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HOW TO CATCH LAKE ERIE'S 'NEW' WALLEYES

MICHIGAN'S BEST SUMMER FISHING TRIPS 8 FAMILY GETAWAYS

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**PROSPECTING** FOR SUMMER WALLEYES

THE NEW ROLE OF MODERN MUZZLELOADERS



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## Michigan's Best Summer Fishing Getaways

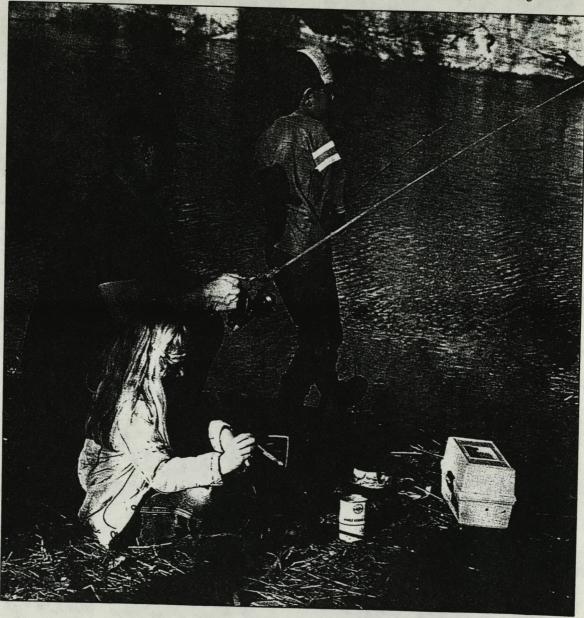
So, it's up to you to find a place to take your family on vacation this summer. These locations should make everyone happy.

by Mike Gnatkowski

If it were solely up to me to formulate a summer vacation plan, it would be pretty easy. It would revolve around fishing, fishing and more fishing. Unlike the rest of the family, if I could fish 24 hours a day,

I probably would. Planning a summer outing or getaway with the family in mind requires a little more thought, although fishing is still an integral ingredient in our family vacations.

My kids love doing battle with a feisty bluegill or perch. I've seen them perched for hours on the end of a dock, watching a worm suspended under a bobber with a gaze usually reserved only for video games.



Fishing rods are still one of the first things that get packed when we're loading up the van, but there needs to be more than just fishing once we reach our destination. A place to swim, things to see and other things to do are "musts." Fortunately, Michigan has a bunch of locales where a family fishing trip can be combined with a host of other activities. Following is a sampling of locations that should make everyone happy this summer.

## DETROIT

Heading to the big city might not seem like much of a vacation to some people, but to those who live upnorth, taking in the sights of metro Detroit presents a different kind of getaway. But just because you're heading south doesn't mean you shouldn't bring your fishing rod.

Angling opportunities on sprawling Lake St. Clair have never been better for yellow perch, smallmouth bass and muskies. The combination of clearer water and more vegetation, the result of the presence of zebra mussels. has these fish populations booming. Smallmouths topping 5 pounds, 30-pound muskies and buckets of 8- to 12-inch perch are common sights. Several reputable guides and captains on Lake St. Clair can provide a family outing for one or more species. Contact Art Ferguson III at (810) 651-1416 for smallmouths and Capt. Don Miller at (313) 429-9551 to try your hand at landing a trophy St. Clair muskie. Contact Lakeside Sport Shop at (810) 777-7003 for licenses, tackle and additional information.

There's plenty to see and do in the metro Detroit area. Greenfield Village gives visitors a glimpse of the industrial revolution and Detroit's automotive history. Other points of interest near the downtown Cultural Center include a planetarium, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Motor City Exhibit and the Institute of Arts and Science Center. The annual Detroit Grand Prix and hydroplane races are exciting events that draw thousands of spectators. For more information, call 1-800-DETROIT.