whye  
 Betsa Marsh  
 Tom Nemacheck

### Technology Committee

Mary Bergin  
 Renee Graham

### Ethics Committee

Elizabeth Granger

### Sites Coordinator

Jay Black to September  
 Gary Knowles since September

### Sites Hospitality Coordinator

Mary Ethel Emanuel

### Mark Twain Award Coordinator

Shawna Lode to May  
 Susan Dallas since May

### Spotlight Award Coordinator

Gail Todd

### Fred Burns Award Coordinator

Elizabeth Granger

### Scrapbook Coordinator

Beverly Hurley

### E-News Editor

Jackie Sheckler Finch

### Yearbook Editor

Betty Stark

### Website Editor

Melanie McManus

# GEMmy Awards

*This award is given to attractions, sites, events, accommodations, restaurants, drives, walks, or excursions which are found to be travel “gems” as an exceptional travel experience.*

## 2005

A World of Accordians Museum, Superior, Wis.  
Bayfield Heritage Tours, Bayfield, Wis.

## 2004

Mandan Drug, Mandan, N.D.  
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, N.D.  
Brownsville, Neb.  
Renfro Valley, Ky.  
California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento, Calif.  
Motown Museum, Detroit, Mich.  
National Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Okla.

## 2003

Farmington Valley, Conn.  
Scala's Restaurant, Sonoma County, Calif.  
Irish National Potato Famine Museum, Strokestown, Ireland  
Foynes Flying Boat Museum, Foynes, Ireland

## 2002

Seelye Mansion, Abilene, Kan.  
Prairie Museum of Art & History, Colby, Kan.  
University of Okoboji, Iowa  
Aunt Eunice's, Huntsville, Ala  
Hotel Hacienda los Laureles, Oaxaca, Mexico  
Chocolate Mayordomo, Oaxaca, Mexico

## 2001

Fort Scott, Kan.  
Granville Island Museums, Vancouver, B.C., Canada  
The Rocky Mountaineer, B.C. & Alta., Canada  
Frederick Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, Mich.

## 2000

Beluga Interaction Program, San Antonio, Texas  
Spirits of San Antonio Tour, San Antonio, Texas  
Aerie Resort and Restaurant, Victoria, B.C., Canada  
Banff Centre, Banff, Alta., Canada  
HH Bennett Studio, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

## 1999

Strategic Air Command Museum, Ashland, Neb.  
Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison, Wis.  
Little Norway, Blue Mounds, Wis.  
The Fireside, Fort Atkinson, Wis.

## 1998

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Calif.

## 1997

Living History Farms, Urbandale, Iowa  
Bata Show Museum, Toronto, Ont., Canada  
The Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Ottawa & Canada's Capital Region, Ottawa, Ont. Canada

Steamboat Arabia Museum, Kansas City, Mo.  
Toy & Miniature Museum, Kansas City, Mo.

## 1996

Fantasy of Flight, Polk City, Fla.  
Indiana Medical History Museum, Indianapolis, Ind.  
Columbus, Indiana, Visitor Center, Columbus, Ind.

## 1995

Wilton Candy Kitchen, Wilton, Iowa  
Breitbach's Country Dining, Balltown, Iowa  
D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery, Spearfish, S.D.



The cast of "West Side Story" at The Fireside, Fort Atkinson, Wis. – photo by Gary Knowles



Members muster at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, N.D. – photo by Mike Whye

Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, S.D.  
Prairie Edge Trading Co., Rapid City, S.D.  
Reptile Gardens, Rapid City, S.D.  
Waldo County, Maine, Waldo, Maine

## 1994

EAA Air Adventure Museum, Oshkosh, Wis.  
Heritage Hill Living History Museum, Green Bay, Wis.  
Fox Cities Children's Museum, Appleton, Wis.

## 1993

Langdon Hall, Cambridge, Ont., Canada  
Southmoreland on the Plaza Inn, Kansas City, Mo.  
Hidden Valley Inn, Tucson, Ariz.  
Amerind Foundation, Dragoon, Ariz.

## 1992

Forest View Gardens, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury, Md.

# 2005 Spring Meeting

The Cincinnati meeting gave us plenty of stories about that wonderful city and the surrounding area. Here are snippets from a few...



"Batter up!" Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park – photo by Mary Bergin

## **"Boutique Streets: Hyde Park Square"** *Midwest Living Magazine*, December 2005 – **Betsa Marsh**

The clothes are the latest cuts, and the gifts reflect the newest trends, yet there's a delightfully familiar feeling to shopping in Hyde Park Square. Begun in 1896, the square is seven miles northeast of downtown Cincinnati. It boasts large homes, unique shops and creative restaurants offering French pastries, crab cakes and create-your-own pizzas. The neighborhood also is basking in \$1.25 million in lighting and sidewalk improvements....

Boutiques line both sides of Erie Avenue, making Hyde Park Square H-shape. A tiny park in the middle of the boulevard links the two sides, with additional stores capping the "H" on Edwards Road and Michigan Avenue.

## **"Special Exhibits Across U.S. Spotlight Black History Month"** *The Detroit News*, February, 2006 – **Susan Pollack**

Legend has it that a runaway slave named Tice Daniels swam for his life across the Ohio River in 1831 with his owner in hot pursuit. Upon reaching land in Ripley, Ohio, he immediately disappeared from view, prompting the frustrated slave-owner to conclude that it was as if Tice had "gone off on an underground road..."

Discovering the roots of the Underground Railroad, the fabled network of anti-slavery activists, is just one of the possibilities

awaiting travelers during Black History Month... check out "Threads of Faith" by the Women of Color Quilters Network, through Feb. 26, at Cincinnati Museum Center in Union Terminal, an Art Deco landmark with lovely mosaic murals.

Continue your tour at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center on the riverfront...

## **"Aspiring Architecture Abounds in this Hoosier Town"** *The Times* (Indiana-Illinois), Jan. 29, 2005 – **Joan Milne**

Columbus, Ind., often is called an "Architectural Showplace" because more than 50 of the town's buildings were designed by some of the world's foremost contemporary architects. In fact, the American Institute of Architects ranks Columbus sixth in the United States for the quality of the architecture, after New York, Chicago, Boston, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

## **"City Union Terminal"** *Herald-Times*, May 2005 – **Jackie Sheckler Finch**

In 1944, as many as 34,000 people were using Cincinnati Union Terminal each day — many of them leaving home for the first time during World War II. On a layover waiting for the next train, service men and women would try to grab a few winks of sleep. They would prop a cardboard sign by their chair. Red Cross volunteers could glance at the sign and know what time the

traveler needed to be awakened to catch the next train.

The terminal's rich history is shared at the Museum Center. The renovated facility houses the Cincinnati History Museum, Cinergy Children's Museum, Museum of Natural History and Science, and an Omnimax theater. The massive Art Deco terminal was built between 1929 and 1933 and, at its peak, had 216 trains daily. Restored and reopened in 1990, the terminal could easily take most of a day to enjoy...

## **"Beer Lovers Toast Hofbrauhaus"** *Life Times Magazine*, August 2005 – **Jackie Sheckler Finch**

Newport, Ky. - Folks at the Hofbrauhaus Newport have rolled out the barrel and people are having barrels of fun.

"We are the first licensed Hofbrauhaus in the United States," host Jim Egbert said. "It's fitting that it should be here. It belongs here."

Located just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, the prototypical German beer hall opened in April 2003. It is one of a few places outside Munich, Germany, where people can buy fresh Hofbrauhaus beer.



Using exhibits, programs, research and interactive experiences, Cincinnati's new National Underground Railroad Freedom Center tells the story of –and the city's role in– the famous network of safe havens for slaves escaping the South. – Photo by Mary Bergin

# Cincinnati, Ohio & Region

*“One of the top 10 cities to work, live, and play.” – Fortune Magazine*

## **“Pride in a Diverse History”**

*Noblesville Daily Times*, Noblesville, Ind., May 2005 – **Elizabeth Granger**

Festivals fill the autumn calendar, but much of Warren County, just north of Cincinnati, beckons every day of the year.

Take, for example, the Golden Lamb, the state’s oldest continuously operated restaurant. Charles Dickens belittled the eatery in 1842 because he couldn’t get a drink when he wanted one, but his criticism caused no harm – undoubtedly because he didn’t name names. The Golden Lamb did, though, naming both a dining room and a bedroom for the British curmudgeon. Now Dickens’ name is pretty much bandied about on a daily basis.

## **“Plenty of Fun at the New Ballpark”**

*Daily Herald* (Chicago suburbs), August 2005 – **Mike Michaelson**

Love him or leave him, Pete Rose is an indelible part of Cincinnati’s baseball history. To many, he remains “Charlie Hustle,” the dedicated professional who was an integral part of “The Big Red Machine” during the club’s dynasty years, ready to give up his body in a headlong dive into first base to stretch an infield hit into a single.

## **“Rafts of Fun on the Little Miami River”**

*Daily Herald* (Chicago suburbs), August 2005 – **Mike Michaelson**

Wander around London, England, and you’ll encounter an improbably large number of inns where Charles Dickens reputedly quaffed an ale or two and where the illustrious novelist laid his head. Wander around Lebanon, Ohio, and you’ll also find an inn that Dickens visited. But it is one at which he never took a drink nor stayed overnight. And thereby, as he might himself have written, hangs a tale.

## **“Historic Hospitality”**

*The Times* newspaper (Indiana-Illinois), May 6, 2005 – **Joan Milne**

Historic hotels can provide a looking glass into America’s past. Step through the doors and enter a world filled with the luxury and style of yesteryear...the nostalgic charm of a bygone era...

*Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza:*

The award-winning Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza in the heart of downtown Cincinnati was built in 1931, is listed on the



The Cincinnati Museum Center in Union Depot is an Art Deco landmark – Photo by Fred Granger

National Register of Historic Places and bills itself as “one of the world’s finest examples of French Art Deco architecture.”

**“To Market, To Market”** *Post-Bulletin* (Rochester, Minn.), February 2006 – **Bob Retzlaff**

It’s been called America’s wackiest supermarket. On the other hand, it might be better described as a theme park for shoppers. But whatever the description, an estimated 50,000 persons come through the doors of this most-famous “foodie” paradise that’s located in suburban Fairfield, Ohio, north of Cincinnati.

The place is Jungle Jim’s International Market, where the owner – Jungle Jim Bonaminio – usually is garbed in a wizard suit and scoots around his near-300,000-square-foot supermarket in roller skates.

Members pause in the Cincinnati Reds’ dugout during a VIP tour of Great American Ball Park. – a Gary Knowles photo



## **“A River Town with Lots to Offer”**

*Journal & Topics Newspapers* (Chicago suburbs, all editions), Oct. 12-17, 2005

– **Todd Wessell**

Without the River, Banjo Bob wouldn’t be strumming the chords of “Dixie” as the paddle boat River Queen gently slushes past Cincinnati’s skyline. Without the River, the seven bridges that span the Ohio wouldn’t exist.....and without the River, it’s doubtful that this city of 317,000 and region of 2 million would resemble anything like it does today, a bustling metropolis that links America’s geographic and spiritual North and South.

# 2005 Fall Meeting

*The beauty of Traverse City and northern Michigan took our breath away. Here are a few cuts from our stories so far.*

## **“Grand Hotel Remains a Lavish Retreat” Midwest Features Syndicate (Wisconsin), October, 2005 – Mary Bergin**

There’s no escaping the geraniums. They’re woven into carpeting, printed onto toiletries, planted in front of the rocking chairs outside.

There are 2,500 of the live plants, a reddish-orange bloom called Yours Truly, and they are a brilliant symbol of what is excessive and remarkable about Grand Hotel on Michigan’s Mackinac Island.

## **“Birth of a Tempest on Grand Hotel’s Porch” Peshigo (Wis.) Times – Sept. 21, 2005 – Jerry Harpt**

Rain or no rain, no one should miss the experience of the Grand Hotel at least once in his or her lifetime.....After being pampered by Jamaican waiters in the massive dining hall, we returned to the porch to relax on the white wooden rocking chairs that stretch along its length. To our delight, the Straights of Mackinac were giving birth to a storm that was heading our way.

It was a Nikon Moment for sure. Women in fine dresses and men in dinner jackets sat or stood, glasses of wine in hand, to absorb the sights of lightening and sounds of thunder approaching from the west. It was dark now and the lights on the ‘Big Mac’ spires glistened in the moisture laden mist. Occasionally the sky lit up to give us a better view of the bridge. Lights from a few pleasure boats dotted the waterscape. We spent a long time settling into our rocking chairs, not saying much, just listening, smelling, and watching.

## **“Crazy for Cherries” Noblesville (Indiana) Daily Times/Fisher’s Weekly, Sept. 24, 2005 – Elizabeth Granger**

[Cherry Republic] owner Bob Sutherland sold stones to tourists when he was a child.....when he got older and was in college, he went to a local artist who made a T-shirt for him—with a cherry tree and Bob’s motto, “Life, Liberty, Beaches and Pie.” He spent all his money on these shirts, and he had his poor brothers and friends help him sell them at the cherry festival. That lasted about 20 minutes, and they quit. So he sold them himself, for years, out of the trunk of his car.



Northern Michigan’s one and only Grand Hotel...“a lavish retreat” – photo by Mary Bergin

## **“Locked in Sandstone, Water, and History” Peshigo (Wis.) Times, Sept. 21, 2005 – Jerry Harpt**

A warning horn sounded and someone commented, “They’re closing the lower gates behind us. We hurried to the back of our Soo Locks Tours” cruise ship to watch the massive gates clamp shut. Then we were hemmed in, encrypted if you’re claustrophobic, in a multi-million year old time capsule, the Canadian Lock, on the north side of St. Mary’s River, the international boundary between Canada and Upper Michigan....

## **“Lighthouse, Northport, Michigan” Quad-City Times, Davenport, Iowa – Shirley Davis**

In Northport, Mich., there’s a lovely historic lighthouse, built in 1858, that is open to visitors through the summer and late fall, a nifty place to visit. But, here’s the unique wrinkle: Those looking for a totally original “vacation” idea can sign up to live in the lighthouse for a week or two. It’s actually more like a “working experience” than a “vacation,” but it sounds like a lot of fun!

## **“Grape Stories” Long Weekends Maga- zine, Spring/Summer 2005 – Amy Eckert**

Before beginning a tour of Michigan’s northwestern wine country, settle into the cozy B&B at Chateau Chantal, itself an

award-winning winery. Set near the northern end of Old Mission Peninsula, Chateau Chantal isn’t the most centrally located lodging in wine country, but you won’t care.....a modern European theme dominates the inn’s décor, incorporating reproductions of Impressionist masterpieces, thick down duvets and elegant tapestries.



“Life, Liberty, Beaches and Pie” – The Cherry Republic in the “pinky finger” of northern Michigan is the largest exclusive retailer of cherry products in the United States.

– photo by Don Engle

# Traverse City & Michigan

*Peninsulas chock-full of cherry orchards, vineyards, and so much more!*



Historic Fishtown in Leland, Michigan, a 140-year-old fishing village on the Leelanau Peninsula, is a powerful lure for fishermen, artists and writers.

– photo by Mary Bergin

**“Sipping and Sleeping in the Great Lakes State”** *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*, April 2005 – **Amy Eckert**

The locals laughed at the first winemaker to plant his grapes in northern Michigan. No one’s laughing today. Set on the 45th Parallel—the same line that runs through the heart of the great wine regions of France and Germany—tempered and nourished by Lake Michigan, Traverse City is home to dozens of winemakers. They’ve quieted their critics by producing the Midwest’s finest wines.

**“Take Care of Business and Pleasure on Michigan’s Slopes”** *Michigan Meetings and Events* – **Bill Semion**

Whether you enjoy “skinny skis” on cross-country trails, ripping on snowboards, or learning to cut graceful turns on downhill runs lined by pine and hardwood trees looking over some of the Midwest’s most beautiful scenery, Michigan’s ski resorts are calling....

North of Traverse City, Boyne Mountain is considered the king of Michigan’s ski areas, and is home to the largest family-owned resort system on the continent.... Boyne Mountain even has its own 5,000-foot runway, and airports at Traverse City and Pellston are also nearby. Boyne Mountain’s Civic Center can handle up to 400 for dinners and events, and Boyne Highlands can host similar-sized groups.

## **“The Faces of Michigan Boating”**

*Michigan Boating Annual*, 2005 – **Bill Semion**

What is the face of Michigan boating?

If you’ve ever owned a boat, are looking for one at a boat show this season, are thinking of looking for one, or have hitched a ride on a friend’s, you’re looking at the face of Michigan boating each time you look in the mirror.

## **“Grand Traverse Resort”**

*Midwest Features Syndicate*, Oct. 15, 2005

– **Mary Bergin**

There are four walls of windows, each with a fetching view, from lush and rolling golf courses to a curvaceous swimming pool and never-ending lakeshore. Our perch is 16 stories above ground, as a flaming orange-red sun melts into Lake Michigan.

Dinner has begun at the Trillium Restaurant, named after the plant that has three leaves, three white petals (when in bloom in spring) and three pointed sepals (leaves under the petals).

The gentle name is a contrast to the imposing Grand Traverse Resort, which houses the restaurant and 17<sup>th</sup> floor Trillium Lounge. The glistening tower is easily the tallest building for miles, surrounded by 900 resort acres that follow Lake Michigan, 6 miles northeast of Traverse City.

## **“Offbeat Entrepreneur Makes the Ordinary a Destination”** *Hometown News/Drake Publishing* groups (SW Wisconsin), November 2005 – **Betty W. Stark**

Tucked up in the pinky finger of northern Michigan’s glacier-sculpted Leelanau Peninsula, across Lake Michigan from Wisconsin’s Door County, nestles the serene little town of Glen Arbor. It’s a picture perfect summer place, graced with shaded lanes, tidy white cottages and a sheltered harbor set in the glacier-sculpted sweep of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Visitors stroll along the picturesque main street at a leisurely pace, enjoying the eclectic art galleries, upscale boutiques and small museums. And almost to a person, they stop at The Cherry Republic, the largest exclusive retailer of cherry products in the United States....

**Old Mission Peninsula on Grand Traverse Bay produces award-winning wines that rival the best of California and Europe.**  
– photo by Mary Bergin



# Spring 2004 – Portland, Maine

*Businesses in Portland's working harborfront are all marine-related. And of course, lobsters rule!.*



Members embark on a harbor cruise of Casco Bay – photo by Gary Knowles

## **“How About O’Naturals?”** *Ohio Motorist* (AAA), July 2005 – **Nancy Depke**

If you’re craving fast food, Portland has pretty much kept out the fast food chains, except for one Starbucks and a Dunkin’ Donuts. Its only fast food restaurant, so to speak, is O’Natural’s, which serves all natural salads, soups, sandwiches, pizza and baked chicken nuggets. Sandwiches are on organic bread and you have to stand in line just like McDonald’s. Washable plastic plates and real silverware are used. But they do use disposable brown paper cups.

## **“Maine Lobster Rules Aim to Sustain Crop”** *The Capital Times*, Madison, Wis., June 21, 2004 – **Mary Bergin**

Buyers from all over New England come to the Portland Fish Exchange, where fresh fish and other seafood are sold five days a week.....Nearby, the city’s oldest wharf is a testament to both the maritime work and web of commerce that has spanned generations. Union Wharf, built in 1793, continues to be where much of the catch lands, or begins.

All the businesses are marine-related. That includes Portland Trap, which builds lobster traps, and another place that sells herring as lobster bait. A new tenant,

Don Morrison, makes lobster stew here. Maine Lobster Direct also is on this wharf, shipping Morrison’s product as well as live lobsters and various seafood dinners all over the country.

“It’s a circle,” says tour guide Angela Clark.

## **“The Maine Attraction”** *Noblesville* (Indiana) *Daily Times/Fishers Weekly*, Feb. 19, 2005 – **Elizabeth Granger**

Smart businessman, that Lemuel Moody. Truly smart. In 1807 he combined his sea-faring experiences with a strong sense of entrepreneurship and created a superb money-making venture for himself.

Enter the Portland Observatory, a lighthouse-looking structure not at the shore but perched on Munjoy Hill high above this northern New England town. Moody’s maritime signal station’s principal job was communication...Using a strong telescope, he would identify incoming ships and then signal merchants below with coded signal flags.

## **“Portland, Maine”** *Quad-City Times* (Davenport, Iowa) – **Shirley Davis**

“Something’s Gotta Give” was showing on the only TV set aboard the Scotia Prince ferry, and the passengers were

watching intently in the upstairs bar as if they were in a grand movie theater. We were on an overnight ferry ride from Portland, Maine, to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and I found this mini-cruise to be a relaxing and fun “added attraction” on my recent trip to Maine.

It wasn’t really a poor man’s cruise; rather it was a high-class ferry that was trying everything possible to behave like a real cruise ship, and that made it a rather enjoyable crossing, and just folksy enough to be “different.”

## **“Old Port Feeds Appetite for Seafood and ‘Mainer’ Ambiance”** *St. Paul* (Minn.) *Pioneer Press*, May 22, 2005 – **Lisa Meyers McClintick**

Climb 103 steps up the octagonal Portland Observatory and Maine’s largest city unfurls below. Vintage neighborhoods lined with Victorian homes grab the best views on Portland’s hilly peninsula. In the middle, modest neighborhoods and a business district drop into the historic Old Port and the adjoining harbor. Working wharves hum with activity as ferries, ships and boats head into Casco Bay past hundreds of islands scattered toward the Atlantic.

This growing city of 65,000 residents reflects both its working-class fishing roots and an artsy renaissance...the personalities blend into a folksy, funky, yet fiercely local atmosphere that rewards anyone who doesn’t immediately head to coastal resort areas. Old Port, in particular, begs you to linger.

## **“Beyond Portland”** *Des Plaines* (Ill.) *Journal* chain, Oct. 6, 2004 – **Mark Shuman**

With more lobster than you can eat, a fascinating working harbor, exceptional museums and history around every cobblestoned corner, Portland, Maine, is a great home base for vacationers in search of changing leaves and solitude from the East Coast’s summer tourist...

A more leisurely Maine stay this year proved Portland also has the goods as a destination in its own right. To see the city as it works, we headed downhill to poke through the galleries and shops in the Old Port neighborhood.

# Fall 2004 – Duluth, Minnesota

*By the shores of “Gitchigumi,” Duluth and Minnesota’s arrowhead offer “Superior” travel experiences.*

## **“Birthday Party Becomes an Uplifting Experience”** *Post-Bulletin* (Rochester, Minn.), July 30, 2005 – **Bob Retzlaff**

In Duluth, they’re celebrating the birthday of a bridge!..... The city’s best-known landmark, the Ariel Lift Bridge, is celebrating its centennial this year, and the city is in the midst of a summer-long celebration to mark the event. The span is considered by many to be the most-photographed site in Minneapolis, and it once made the cover of the Saturday Evening Post.

## **“Lighthouse and Apple Festivals in Bayfield, Wisconsin”** *www.justsaygo.com* - webzine— **Ann Hattes**

Bayfield is worth a visit even when there isn’t a festival going on..... If you’re really brave, take a ghost tour. Virginia Hirsch, educator, storyteller and professional speaker, leads visitors on Ghost Walks early evenings, June through October. For her historic walks, Hirsch was awarded a GEMmy by the Midwest Travel Writers Association in 2005.

GEMmy awards help focus public attention on “the extraordinary attractions, facilities, events, tours and experiences that make travel so enriching and enjoyable...the surprises and discoveries that add an unforgettable magic to the travel experience.

## **“Museum Spotlights Accordions”** *Midwest Features Syndicate* (11 Wis. daily newspapers), Oct. 2, 2004 – **Mary Bergin**

Frankie Yankovic and Lawrence Welk would have loved this place, way up in the city of Superior, way down in the basement of a former Presbyterian church.

Here rest about 1,000 accordions, the humble and the complex, the world’s most rare models and the more commonplace. There are about 700 more of these instruments upstairs, where the altar has been converted into a professional concert stage.

## **“Edmund Fitzgerald Remembered in Sites and Song”** *Kansas City Star*, Oct. 23, 2005 – **Diana Lambdin Meyer**

It was on an eight-track tape and player where I first learned about the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald...in the 1970s Canadian folk singer Gordon Lightfoot was among my



Split Rock Lighthouse State Park’s signature beacon towers over Lake Superior – *photo by Don Engle*

eight-track collection. His biggest hit, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, tells of the November 1975 loss of the big freighter in Lake Superior near the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Lightfoot’s woebegone voice and the song’s droning rhythm capture the peril of the maritime disaster that even today relives the pain felt by all those affiliated with the shipping industry.

## **“Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness”** *Des Moines (Iowa) Register*, 2005 – **Mike Whye**

One August evening a few years ago while some friends and I were in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, we sat on some rocks overlooking a medium-sized lake not far from the Gunflint Trail, watching the moon rise in the southeast. Shortly after it cleared the distant trees, it soon fell into the earth’s shadow, turning from a bright silvery disk in the starry sky into a soft, orange-red ball, beginning a night show we could not have planned.

Then someone glanced to the northeast and gave a cry—the northern lights were at play. Huge sheets of transparent green and purple sails billowed slowly across that quadrant of the sky.

## **“Host of Christmases Past”** *AAA Living Minnesota edition* - November/December ‘05 – **Lisa Meyers McClintick**

Duluth and Red Wing....showcase their grandest historic sites during the holidays.... Duluth’s Holiday Tea Tour Sundays, Dec. 4 and 11, blends a progressive feast with an architectural tour hosted by four bed and breakfasts. They’re among the fanciest homes in a city that once claimed the most millionaires per capita in the nation. Each B & B presents live music and something different to dine on. This year’s menu features roasted turkey croissants with cranberry wild rice sauce and chocolate lava cake.

## **“Legends and Lakes”** *Highways* (Good Sam magazine), November 2005 – **Jackie Sheckler Finch**

The Edmund Fitzgerald left port on a sunny Sunday afternoon with only ripples on the lake. The largest vessel then operating on the Great Lakes, the Fitzgerald was loaded with iron ore. Anticipating bad weather, the boat’s captain, Ernest McSorley, set a course hugging the sheltered Minnesota north shore. But it was clear that the approaching storm was growing in intensity well beyond the initial forecast.

# Meetings: Past Sites

*In 2005, we were still telling the stories from Oregon in 1997 to North Dakota in 2003*



The Santa Fe School of Cooking was a favorite with members in 2001 – photo by Gary Knowles

## 2003 — Bismarck/Mandan, North Dakota “Lewis & Clark in North Dakota” *Travel America*, March 2005 – Diana Lambdin Meyer

Winter in North Dakota, by some standards, may be considered harsh, with bitter temperatures, blinding snow and unrelenting winds. However, for members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the 146 days and nights spent in North Dakota in the winter of 1804-5 were among the warmest and most enjoyable of their two year, four month journey to the Pacific Ocean and back.

Today’s travelers, too.....will find the people of North Dakota equally hospitable and a visit to their region filled with the tranquility of the northern plains.

## 2003 — Oklahoma City “Oklahoma Museum Fired Up About its Mission” *Herald Times* (Bloomington, Ind.), Sept. 18, 2005 – Jackie Sheckler Finch

When the fire alarm sounded, the horses would immediately move to a spot on the firehouse floor. Their harnesses would be dropped from the ceiling and the horses would speed away to the fire.

“Horses had to be trained from birth to pull a fire engine,” said Jim Sanders. “And they had to be large horses, because the cast iron boilers they had to pull were very heavy.”

A retired firefighter and director of the Oklahoma Firefighters Museum, Sanders is a wealth of information about the history of firefighting. The facility is the largest member-owned fire museum in the nation.

## 2002 – Sonoma County, California “Simply Sonoma”

*Thomas Guide California State Atlas* – Mary Lu Laffey

The names of the country roads in Sonoma County whisper of romance: Old River Road, Sweetwater Springs, the Bohemian Highway. These back roads link coastal villages with more sophisticated towns found inland along the expressway. They pass sprawling olive groves, and ancient forests and curve through vineyards cooled by fog in the morning, then warmed by the California sun in the afternoon. Meandering through the heart of the county is the bucolic Russian River.

The jaunt through Sonoma begins at Occidental, once a lumber camp. Near one end of the main street, a third generation of the Gonnella family operates the historic Union Hotel property as a restaurant. Recently, the family added the Union Hotel Bakery Café. Cyclists, hikers, and backpackers crave the nutritional kick of the bakery’s “power pies,” made with locally grown

organic fruit and thickened with polenta. Another specialty is saucer-sized chocolate chip chocolate oatmeal cookies. Parents love the one dollar price-tag as much as kids love the taste. So do wine devotees as this cookie is paired with area reds for wine tastings in the hotel’s saloon.

## 2002 — Oaxaca, Mexico

“Oaxaca” *Des Moines Register*, 2005 – Mike Whye

...If you’re in the Zocalo and smell chocolate in the air, be sure to follow your nose to Mayo Domo, one of the city’s chocolate factories just a few blocks away. There you can buy chocolate goodies off the shelf or have cocoa beans ground to your whim with whatever you like such as sugar, cinnamon, almonds and vanilla. Chocolate was once thought of as food of the gods and once you’re here, you’ll think you are in heaven.

...The beach that surfers love is Playa Zicatela, where the waves of the famous Mexican Pipeline—powerful hollow rollers than can build up 18 feet high—thunder as the wind whips white feathers of water off their curling green crowns. Competitions are held here, usually in April, August (the internationals) and November, and the best waves form between 10 a.m. and noon.

## 2001 – Chicago, Illinois

“Touring Chicago” *Home & Away Magazine* (AAA), 2004 – Mark Shuman

With its 77 distinct communities and immigrant residents from nearly that many nations, “Chicago is everything,” says Studs Terkel, the 91-year-old author and oral historian some would call the city’s patron saint. “Anything can happen here,” Terkel says. “Of all our cities, it’s America’s metaphor.”

“An Architectural Gem” *The Times newspapers* (Indiana-Illinois), May 20, 2005 – Joan Milne

When the great Chicago fire virtually reduced the city to smoldering ashes, architects and engineers beat a path to get in on the ground floor of the resulting building boom. Daniel Burnham, the architect and developer who created the Chicago Plan of 1909, advised, “Make no little plans – they have no magic to stir men’s blood.”

# Meetings: Past Sites

*And 15 years later, Active Lori Erickson is still telling stories from MTWA's meeting in Ireland*

## 2001 – Albuquerque NM

### “Alive and Kicking”

*Home & Away Magazine* – March/April 2005

#### – Marge Peterson

Albuquerque's first European families settled near the banks of the Rio Grande in 1706 in the area now known as Old Town, in what would later become a part of New Mexico.

Today, Old Town is a charming area of flat-roofed, adobe buildings with brick paths, hidden patios, private gardens and wrought-iron benches. Colorful arrangements of chili peppers (ristras) hanging from eaves and over windows are said to bring good luck.

The area has 25 art galleries specializing in American Indian and Southwestern art and more than 100 shops offering everything from pottery to kaleidoscopes and fetishes to hand-designed cards portraying the Southwest.

## 2000 – Vancouver, British Columbia

### “Rocky Mountaineer” *Ambassador's*

*Journey* (ATA inflight magazine), May-June 2005 – **Alice Vollmar**

Wildlife sightings brought an excited shifting of seats, creating a spirit of camaraderie on the two-day daylight Rocky Mountaineer Railtour excursion from Vancouver to Banff, along the Kicking Horse Route. Through the arched windows of the domecar, we “oohed” and “ahhed” at each new discovery, exclaiming over bighorn sheep on rocky ledges, pristine conifer-rimmed lakes and rushing rivers, white-topped mountain peaks and canyon-spanning railroad bridges.

## 2000 – Huntsville, Alabama

### “Preserving the Past: Huntsville's Celebrity Signatures” *The Quilter*, July 2001– **Diana Lambdin Meyer**

Raffling quilts for community fundraisers is nothing new, particularly when the cause is for historical preservation purposes. The hospitality and nostalgia of hand-pieced quilts naturally lends itself to such partnerships. So when the Historic Huntsville (AL) Foundation began looking at ways to raise funds to purchase an old hardware store on the city's downtown square, the members naturally looked to some of the city's quilt guilds to lead the way.



Haceta Light, Oregon's most photographed landmark, doubles as a B&B. – photo by Elizabeth Granger

## 1998 – Nashville, Tennessee

### “Hauntings Live on at the Hermitage”

*Herald Times* (Bloomington, Ind.), Oct. 2, 2005 – **Jackie Sheckler Finch**

Andrew Jackson loved his home so much that he chose to be buried there with his beloved wife, Rachel. Some say that the man known as “Old Hickory” still keeps watch over his Tennessee plantation.

“Many people don't think that he has ever truly left,” said Paula Hankins, director of sales and marketing for the Hermitage. “General Jackson had such a strong personality that I think he stayed around to watch over his home.”

## 1998 – Tampa, Florida

### “The Dolls of Lake Wales, Florida” *Dolls Magazine*, October 2005 – **Kathy Witt**

Like politics, doll collecting can make for strange bedfellows. Take the 100-plus piece collection at The Depot Museum at the Lake Wales Museum and Cultural Center in central Florida. A dignified Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy stands beside a grinning Ronald Reagan. Mohammad Ali, in full boxing regalia, poses sternly beside Pee Wee Herman in his shrunken suit. The Duke goes shoulder to shoulder with Bogie.

The collection was established in 1975 by Mimi Reid Hardman, a native of Paducah, Ky, who now resides in Lake Wales. She is founder of The Depot Museum and has been its director for the past 30 years.

## 1997 – Lane County, Oregon

### “Illuminating a Dark Tale” *Noblesville* (Indiana) *Daily Times/Fishers Weekly*, April 23, 2005 – **Elizabeth Granger**

It's one of the most photographed lighthouses in the United States. And one of the few to have become a bed-and-breakfast.

A haunted bed-and-breakfast.

The keeper's house at Heceta Light, perched high above the Pacific Ocean in Oregon's Suislaw National Forest at Devil's Elbow State Park, offers six themed rooms. Sometimes there's an extra guest.

## 1990 – Ireland

### “Heartbeat of Ireland” *Endless Vacations* – Jan./Feb. 2005 – **Lori Erickson**

If you yearn to march to the beat of a different drummer, make your way to Roundstone Musical Instruments on the west coast of Ireland 50 miles west of Galway. There in a former Franciscan monastery you'll find the workshop of Malachy Kearns, the world's foremost maker of bodhrans, or Irish drums.

In the hands of a skilled musician the bodhran produces a racing, almost throbbing sound. It is the haunting heartbeat of Ireland, pulsing today as it has for centuries on this most musical of isles.



## Hosting an MTWA meeting pays dividends for years to come.

“Hosting MTWA’s fall conference in 2005 was a delightful experience. This is a diverse group of seasoned travel writers and professionals who know their business (and each other) quite well. As a result, we found them very easy to work with, eager to explore and learn about our area, and refreshingly

adaptable. It was a bit like spending time with a big bumptious, creative family whose members seemed to enjoy our community and each other’s company in almost equal measure. We’ve already seen some very nice clips as a result of the fall conference, and we’re expecting to see many more.”

– Mike Norton, *Media Relations, Traverse City (Mich.) CVB*

Duluth was host to the Midwest Travel Writers Association for their Fall Conference September 8-12, 2004. The Visit Duluth and members of the local hospitality industry put together an outstanding itinerary for the gathering, introducing the writers to the many activities and attractions in the city. While they were out exploring, the writers were collecting information for future articles in dozens of newspaper, magazine or news service publications, providing Duluth with invaluable exposure.

Duluth has received numerous articles from the Midwest Travel Writers. Some of the featured articles included: The Daily Herald, Chicago, Hoosier Times, Indiana, St. Louis Times, Globe Gazette and Des Moines Register, Iowa, Home & Away Magazine, Association News Magazine, Interweave Magazine, Reader Weekly, Copley News Service, and articles continue to come in. More the 70 articles can be attributed to the Fall Conference 2004.

– Gene Shaw, *Director of Public Relations, Visit Duluth*

Like most other destination marketing organizations, the Greater Madison Convention Bureau looks for ways to build long term results with its advertising and promotional expenditures. One of the best investments we’ve ever made was hosting the 1999 Spring Meeting of the Midwest Travel Writers Association. It’s still rewarding us with press coverage seven years later.

were generated by MTWA members. Stories have appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the Midwest and all over the country. We’re pleased to see them appearing on the Internet as well.

We were impressed with the professionalism of MTWA members and feel the organization’s annual review process sets high standards that ensure productivity. Hosting the group takes good planning, a supportive community and dedicated staff to follow through, but it certainly brings great results.

Among the best benefits are the on-going relationships we’ve developed with some of the active writers who continue to return to cover additional stories years after the MTWA meeting ended. In fact, just this month we were pleased to see another feature article by an MTWA friend appear in a major newspaper in Chicago, our largest out-state metropolitan market.

The return on our 1999 investment has been excellent. Dozens of articles about Madison and the surrounding area

We recommend that any destination looking to build long-term media presence give serious consideration to hosting a MTWA meeting. We’re glad we did.

– Deb Archer, *President, Greater Madison (Wis.) CVB*

**To learn more about how your area can host an MTWA meeting  
please contact our sites coordinator:**

**Gary Knowles  
487 Presidential Lane  
Madison, WI 53711  
PH: 608-231-3884  
OPENAIR@aol.com**

***Announced Future Meeting Sites include:  
Seoul/Daegu/Busan, South Korea – March 28-April 1, 2006  
Perry & Central Iowa – Sept. 13-17, 2006  
Indianapolis, Indiana – May 2007  
Amarillo, Texas – June 4-8, 2008  
Macon, Georgia – March 25-29, 2009***

***Specific dates for Indianapolis and the Fall 2007 & 2008 sites had not been set at press time.***