

# Minnesota Resorter

*Resorters Helping Resorters*



Spring 2009 Vol. 25 No. 2

**EDUCATION**  
Green Shoreline

**MARKETING**  
Wildlife Tourism

**LEGISLATION**  
2009 Day on the Hill



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# Minnesota Resorter

*Resorters Helping Resorters*



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## EDUCATION

**PRESIDENT'S PEN ..... PAGE 4**  
*Dana Pitt, President*

**AUTO INSURANCE... WHY DO WE NEED IT? ..... PAGE 6**  
*Anne Mullen, Mullen Insurance Agency, Fergus Falls*

**THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE CMR..... PAGE 7**  
*Cindy Pitt, Bailey's Resort*

**BUILDING GREEN ..... PAGE 8**  
*Mark Novotny, Hyde-A-Way Bay Resort*

**"GREEN" TECHNIQUE FOR SHORELINES ..... PAGE 9**  
*Dave Thompson, Fisherman's Village Resort*

## MARKETING

**MUSINGS ON THE ECONOMY AND RESORTING ..... PAGE 10**  
*Bob Bateman, Two Inlets Resort*

**THUNDER LAKE LODGE - HOW DID WE GET HERE? ..... PAGE 11**  
*Craig & Jamie Riendeau, Thunder Lake Lodge*

**BECOME A MEMBER..... PAGE 13**

**COMING SOON TO MINNESOTA-RESORTS.COM ..... PAGE 14**  
*Su Ugstad, Balsam Bay Resort*

**RESORTER RECIPES ..... PAGE 15**  
*Elaine Grove, Twin Spring Resort*

**EXPLORE MINNESOTA TOURISM CONFERENCE..... PAGE 16**  
*Nancy Loren, Little Boy Resort*

**ATTEND THE CMR SPRING WORKSHOP ..... PAGE 17**  
*Jason Ball, Cass Lake Lodge*

**WILDLIFE TOURISM AND MINNESOTA RESORTS..... PAGE 18**  
*Carrol L. Henderson, Nongame Wildlife Program Supervisor, MN DNR*

## LEGISLATION

**CMR 2009 DAY ON THE HILL ..... PAGE 20**  
*Ed Becker, Congress of Minnesota Legislative Chairman*

**CMR LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS..... PAGE 21**

**LEGISLATIVE NEWS ..... PAGE 22**  
*Joel Carlson, Lobbyist for the Congress of Minnesota Resorts*

*About the cover:*

*Photography by Troy Loren, Little Boy Resort  
Helping the ice out on Little Boy Lake!*

*The Minnesota Resorter is a quarterly publication of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts. The opinions expressed in the articles printed here-in are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions nor the official position of the CMR nor any of its officers, directors, or members. Please address any comments or inquires to the committee contact. The Minnesota Resorter is printed by Arrow Printing.*

# From Your President's Pen



**President Dana Pitt**  
**Congress of Minnesota Resorts**

Hello Resorters,

As I write this, the thermometer says 17 below and spring seems a long way off. But the calendar says spring will be here shortly and I'd better get at the projects I've been putting off all winter. Time keeps on ticking so the guests will be arriving in May whether I'm ready or not... my "vacation time" is about over. Funny how our guests think that when our

resorts are closed for the season, it must be like a 6-month vacation for us. The fact is there is plenty going on in our off-season lives – winterizing the resort, upgrades and repairs, school and community activities, construction projects, family time (maybe an actual vacation), marketing for next year, spring clean-up, and the list goes on. For those of you who have no off-season and are open year-round.....wow, I don't know how you do it. It's also during this time that we get most involved in our tourism industry activities and that, of course, includes CMR activities.

This past winter I again attended the Explore Minnesota Conference on Tourism as a representative of the CMR. There was a great turnout of CMR members at the conference, which exemplifies our organization's standing as a key player in Minnesota's tourism industry. This year's conference focused on the future of tourism in the year 2020 and beyond. Where is tourism headed and what will it look like? It was thought provoking and insightful with ideas for marketing and adapting to an ever-changing marketplace. Also included were timely sessions on tourism in today's difficult economy. As always, it was a first-class event and something you should consider attending next year. Look for other information on the conference in this issue.

In February, the CMR again launched its annual attack on St.

Paul with our Day on the Hill event. We had a fantastic assembly of dedicated resorters for the 2-day event, in spite of stormy winter weather. Pre-set meetings with dozens of legislators, including House and Senate leaders, gave us a forum to get our agenda and issues on the table and heard at the Capitol. Even Governor Pawlenty took time to meet with us and visit the "resort exhibit" we had displayed in the Great Hall. This is something the Governor rarely does, which shows the value he places on the CMR as the "go-to" organization in the resort industry. The CMR is a leader in shaping our laws for the betterment of resorts in Minnesota, and I can't stress enough how important this CMR Day on the Hill event is in getting our issues addressed. We need to stay in front of not only our area legislators, but also non-resort area legislators, to form positive relationships with them in order to garner their support. If you can do one thing to help our industry, PLEASE make every effort to attend this event next year.

In other CMR areas of activity, committees are presently working on many projects for your benefit. The CMR's website has become a great marketing piece and updates are continually being developed. An aggressive marketing campaign, including television, remains a key in driving more visitors to our site and ultimately to your individual sites. The educational aspect of the CMR is always a top priority too, as School of Resorting classes and a great Spring Workshop are on the agenda this spring. These are only some of the highlights of what's happening in the CMR, so make sure you read through this issue of the Minnesota Resorter to find out more information.

The future is uncertain and the economy looks like it will continue to struggle at least in the coming months. This makes it even more important that we all stick together and help each other through these trying times. As members and even non-members, all resorts benefit from the dedicated efforts of CMR volunteers. It is "Resorters Helping Resorters" at its finest. If you are not a member, please consider joining the CMR today and become part of the team. And thank you to all who are contributing to the success of resorts.

We've come through a busy off-season and face more hectic times ahead, as life in the resorting business is in constant flux. I'll be glad when our resort's season opens again – then maybe I'll be able to relax a bit. Have a great season!

***Submit your nomination for***  
***2009 Resorters of the Year!***  
**Know any fantastic Resorters? Let us know!**  
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***See Page 14 for more details.***



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# EDUCATION

## Auto Insurance... Why do we need it?

By Anne Mullen, Mullen Insurance Agency, Fergus Falls

There are numerous ways to purchase auto insurance these days. You can choose from hundreds of websites on the internet, you can call an 800 number and go directly to the insurance carrier, you can buy it at your bank, or you can call your favorite insurance agent.

How do these companies differentiate themselves? By superior service when you have a claim, ease of doing business, or frequently...on price. Auto insurance is not just a commodity, you are buying it to protect yourself financially...and the choice you make could have lifelong implications.

Talking about price...no company offers the lowest price for every driver in every location...no company is the lowest for everybody! Beware that companies will sometimes come in with low prices to build a book of business, and then gradually raise their prices. Companies also have to raise their prices due to losses and other factors, such as population areas and appetite of each company.

Remember ... "you get what you pay for". The cheapest option may not give you and your family the protection you need. When bad things happen, you don't want to find out that you have inadequate protection.

**Auto insurance policies actually have six different coverages as follows:**

1. **Bodily Injury Liability** - Covers the medical expenses of those people injured in an accident that you cause.
2. **Property Damage Liability** - Covers the damage your car causes to property - keep in mind the cost of a new vehicle these days when you are selecting the limit!
3. **Collision** - Covers damage to your car when involved in a collision with another vehicle (your fault). You might choose to gamble a little on your own driving abilities and save premium dollars by increasing your deductible.
4. **Comprehensive** - Covers damage to your car from something other than a collision. Some covered examples are deer hit, hail damage, lightning, vandalism, theft and fire.
5. **Personal Injury Protection** (also called "no fault protection") - Covers your medical and non-medical expenses as a result of injury caused by a vehicle. This includes wages lost due to your injury, medical treatment, hiring services to do things you are unable to do such as housework. Some people may not realize this coverage also protects you if you're injured in loading or unloading a vehicle, not just in case of a collision. In Minnesota, ask your agent about "stacking" the limits if you have more than one vehicle.
6. **Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists** - Covers expenses for injuries to you if you are injured by someone without insurance or without enough insurance...My recommendation is always have this limit as high as your bodily injury limit, because you want to protect yourself as well as anyone else! You based your liability limits on what you have to lose; you should do the same with this coverage. Some agents will lower this limit in order to make the sale, but it is not in your best interest.

There are additional coverages you can buy, such as towing and rental reimbursement and with a newer vehicle, some companies offer loan/lease coverage for vehicles that are not paid off. A brief description of these coverages follows:

Replacement cost coverage - This optional coverage protects your

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investment in a new car if accident results in repair costs exceeding the actual cash value of your car. New cars today are expensive. They also depreciate rapidly. After an accident, traditional auto policies pay based on a car's actual cash value, which is the original purchase price minus depreciation, or the book value of the car at the time of the accident. But this coverage option works differently. Losses are paid without considering depreciation in the value of the car.

Auto Loan/Lease Coverage - Coverage for the difference between the outstanding balance on a loan/lease agreement and the actual cash value of the vehicle.

Towing and Labor - Towing and labor costs coverage is usually a car insurance policy add-on offered by car insurance companies. It covers the costs you incur by having your car towed or having your car worked on by the side of the road. It does not matter whether or not your need for towing or labor was caused by an accident. Towing and labor does not cover the cost of any parts necessary to get your car up and running again, just the labor for installation.

There may be additional coverages offered by each insurance company, for example, we have a company that also offers trip interruption coverage which would cover your lodging expenses if you have a covered loss while traveling.

I encourage my clients to ask questions if they have concerns regarding what may or may not be covered. I feel it is in both the agent's and the client's best interests to determine the answers to those questions before the claim happens. This is one of the advantages of having an agent that you can contact. It is an important part of our job as insurance agents to educate and inform the public. Feel free to contact my agency at any time if we can be of service. I am always happy to find a solution!



## The Founding Fathers of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts

By Cindy Pitt, Bailey's Resort

*In late 1984, Bill Koch (Shorecrest Resort), along with Chick Knight (Pinehurst Resort), Alan Gunsbury (Quarterdeck Resort) and Bob Graham (Broken Horn Resort) felt the need to create an educational program that would focus on the small-resort industry. With that premise, they formed the "Congress of Minnesota Resorts" in 1985. During those first years, they spent countless hours traveling all over Minnesota to provide educational material to resorts. They started the original CMR newsletter known as the Congressional Log and were determined to provide this newsletter to all resorts. Funding this newsletter was costly, so they decided to have a membership drive in order to support the financial end of this endeavor. They were also the originators of the CMR resorters' "Cracker-barrel" that has been so informative to so many resorters over the years!*

*This is the second in a series of articles on the founders.*

### Chick & Norma Knight – Pinehurst Lodge on Lake Benedict



Chick and Norma came from Lincoln, Nebraska, where Chick was involved in his family-owned banking business. For relaxation, they spent their summer vacations in Minnesota at their family cabin. When the Knight family made the decision in the mid-1970's to sell their bank in Nebraska, Chick and Norma decided that it was time to make a life-change of their own. The Knights, along with their two teenage sons, purchased Pinehurst Lodge on Lake Benedict near Walker and began a new chapter in their lives. Their two oldest sons had already settled into their own lives in Nebraska and didn't make the move to Minnesota.

Pinehurst Lodge had 9 cabins when they purchased the resort in 1975. Located on quiet Lake Benedict, which is connected to Leech Lake, the resort was just what they were looking for. Years later they added a townhouse on the property that could be utilized as either one large cabin or two separate units. In the late 1970's, the family purchased another resort called Mounds Resort on Leech Lake and operated that for approximately four years in addition to operating Pinehurst Lodge. They later sold Mounds Resort as individual lakeshore lots, but continued

operating Pinehurst Lodge. In 1985, they made a decision to change the business model of the resort by selling the cabins to private owners and eventually changed the name to Pinehurst Acres Homeowners Association. In addition to owning and operating their resort, Chick also sold real estate in the Walker area.

Currently, Pinehurst Acres is still operated by Chick and Norma and their youngest son, Tom, along with his wife Patty and family. The main focus of their activities has now shifted to property management, including maintenance of docks, grounds keeping and beach maintenance. They have sold the majority of their cabins to private ownership with the exception of two remaining cabins that they continue to rent out.

Chick and Norma stayed active in the CMR for many years after its inception and still keep tabs on the organization. And after 34 years at Pinehurst, they are busy as ever. Chick continues to serve on the Board of Adjustments for Hubbard County, and Norma has become a serious quilter. They also can be found at various school functions cheering for their grandchildren who attend Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Schools.

Thank you, Chick and Norma, for your vision and dedication in starting the CMR!

## Campfire Recipes

*Share these tasty treat ideas with your guests!*



### Biscuit on a Stick

Use the thick end of a cooking stick, wrap a refridgerated biscuit around the end, making sure it is flattened and sealed- cook over flames until golden brown. Carefully slide off end of stick and fill with ingredients of your choice, like butter, jelly, peanut butter, even a sausage link!



### Camp-out Meals

On a sheet of heavy duty foil (one per person) place a large cabbage leaf. Layer the following ingredients inside: thinly sliced potatoes, carrots and onion, and crumbled hamburger. Season to taste. Wrap foil around your meal and place in campfire coals. Time varies depending on temperature of coals, check after 25 minutes, continue cooking until hamburger is no longer pink and vegetables are tender.

*Have a great campfire recipe you'd love to share?*

*Submit it to Sue Paradeis at:*

*[vacation@shingwako.com](mailto:vacation@shingwako.com) or 218-232-0255*

# EDUCATION

## Building Green

By Mark Novotny, Hyde-A-Way Bay Resort

Have you considered building green with your next project? Check out SIPS. SIPS stands for Structural Insulated Panels. These panels are built to size and are very energy efficient. Here is a project that I am completing this spring with SIPS panels.



As you can see, the panels are numbered, and the small holes in the edges are electrical chases. They are constructed with OSB on both sides, enclosing recycled EPS (expanded polystyrene) insulation. This construction has a higher insulation R-value than stickbuilt homes. Most stickbuilt homes have a 19 insulation R-value, with SIPS, you have a 25.5 insulation R-value giving you a 25% increase in insulation on a 6" wall.

Also, the panels come pre-cut for windows and doors. You specify where you want the windows and doors and give them the rough openings. The structure is complete.

I am building two cabins with these panels. It took two men less than three days to put up all the walls, reducing time and waste of lumber material.



The panels are glued and nailed together at the seams and sills. After the windows are in, all of the seams are taped giving you a tight seal once the project is completed.

### I used the panels for several reasons.

1. Quick to put up, saving construction time.
2. Less building material waste than stickbuilt homes.
3. Higher R-value, saving energy costs.
4. Expansion foam made from recycled material.

If you are interested, check it out on the internet. I found two companies that are close geographically. Enercept, Inc. is in Watertown, SD and their website is [www.enercept.com](http://www.enercept.com) and Extreme Panel Technologies, Inc. is in Cottonwood, MN and their website is [www.extremepanel.com](http://www.extremepanel.com).

If you have any questions, call me! Mark Novotny at Hyde-A-Way Bay Resort near Hackensack, 218-675-6683.

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## “Green” Technique for Shorelines

By Dave Thompson, Fisherman’s Village Resort



*Natural Lakescapes clean storm water run-off and provide valuable wildlife and aquatic habitat.*

It is more important than ever before that we become better stewards of our lakes and shoreland areas. Maintaining our shorelines as “green shores” is very important. As good stewards we can use methods to eliminate invasive plants in the water and on the shoreline that will not damage the lake’s ecosystem.

Even though I restored my shoreline with native plantings, invasive plants came with the new soil we brought in to re-slope the shoreline. With the help of my Habitat Specialist, Lindy Ekola, we used Rodeo Herbicide to kill plants like Sweet Clover, Canadian Thistle and Reed Canary Grass. Rodeo is the environmentally friendly version of Round-up that most of us are familiar with for use as a plant killer. However, Rodeo is normally only available in large quantities like a 2.5-gallon container; but in my case, Rodeo worked best because I needed larger quantities to use over the project area for several years. I mixed this in a backpack spot sprayer at 2 oz per gallon. Since it is quite expensive and available in large quantities, it does become costly unless you need to cover very large areas. In this instance it might be a good idea to get together with neighboring resorts and split it up.

A generic Rodeo (the type that is safe around water), called Eraser AQ, is available in quart size at approximately \$31/quart. It can be purchased at the Country Store in Perham. I found this information from Steve Henry who is the East Otter Tail Soil and Water District Technician.

### ***Some advice from Lindy Ekola, MN DNR Shoreland Habitat Specialist:***

Within the Shoreland Habitat Program (SHP), we instruct grantees to use Rodeo anytime they are using herbicides within 10 feet of a body of water, and we follow this guideline ourselves. When preparing a site for planting, I will start spraying Rodeo (or an equivalent aquatic glyphosate herbicide) from the lake side of the project, then work my way up and away from the water. We also may use a surfactant, Preference being the name of one. (Surfactants are additives that can help make an herbicide more effective.)

The difference between Roundup and Rodeo is that Roundup has a surfactant in it that does not dissolve in water. The surfactant is oily and could attach to fish gills and kill them. The Rodeo does not have surfac-

tant in it so it disperses in water and becomes harmless.

I know one of the most important things to do when working with herbicides (Rodeo, Round-up or any other herbicide) is to read and follow the label/material safety data sheet (MSDS) for a specific product.



*Rodeo Application by DNR Staff - you can add dye to aid in knowing where you have sprayed herbicide.*

On the Minnesota DNR website, [dnr.state.mn.us](http://dnr.state.mn.us), you can find information that deals with aquatic plant management, herbicide use, and invasive species. On the aquatic plant management page, there is contact information for Steve Enger, Aquatic Plant Management Coordinator, MN DNR, if you have questions and would like to ask an expert.

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## Musings on the Economy and Resorting

By Bob Bateman, Two Inlets Resort

Hello, fellow resorters, I hope this article finds you all well and charged up for another season in the greatest business in the world. As I sit here and write this, I can easily say that these are the most challenging times we have faced as small business owners. However, as we approach our 12th season in the resort business, I feel fortunate to be self-employed in Minnesota tourism. I am not really sure what my purpose is in writing this other than

---

*So keep your chin up and be glad that you are in a business you love, a business where you have some control over what will happen tomorrow.*

---

to share my thoughts with you regarding the economy and how it relates to our business and maybe tell you how it has changed my thinking. I guess, my hope is to show you there are positives that can come out of all of this. And if that isn't enough, Jen told me to write an article for the *Resorter*.

One thing I love about this business is that we get a snapshot of what the future holds because of advance reservations and deposits. At this point, from our reservations and deposits I see no reason to be alarmed about our business for the upcoming year. However, as I read and watch the media and markets, I can't help but think before it is over we will be affected to some degree. As a result of this paranoia, for the first time in 12 years, I have started to think about who our guests are. What do

they do? Will they still have a job? Is a vacation at Two Inlets important enough that they are willing to budget for it while they cut something else like cable TV or eating out or trimming down their cell phone bill?

I have to admit that after being in the resort business for 12 years I take a lot of things for granted. I always assume that our cabins are going to fill up. If we build a new cabin, it will rent 10 weeks or more the first season, and we will pay the loan off with no worries. The phone will always keep ringing. Guests will always have a great time here. There are people standing in line to take a northern MN lake vacation, aren't there? In other words, to put it in business terms, I have become somewhat fat and happy and probably a bit complacent, too. Now I am not saying that I am going to start staying awake at night worrying about things I can't control, but what I am saying is that this whole economic situation has raised an awareness that I could be doing more to control the potential impact this may have on our business.

**Advertising** - I have not given a lot of thought to advertising in 12 years. It always seems that no matter what advertising we do we draw the same amount of business. No more, no less, but a good year. I have begun to think about marketing more in hopes of getting positioned for tough economic times and the impact it may have. Our website was 11 years old. Jen has done a great job having it redesigned, and it will roll out in a week or so. I have started to think about targeting specific markets which may not be impacted as much by the downturn in the economy like others. A prime example is North Dakota. North Dakota's largest population center is just 90 miles away from us, and they are recruiting employees to move there because they have excess jobs and not enough people to fill them. North Dakota's unemployment rate is currently 3.5% as compared to 7.6% in Minnesota. We have things to offer North Dakotans that they don't have, so let's try to get them here for a vacation. Another thought is to come up with a vacation bailout program where we offer special rates for open-

ings we have. Many families have money but are just apprehensive about spending it, however, if they feel like they are getting a deal, they may not be able to resist.

**Service** - I find myself paying much more attention to the reservation inquiries we get on the phone. Jen answers most of them and does a fantastic job, but I find when I answer the phone and someone is inquiring about availability I just want to reach through the phone and hug them and thank them for still taking a vacation amidst the turmoil that goes on around us. I want to tell them that we will do everything in our power to make this the best vacation they have ever had. I feel honored that they are choosing to spend a substantial amount of money with us. I can already tell you I will be much more focused on service this year. I am not saying that I was bad before, but you know in your heart of hearts you could always do more. I know the first few years I worked a lot harder at it, to the point where it was almost over the top, and this summer I will be back at it to do everything I can to make sure my guests come back.

I guess, the point of all of this is that I am realizing in my advanced age and decreasing wisdom that it takes 182 or more families for us to continue to be a successful business, and I appreciate every one of them and will try not to take them for granted ever again. They have allowed us to do what we have done for the last 12 years and hope to do for a few more, and I am grateful for that. The fact that the phone is still ringing and people are still making the annual trek to the lake this summer also speaks volumes about the importance people place on the service that we provide. So keep your chin up and be glad that you are in a business you love, a business where you have some control over what will happen tomorrow. You can rest assured there will not be a pink slip on your desk tomorrow morning.



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**Thunder Lake Lodge - How did we get here?**

Craig & Jamie Riendeau, Thunder Lake Lodge

If you would have told us 3 years ago that we would be resorting today, we would have laughed at you.

In the spring of 2007, I was coaching college football and my wife was teaching in Grand Forks, North Dakota when we decided to look in another career direction. Enter Bob & Jennifer Bateman, a great resorting family in Park Rapids, MN who own Two Inlets Resort on Two Inlets Lake. They needed a summer manager to assist them in running their resort operations. It was only supposed to be a summer gig. We applied and interviewed, they hired us, and the rest is history. After an improbable chain of fortunate events, today we are co-owners and operators of Thunder Lake Lodge in Remer, MN. We just finished our first full calendar year at the resort as of March 1st. The first year went great and we hope for many more just like it. I am a full-time resorter year round, while my wife Jamie still teaches special education in Grand Rapids during the school year.



*Craig & Jaime Riendeau, Thunder Lake Lodge*

There is absolutely no way we could be here today without the help and guidance of the Bateman family. We are forever grateful for the opportunity. Thanks, Bob and Jennifer.

**Welcome New Members & Associate Member!**

***New Members***

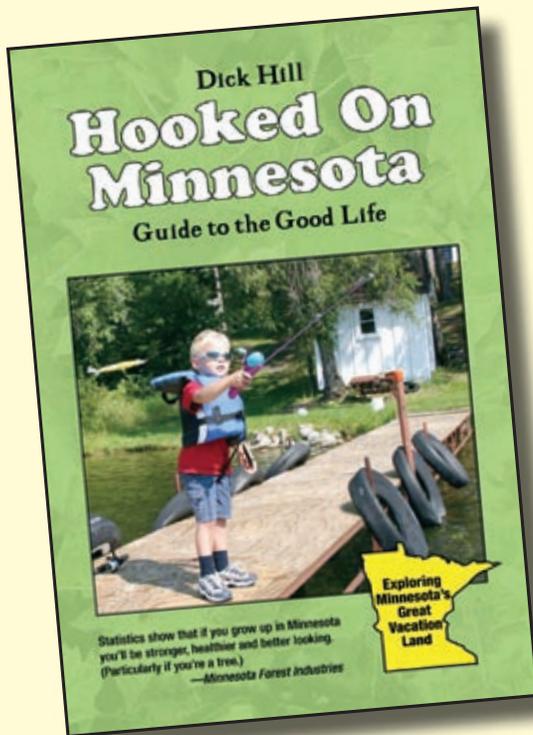
- Darv Oelke, *Bowstring Shores Resort, Deer River*
- Karl Dyre Family, *Evergreen Lodge, Park Rapids*
- John Metsa & Carol Carlson, *Grey Wolf Lodge, Orr*
- Gary & Janet Christiansen, *Idylwyld Cottages, Bemidji*

***New Associate Members***

- Joel Halvorson & Linda Bosma, *Rake, IA*

*None of us are as smart as all of us.  
Thank you for joining the Congress of Minnesota  
Resorts and sharing your knowledge!*

**Hooked On Minnesota**



*"A book as big as Paul Bunyan's smile."  
—Visit Bemidji*

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Ultimate Souvenir  
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# THE CONGRESS OF MINNESOTA RESORTS



## What the CMR Can Do for You!



## MARKETING



Your resort is listed on our website [www.Minnesota-Resorts.com](http://www.Minnesota-Resorts.com).



Our site is professionally marketed through links, banners and extensive search engine optimization.

## LEGISLATION



Full-time lobbyist working for the interests of RESORTS ONLY!



Day on the Hill- Make your voice heard in St. Paul.



Stay informed on legislative issues that affect our industry.



## EDUCATION



Fall Conferences and Spring Workshops - informative sessions and networking with other resorters.



School of Resorting educational classes.



Yahoo Groups - online resort chat room.



Members only online resources on our website.

PLUS- Vendor Discounts to CMR Members • Educational Scholarships • "Resorters of the Year" Award • And Much More!

## Resorters Helping Resorters - Since 1985

*None of us is as smart  
as all of us.*

Be it successes or trials -  
We've been there and  
done that and want to  
share it with you.

The Congress of  
Minnesota Resorts exists  
to help family owned  
and operated resorts in  
Minnesota to continue as  
a viable segment of the  
Minnesota tourism  
industry.

*"I always scope out the groups  
that work best for the resorts and  
found that the CMR is a great  
organization. I didn't want to jump  
the gun on it, so I took time to  
figure it out, liked what I found  
and that's why I joined."*

*Joe Scharber  
Sleeping Fawn Resort & Campground  
Park Rapids, MN*

## JOIN THE CMR - YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Your membership in the Congress of Minnesota Resorts (CMR) is a good investment for both you and your resort business. Join in the organization's philosophy of "Resorters Helping Resorters." So many benefits await you! Fill out the membership application today, and become a member of a unique association of resorters, run by resorters, for resorters. Our focus is very clear!

Resort Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lake \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Years in resorting \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ No. of rental units \_\_\_\_\_ No. of bedrooms \_\_\_\_\_

Resort E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Resort Website Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership investment is only \$14.30 per bedroom (Min., 10 bedrooms or less, \$143, max. \$757.)

Membership rates good through Aug. 31, 2009.

Amount of check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please Circle.....New.....Renewal



Send to: Congress of Minnesota Resorts  
21403 52nd Street NE  
New London, MN 56273

*Questions regarding Membership?*

*Contact Vicky at [CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com](mailto:CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com) or 888-761-4245*

## Coming Soon To Minnesota-Resorts.com

By Su Ugstad, Balsam Bay Resort

Work continues with the marketing committee and website designers on new features and layouts to be added to the CMR website.

Let's face it, a website should always be a "work in progress" because we need to be constantly looking for ways to freshen up or improve upon what we have, in order to continue to attract and retain visitors to our site(s).

Our goals for the Advanced Search page are to increase its user friendliness while enhancing the search functions. We first made a change to the page layout by moving the state map to fit the screen to eliminate the need to scroll down to select a desired region. Next, we provided amenity choices that give the visitor faster search options. So again they're more likely to continue to use the various search parameters because of the ease of finding their selections without scrolling through exhaustive lists. In turn, these easy 'check boxes' will be available for resort members to quickly update their resort amenity listing. Even if you don't write any descriptive text (but we hope that you do), visitors will still find you! A new check box was also added so the visitor can view resorts open for winter business, similar to what is currently done with resorts offering specials.

Another new feature is a system for collecting visitor email addresses that will enable us to build a database for future marketing campaigns such as newsletters, "specials," alerts and other E-blasts.

A couple of new links have already been added to the Activities & Attractions page, and we're working on a more regional break-down so that your future guests can find the fun things to do and see near your resort.

The launch date for these changes to go live on the website will be posted in the next *Resorter Reporter*, along with a date when you'll be able to update your resort listing with the amenities. In the meantime, check into the website frequently for updates on the Spring Workshop, vendor specials, and much more!

Members, don't forget you can also access the CMR By-Laws, the DNR Shoreland Rules draft, past *Minnesota Resorter* and *Resorter Reporter* publications and other helpful resources all posted on the website.



## Submit Your Nominations for Resorters of the Year

Congress of Minnesota Resorts Members,

The Resorters of the Year award is given annually to a resort that exemplifies the spirit and goals of the CMR. The criteria centers around the operation of a successful and progressive business, service to the tourism industry both at the local and state levels, and community service in other areas. Mentoring and helping other resort owners and membership in the CMR are also part of the requirements. Nominations for the award are generated entirely by CMR members, and the whole program is dependent upon the time and effort you give in order to recognize excellence. We encourage you to participate through nominations of Resorters you feel uphold the highest standards and are dedicated to service within our industry.

### Here are the guidelines:

The Congress of Minnesota Resorts selects, through nomination by its members, one resort and resorter(s) that have shown a dedication to the improvement of the Minnesota resort industry by adopting and carrying out business policies and practices that reflect a personal pride in the industry as a whole. They also live up to the organization's motto of "Resorters Helping Resorters" by involvement in community activities and by displaying a willingness to help other resort owners to successfully operate Minnesota resorts.

To this end, any member of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts can submit a nomination for this prestigious award. Nominations must be received by June 1st each year. The nominating member is not required to verify the eligibility criteria. In the event none of the resorts nominated meet all the eligibility requirements, the awards committee will make a selection based on the resort most closely meeting the criteria and notify the winner. The winner will be asked to be present at the annual Congress of Minnesota Resorts Fall Conference where the formal announcement and presentation will be made.

### The following criteria are considered by the awards committee in making their selection:

- CMR member in good standing for the previous three consecutive years under the same ownership.
- Ability to maintain a successful and progressive resort.
- History of helping and mentoring other resort owners/operators.
- Involvement in community activities.
- At least five years between awards.
- Not a current member of the Awards Committee.

### NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1ST

### Send nomination form to:

Resorters of the Year Nomination Committee  
Congress of Minnesota Resorts  
21403 52nd Street NE  
New London, MN 56273



**Soup Recipes**

**Grand Champion Chicken Tortilla Soup**

**Sauté in pot:**

- 3 tablespoons oil
- 1 finely minced yellow onion
- 2 minced garlic cloves

**Add to pot:**

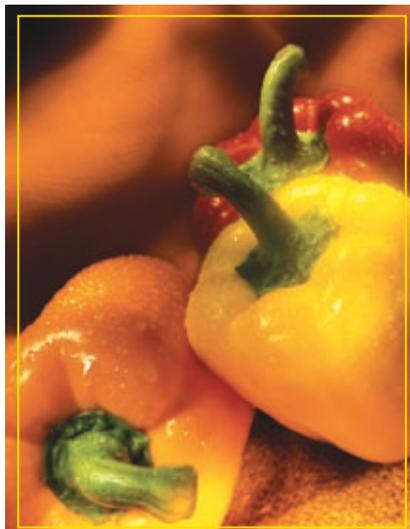
- 4 oz. chopped chilies
  - 15 oz. can Italian crushed tomatoes
  - 3 cups chicken broth
  - 1 cup beef broth
  - 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
  - 1 teaspoon cumin
  - 1 teaspoon chili powder
  - ½ teaspoon hot sauce
- Cook all for 15 minutes.



Mix 4 tablespoons flour and ½ cup water and whisk into soup. Add 1 pound of shredded chicken and simmer for 5 minutes. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and garnish with tortilla strips and chunked avocados.

**Beggars Chowder**

- ¼ cup flour
- 1 tablespoon garlic salt
- 1 tablespoon coarse ground pepper
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon sweet paprika
- 1 bag boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 red bell pepper, finely diced
- 1 green bell pepper, finely diced
- 1 yellow onion, finely diced
- 2 cans cream corn
- 1 can undiluted chicken broth
- 1 can diced tomatoes



- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- 1 pound sliced mushrooms
- 2 cups whipping cream
- fresh cilantro

Put everything into the crock-pot except the cream, mushrooms and cilantro. Cook on high 5 hours, then break up chicken with 2 forks and add the remaining ingredients (except cilantro). Cook for another 30 minutes. Option: add cilantro on top before service.

**Best Baked Potato Soup**

4 to 6 baked Russet potatoes, bake and cool, then cut into small pieces.

- 2/3 cup butter
- 2/3 cup flour

Make a roux with melted butter and flour, when mixed add: 6 cups milk and cook slowly until mixture thickens.

**Add:**

- ¾ teaspoon salt
  - ½ teaspoon white pepper
  - 4 chopped green onions
  - 2 strips of bacon, cooked and crumbled
  - 1 ¼ cups shredded Jack cheese and Colby cheese
- Cook until heated through, then add 8 oz. sour cream, stir well and serve.



**Hamburger Stew**

- 1 ½ pound lean hamburger
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 peeled and cubed Russet potatoes
- 1 cup carrots, julienne
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- ½ cup sliced celery
- 2 cups frozen corn
- 1 small bay leaf, crushed
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- ¼ teaspoon basil
- 4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder



Brown the hamburger lightly with the onions, add the remaining ingredients and let simmer all day. The flavor enhances as you simmer.



**HAVE A  
RECIPE  
YOU'D LOVE TO SHARE?**

CONTACT SUE PARADEIS AT:  
[VACATION@SHINGWAKO.COM](mailto:VACATION@SHINGWAKO.COM)  
 OR 218-232-0255

## Explore Minnesota Tourism Conference

By Nancy Loren, Little Boy Resort

On January 27 – 29, 2009, the Explore Minnesota Tourism Conference was held at the Northland Inn in Minneapolis.

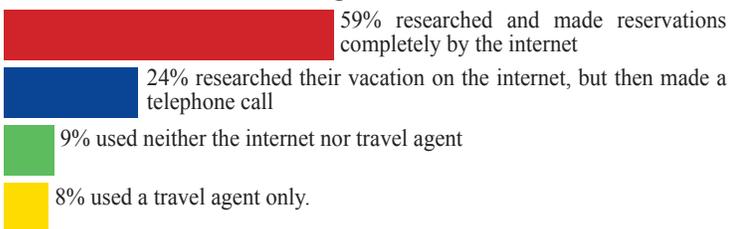
My husband, Troy, and I attended our first Tourism Conference. Even after four years of resorting, we feel we are still “new” in the resort business, so any information that we can add to our bank of resorting knowledge is always good. We really enjoyed the whole conference, which had the theme “2020 Vision – Creating Tourism for Tomorrow.” Many good topics were presented: Emerging Lifestyles and Travel Trends, The State of the Economy in Minnesota, Roadside Advertising in a Digital World, Online Advertising Trends, to name a few, and Jeffrey Hamiel spoke on the Metropolitan Airport situation with Northwest and Southwest.

Troy was very interested in the web guru. He made me get out on Twitter right away. (Twitter is a social networking and micro-blogging service.) That was interesting, and we have some followers. Mr. Andrew Ecklund from Ciceron overwhelmed us with information on ways to use our website as a marketing tool and with the availability of web advertising activities.

As for me, I was into the statistics of the economy and how it will affect us this year and the years to come. The speakers gave a preview of emerging lifestyles and travel trends for those planning a vacation. They went on to explain how tourists plan their vacations and how it has changed dramatically.

In 1996, 11% used the internet to plan. In 2008, 70% used the internet. Because of this shift in how tourists find their destination, not only resorts, but also many businesses need to change with the times.

### Breakdown of that 70% using internet:



The most important features of vacation research are to (1) check prices and (2) look at photos. The speakers made it clear that when using the internet to advertise, you need to display the prices and photos prominently so that



*Jack & Sherry Frost, 2008 CMR Resorters of the Year being recognized at the EMT Conference by CMR President Dana Pitt*

they are easy to find and pleasing to look at. The internet research shows that 48% of Americans spend one hour or more on the internet every day. 54% are between 30-49 years of age, and 23% are 65 years of age or older.

What do vacationers want? Here are the expectations as presented at the conference: (1) 38% want customized, personalized vacation, (2) 71% of parents wish they could spend more time as a family, (3) 65% of parents want to be able to sit and talk with their children, (4) 52% want to take their kids on vacation while out of school for the summer.

There is a trend toward “Multigenerational” travelers. That is, 38% or about 4 out of 10 travelers are grandparents, and 2% or about 3 out of 10 grandparents took grandkids on their vacations.

Why are people taking vacations? The data shows that, (1) 70% are taking a vacation for a special occasion and are planning in advance, (2) 66% are looking for something new and, (3) 70% are planning a “stress relief” vacation to get away within the next six months.

The conference ended with the group taking an electronic questionnaire on the tourism industry and what we feel are the most valued expectations of tourists as a whole. Explore MN will take the results, along with a conference rating sheet, to use as a future reference in creating advertising and website changes to benefit the tourism industry for the future.



*CMR members attending the EMT conference. John Edman, EMT, Jack & Sherry Frost, Dana Pitt, Debbie Eickhorst, Lynn Scharenbroich, Ed Fussy, Nancy Loren, Mark Novotny and Troy Loren.*

# Dive Into Spring!

## Attend the CMR's Spring Workshop!

By Jason Ball, Cass Lake Lodge

There are many different definitions of spring: 1. To start or rise suddenly 2. To grow 3. To prosper 4. To move with activity 5. An active power that causes motion 6. A time of growth and progress – to name just a few.

What do all of these definitions have to do with you? They can all describe resorters preparing for an eventful summer.

Dive into spring by attending the 2009 CMR Spring Workshop. The CMR School of Resorting will be holding pre-workshop classes on April 6, and the CMR annual Spring Workshop will be held on April 7. The classes will be held at Chase on the Lake in Walker, MN.

This year there will be many great topics such as: Effective use of search engines, Become more familiar with green cleaning, and Update on Shoreland Rule changes. Watch your mailbox for the Spring Workshop brochure; it will have more information on the speakers and topics.



*One of last year's very informative classes, complete with PEX certification*

*Whether you are getting prepared for summer or want one last "outing" before the busy summer begins, the CMR Spring Workshop is just what you need. Contact Chase on the Lake at (218) 547-7777 to make a hotel reservation. We look forward to seeing everyone there.*



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## Wildlife Tourism and Minnesota Resorts New Opportunities for the Minnesota Resort Industry

By Carrol L. Henderson, Nongame Wildlife Program Supervisor, MN DNR



*Peregrine adult, looking down.*

With the beginning of the 2009 resort and vacation season near, there is a need and an opportunity to look for new and innovative ways to promote Minnesota's resort industry at a time when citizens may be looking for vacations and nature-related excursions closer to home. Much of the state's vacation traditions have been built



*Trumpeter swans, pair in formation.*

upon summer activities like boating, fishing, and other water-based recreation. However, there are some significant opportunities for Minnesota's resorts to broaden their client base by recognizing resort-based outdoor activities that they can promote—even on a low budget.

The Nongame Wildlife Program has been cooperating with the state's resort industry, B & B owners and managers, and Explore Minnesota Tourism officials to promote nature tourism activities, like bird watching and nature photography, as part of the Minnesota resort experience. This can give participating resorts a competitive

marketing edge to attract nature enthusiasts and also give vacationers wonderful lifelong memories and increased appreciation for the state's diverse wildlife populations.

A 2006 survey of wildlife recreation in Minnesota revealed that a total of \$699 million was spent by people who were participating in activities like bird watching, nature photography, bird feeding, and other types of wildlife observation. By comparison, a total of \$494 million was spent for all hunting in Minnesota that year. Hunting, bird watching and nature photography all go hand-in-hand as beneficial activities that can get people to Minnesota's outdoors—and resorts—throughout the year. Fall hunting activities are far more conspicuous to our citizenry because the time period is more limited—and, of course, it is hard to miss the presence of deer hunters dressed in orange. Birding activity is more dispersed throughout the year, and birders tend to dress in more casual outdoor wear, except that they frequently have a pair of binoculars around their neck. They may not be noticeable to most people, but they are out there spending money to enjoy wildlife.

The challenge that we face is that Minnesota's resort industry needs to work with Explore Minnesota Tourism specialists and the Department of Natural Resources to "think out of the box" as they begin marketing efforts to attract birders and nature photographers in addition to their traditional guests. The best thing about this opportunity is that birders and nature photographers are usually most interested in pursuing their hobbies in the resort industries' shoulder seasons. Birding can be great in many parts of Minnesota from late March through the beginning of the fishing opener. That can provide another month of springtime marketing opportunities for resort use.

Fall—after Labor Day—presents another whole marketing season for resorts. Fall bird migration is underway. There are concentrations of white pelicans, tundra swans, hawks, waterfowl, and shorebirds that people will travel across the state to see and enjoy. Where are these sites, and are any of them near your location?



*La Selva and Sueno Azul, Terry and Sheri.*

Winter presents another attractive shoulder season opportunity. Even in winters when there may be little snow, there are great places to see wintering concentrations of trumpeter swans near Monticello, Fergus Falls, and along the St. Croix River near Hudson, Wisconsin. There are wintering bald eagles along the Mississippi River from the Twin Cities south through Red Wing, Winona, and Wabasha which is home to the National Eagle Center. The National Eagle Center sponsors a winter Golden Eagle Survey for volunteers in mid-January. There are winter birding festivals in communities like Meadowlands featuring the unique boreal habitat of birds that can be seen in the famous Sax-Zim bog. In some winters, the invasions of northern owls like the great gray owl, northern hawk owl, and boreal owl will bring birders from throughout the United States and even other countries to northern Minnesota.

Is your advertising targeted to any of these potential wildlife viewers or nature photographers? In an era of economic stress, nature tourism offers the chance to broaden one's constituent base without requiring significant expenditures for additional facilities or resources.

If you want to learn more about wildlife viewing areas in your vicinity, the Nongame Wildlife Program has produced a book called *The Traveler's Guide to Wildlife in Minnesota*. It is available from Minnesota's Bookstore in St. Paul at [www.minnesotasbookstore.com](http://www.minnesotasbookstore.com) for \$19.95. The book lists 120 of the best locations for enjoying Minnesota's wildlife and outdoors. The Nongame Wildlife Program has also begun posting many of the best sites on a national nature tourism website at [www.wildlifeviewingareas.com](http://www.wildlifeviewingareas.com). Forty-three sites are already posted for Minnesota, and another 50 sites will be added by June 30. This website and the *Traveler's Guide* can help you learn about the best wildlife viewing spots in your area where guests can spend the day, and they tell you the best seasons for seeing wildlife in each of those locations.

You can learn about Minnesota's birding trails at the [ExploreMinnesota.com](http://ExploreMinnesota.com) website. Do you know what a birding trail is? It is a corridor of viewing locations for wildlife along a highway or river corridor that may be anywhere from ten to 100 miles long and include from a dozen to over 50 sites. Here is another marketing opportunity for such sites near your facility. If you want to know what other types of birding festivals or other bird watching activities may be going on in your area, check out [www.birding-Minnesota.com](http://www.birding-Minnesota.com) which is provided by avid birder Bob Ekblad. You will be amazed how many activities are going on throughout the state in all months of the year. Perhaps you could partner or help co-sponsor some of those local events.



*La Selva and Sueno Azul, Steve photographing the fascinated tiger-heron.*

The Nongame Wildlife Program is committed to helping promote the nature tourism industry because it is good for wildlife, it is good for business, and it is good for people. Our efforts are made possible by Minnesota's citizens when they make a donation on their state tax forms to the Nongame Wildlife Fund—the line with the loon. Those checkoff donations are the major source of funding for the DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program. As the supervisor of that program since 1977, I have learned that Minnesota's diverse and abundant wildlife populations can provide great enjoyment for our citizens and, at the same time, can help diversify the economic base of local businesses and communities throughout the state through increased wildlife tourism activities.



*La Selva and Sueno Azul, Howard, Jim, Craig, birding at the river.*

# LEGISLATION

## Congress of Minnesota Resorts 2009 Day on the Hill

By Ed Becker, Congress of Minnesota Legislative Chairman



*Reminiscing around the bonfire – good old fashion way to bring back those great family memories. Photography by Andrew Olmscheid.*

This year's Day on the Hill event was again a huge success! Many of us started our adventure on Wed. when we met at Gander Mountain in Brainerd. The bus ride down was a lot of fun as we shared our many stories, while enjoying coffee, cappuccino, rolls, and muffins. Our excitement built as we got closer to St. Paul. There were several resorters who were going to experience their first Day on the Hill. It was great to have them along.

We arrived in St. Paul around 11:30, stopped for a wonderful Italian buffet at Gabe's Sports Bar, and checked into our rooms at the Bandana Square. We were then off to the Capitol. During our afternoon in St. Paul, we were able to arrange meetings with Rep. Larry Howes, Senator Dan Skogen, House Minority Leader Marty Seifert, Rep. Bernie Lieder, Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher, House Majority Leader Tony Sertich, and Director of Explore Minnesota Tourism, John Edman. In the evening, we enjoyed a Mexican buffet at Ol' Mexico Restaurante.

Thursday started out with a continental breakfast. The looming threat of an 8" snowstorm could not make us waiver from our mission to deliver our message to over 50 legislators. One of the highlights of the day was a visit from Governor Tim Pawlenty to our display in the Great Hall where we had set up resort memorabilia including an old boat, dock section, a fire pit and camping chairs, and were handing out s'mores. The CMR was easily identified since we wore bucket hats and fishing vests as we made visit after visit to help legislators understand a few of the issues that are affecting tourism business.

The first issue we talked with legislators about was HF 1072/SF 894. CMR is supporting a recommendation of the Department of Health to clarify the definition of a vacation rental home. This states businesses that advertise sleeping accommodations are subject to regulation by the Department of Health. This law will affect cabin owners only if they are

in the business of renting out lodging establishments to the public.

The next issue we visited about was HF 195/SF 22 & SF 23 which would repeal the post Labor Day school start date. CMR, along with other businesses in the state, is in opposition to this bill. Many resort and business owners claim that when the law changed in 2005, their bottom lines increased the very next year. Many were able to hire more staff. If the school start date were changed back to Sept. 1, revenues could be lost and that in turn could cause them to cut staff, as well as many planned improvements. We also believe that with today's state of the economy, legislation passed that would risk any loss of tax income for the state, as well as loss of jobs, would not be in the best interest of the entire state, just so schools would gain back local control of their start date.

Lastly, shoreland management amendment HF519/SF 747 was submitted this year, dealing with nonconformities, existing nonconforming lots, and inspections. CMR had legislation approved in recent years that allows resorts to rebuild and maintain their existing properties within the shoreland impact zone. We oppose any upgrades to the Minnesota shoreland rules that would diminish these protections the legislature has already made for small resort operations.

As mentioned before, the snowstorm did hit our traveling area, but that did not keep us from delivering our messages and having a great time doing it. Our bus ride home was a bit slower than normal, but it was steady and sure. We watched a couple of movies and enjoyed the company of our fellow resort owners. Thank you to the many legislators that took time to meet with the Congress of Minnesota Resorts. Thank you also to Joel Carlson, his assistant Tami LeFavor, our bus driver Terry Duhn, and the 42 attendees from 19 different resorts.



# CMR LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

Each year, the CMR meets with elected state officials to help promote family owned resorts. Below is a partial listing of the officials we met with.



*Brian and Heather Sams, Campfire Bay Resort, A Gunsbury, Quarterdeck, Senator Paul Koering, Cheryl Dockter, Morning Star Resort, Ed Fussy, Pimushe Resort, Kelly Larson, Rugged River Resort*



*House Majority Leader, Tony Sertich*

**Rep. Larry Howes**

**Senator Dan Skogen**

House Minority Leader  
**Marty Seifert**

**Rep. Bernie Lieder**

**John Edman**

Speaker of the House  
**Margaret Anderson Kelliher**

House Majority Leader  
**Tony Sertich**

**Governor Pawlenty**

**Rep. Al Juhnke**



*Ed Becker, CMR President with Speaker of the House, Margaret Anderson Kelliher*

**Senator Gary Kubly**

Senate Assistant Majority Leader  
**Tarryl Clark**

**Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba**

**Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen**

**Senator Joe Gimse**

**Rep. Will Morgan**

**Rep. Linda Slocum**

**Rep. Kent Eken**

**Senator Paul Koering**

**Senator Tom Saxhaug**

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TO OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR  
TAKING THE TIME TO MEET WITH US, AND FOR  
THEIR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT RESORTS!



# Legislative News

By Joel Carlson, Lobbyist for the Congress of Minnesota Resorts

## 2009 Session Starts Heavy Lifting

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty has announced the last revenue forecast that legislators will utilize to set the next two-year fiscal budget, and the 2009 legislative session is not getting down to serious business. The most stunning news of the session is that

**...legislation that allows resorts to rebuild and maintain their existing properties within the shore impact zone.**

the revenue picture is actually better than the report released last November – a \$4.5 billion hole now compared to a \$4.8 billion gag just 3 months ago. However, the smaller overall number is a direct result of the recently passed federal stimulus package, and not a rosier economic picture for the state.

To be sure, the better budget news will aid the legislature and Governor as they seek a compromise on the budget, but there are plenty of downward projects that are giving policymakers heartburn. Chief among them – State Economist Tom Stinson predicts that Minnesota job losses will continue to climb, reaching 120,000 lost jobs by early 2010. That’s a hard number to digest – even more so when it’s a well known economic lore that the

Midwest recovers slower than the coasts. How long will Minnesota wait for blue skies?

A number of issues will play out for resorters as the larger budget package is debated. Among the most pressing is the ongoing struggle over the school schedule, vacation rental homes and reforms to shoreland management.

### Vacation Rental Homes HF 1072 / SF 894

CMR supported a comprehensive review of vacation rental lodging by Explore Minnesota Tourism (EMT), and the legislature authorized this review last session. EMT assembled a group of interested stakeholders and developed a comprehensive report that supports the vacation rental homes and protects consumers. The study reviewed issues of taxation, zoning, use, and health regulations which apply to lodging that is advertised to the public.

CMR is supporting a recommendation of the Department of Health (DOH) to clarify the definition of vacation rental homes. This definition will make the law more clear that businesses that advertise sleeping accommodations are subject to regulation. This change does not affect any cabin owner; only businesses that rent lodging to the public are currently subject to DOH requirements. All sleeping accommodations rented to the public (resorts, hotels, vacation rental homes and bed and breakfasts) are required to be inspected by the DOH to protect the public, and this change will not affect that requirement.

### Shoreland Management HF 519 / SF 747

The legislature approved legislation that allows resorts to rebuild and maintain their existing properties within the shore impact zone. This change allows resort owners to invest in their properties to remain viable and current with new amenities.

Proper shoreland management is important to water quality and the protection of our great resources. CMR wants to make sure that any upgrades to Minnesota’s shoreland rules, as proposed in HF 519 / SF 747 do not diminish the protections the legislature has made for small resort operations.

### Support Post Labor Day School Calendars!

Without question, education is a top priority. A predictable and continuous season for small resorts is needed to remain a viable business operation. Efforts to expand the school calendar or to move to year round school produce an unintended and many times fatal blow to the tourism industry. We believe that increased learning outcomes in the classroom are compatible with Minnesota’s tradition of summer, and encourage legislators to seek reforms that compliment students, families and the many businesses that depend on the school calendar for their business seasons.

**Efforts to expand the school calendar or to move to year round school produce an unintended and many times fatal blow to the tourism industry.**

There are many reforms proposed for K-12 education: all day – every day kindergarten, longer school days, increases in the number of educational days per year, and many more. None of these reforms require a change to the current law regarding the start of the school year. CMR believes that learning outcomes can and should be improved. We ask that the legislature balance all of the state’s interests when making changes that will best help students, families, and the state’s economy.

**...complete with the ability of the fuzz to pull you over if they catch you smoking.**

We oppose HF 195 / SF 22 which repeals the Post Labor Day School start time for 2009 and 2010. We have long engaged in this battle, and this “limited” change will simply lead to another ongoing debate about the school calendar in coming sessions. There is simply no connection to learning and the current law requiring school to begin after Labor Day.

CMR supports Minnesota’s tradition of summer!  
**The land of 10,000 things you can’t do without a permit!**

Each session, there are several bills that catch attention because they are novel, interesting or plain old strange. These proposals are always well intended – and given the current budget situation some of them may even get legs. The Governor recently remarked that the deficit is so large “we are actually considering some of Phyllis Kahn’s ideas!” Ouch.

## A couple of the more interesting bills so far:

A ban on smoking in your car - if your kids are along for the ride. This comes complete with the ability of the fuzzi to pull you over if they catch you smoking. Now, secondhand smoke is a real drag – and we really shouldn't do that to our kids (or anyone else) in the confines of a car – but I really don't want to put the police in the line of danger by pulling over smokers. These people can be mean. I can just see the first “Cops” episode after this passes– “Drop the butt, get outta the car – keep your lighter where I can see it!!!”

**...I don't care if it's in 36-point type or not – my dog is not going to be able to read it.**

Another bill mandates a 36-point type notice to be posted anywhere you purchase cocoa bean shell landscape mulch. I had to go look up cocoa bean shell mulch and why we need to be warned about it. Turns out, it's a nasty problem for pets that may want to eat the mulch. Pets have a negative reaction to theobromine, which is the primary alkaloid found in cocoa and chocolate. I know you're not supposed to give chocolate to dogs – but I've seen what dogs eat and drink – a little chocolate seems pretty tame compared to turds and Alpo.

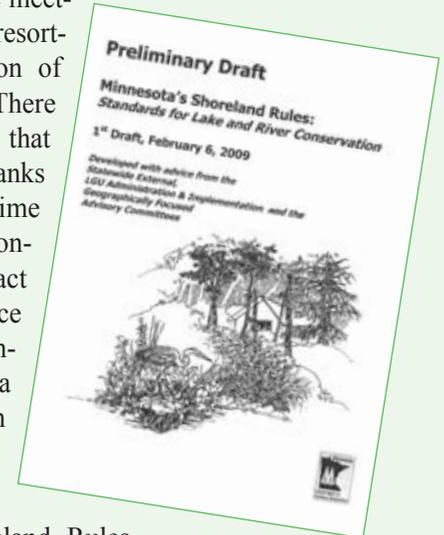
Plus, I don't care if it's in 36-point type or not – my dog is not going to be able to read it.

## Shoreland Rules Update

By Ed Fussy

The DNR held statewide meetings to get input from resorters on the resort section of the Shoreland Rules. There were over 250 resorters that attended. The CMR thanks everyone who took the time to come and share their concerns. It had a huge impact on showing the importance of the resort-specific standards. You all get an “atta boy” or “atta girl!” from the CMR!

We are in the final stage of the Statewide Shoreland Rules Update Project. We are reading, reviewing, and debating the language with all committee members. By the time you read this, we should have completed the rule writing phase with over 6,500 miles and over 300 hours spent on this very worthwhile project!



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