
5 Beaver Island Self-Guided Driving/Biking Tour



Courtesy Beaver Island Lodge

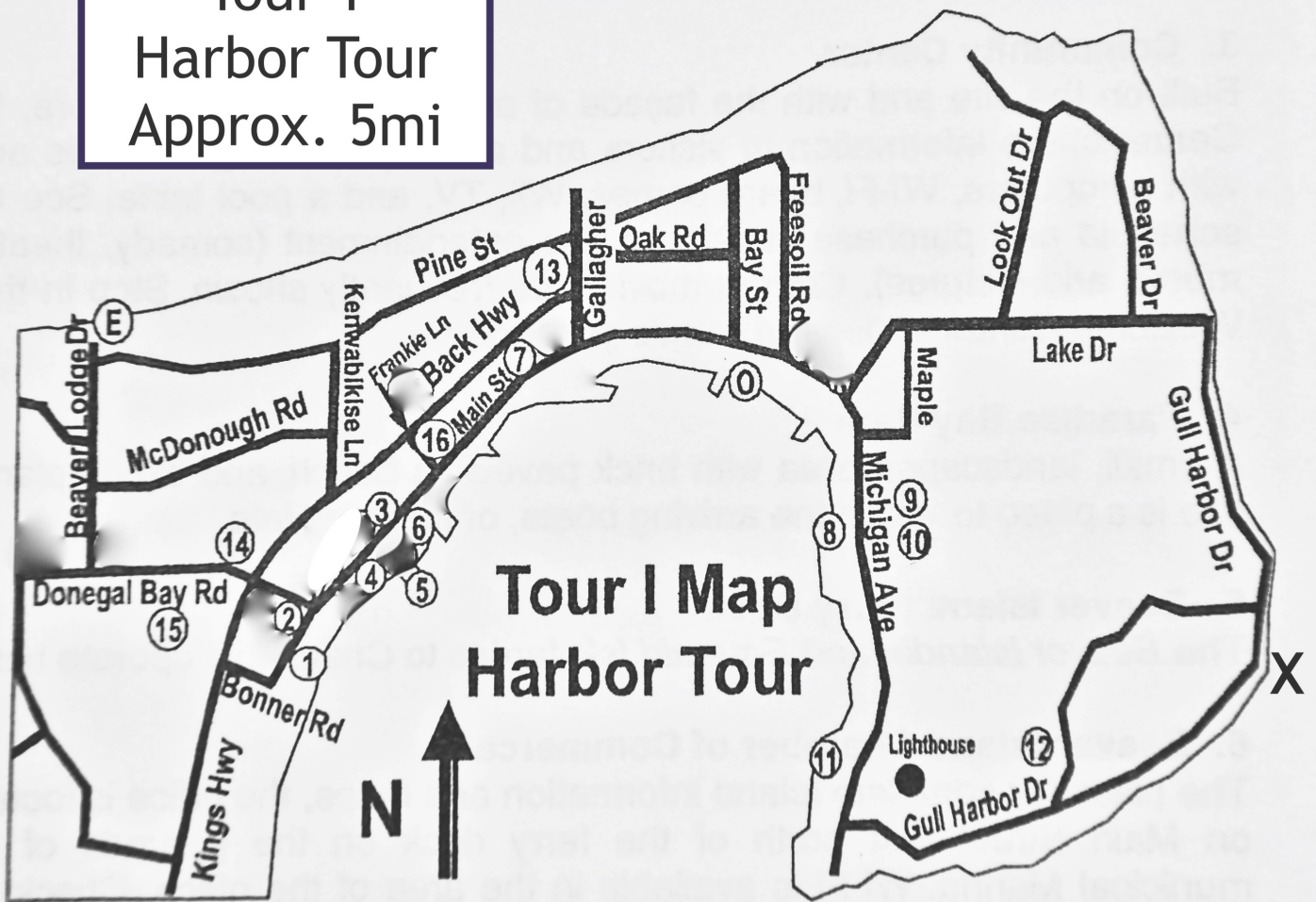
2023 TIPS FOR DRIVING/BIKING AROUND THE ISLAND

1. Gasoline is available only in one location: Island Energies on King's Hwy and East Side Drive (called Four Corners, W on Tour III & IV map).
2. The only paved roads are those in the Harbor and King's Hwy (as far south as McCauley's Rd.) Abt. 6 miles. Cars kick up a lot of dust on the sand and gravel roads. Be respectful of walkers and bikers and slow down.
3. There are no stores south of Four Corners, and the only patio restaurant south of Four Corners is the Paradise Bay Coffee Shop (open for breakfast & lunch during summer months) just east of the Municipal Airport.
4. The Beaver Island Rural Health Center is located south of St. James and north of Four Corners on the northeast corner of King's Hwy and Carlisle Rd. Beaver Island has EMS service. For emergencies call 911; there's a 30 second delay, so hang on and be patient.
5. Cell phone service depends on your carrier, but many work in town up to Four Corners. Depending on your carrier, you may get service all the way around the island. One peculiar thing may happen when you get a notice that time has changed by one hour. On the westside of the island on certain spots, you may pick up a signal from a tower in Wisconsin!
6. A more detailed map of Beaver Island (the second Wojan-Cashman Map) is available for sale from the Community Center, McDonough Market, and the Hardware Store.
7. For natural beauty roads take West Side Road (a canopy of birch, beech, and maple) and Mrs. Redding's Trail to Angelina's Bluff overlook and beyond.
8. To see deer, early evening or early morning is best. Try Donegal Bay Road, East Side Drive, the area around the Township Airport, Sloptown Road, and Barney's Lake Road.
9. Beaver activity moves around, but they are visible at Miller's Marsh and Barney's Lake. Look for pointed, chewed tree stumps and water lodges.
10. View Loons at Font Lake, Barney's Lake, Fox Lake, and Lake Geneserath. Be careful not to disturb these precious birds.
11. Service Hours of stores and restaurants vary seasonally.
www.beaverislandrestaurants.com gives up-to-date information on bars and restaurants.
12. A car wash, Eager Beaver (self-serve) and Laundromat are located on King's Hwy, a little south of Four Corners on the left.

We hope you enjoy your tours. Garbage cans are not provided on trails and beaches. Please help protect our environment by taking all your garbage to the Transfer Station on East Side Drive across from the cemetery and recycle this guide or give it to a friend,

Take away nothing but memories and pictures and leave behind nothing but footprints and tire tracks.

**Tour 1
Harbor Tour
Approx. 5mi**



DISCOVER ST. JAMES AND PARADISE BAY

Start at the Public Beach and Go North on Main Street (becomes Michigan Ave.) to the Lighthouse (1.2 mi). Once at the Light House take Gull Harbor Drive to Lake Drive. Go left to Main Street. Go right on Gallagher and take a left on Back Highway. Take a right on Kenwabikise and a left onto McDonough Rd. which dead-ends on Beaver Lodge Drive. Take a right for a quick return to the Beaver Island Lodge or go left to Donegal Bay Rd. And another left back into town. Take a right on Kings Highway and at the Public School go left onto Bonner Rd. which lands you back at the Public Beach.

Landmarks and Points of Interest on this Tour

1. Public Beach (Public toilets in summer season) - The public beach at the Harbor features a sandy bottom, children's playground, picnic tables, volleyball net, and a good view of the harbor and lighthouse. This is an easy place to launch a kayak or canoe. For Rent from Happy Paddle.

2. Mormon Print Shop and Jail - A local history museum is in the Print Shop, named for the first newspaper north of Grand Rapids. It was established by James Strang, the founder of the Island's Mormon Settlement in 1847, who crowned himself king, making Beaver Island the only ever U.S. kingdom, after he was elected to the Michigan legislature. His actions drove non-Mormons off the Island, as he allowed polygamy for some. After Strang was shot in July, 1856 by two disgruntled followers, the Mormon era ended when an invading mob herded most of Strang's followers onto ships, leaving for Wisconsin. Previously displaced fishermen and recent Irish immigrants now flocked to the Island and its rich fishing grounds. Museum Displays feature King Strang, Feodor Protar, and the Island's Native American and Irish heritages. Historic maps and books are offered for sale.

3. Community Center - Built on the site and with the facade of a century-old general store, BICC offers information to visitors and a complimentary activities area with computers, Wi-Fi, board games, Wii, TV, and a pool table. The Upstairs once housed an Opera House and Social Hall. This area still offers a theatre setting these days used for movies, live entertainment (comedy, theater, music, and lectures). Stop by the Welcome Center to find out what's going on. Snacks, coffee and refreshing are available. The Center also houses the **Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce** and local radio station **WVBI-LP**. - **It is the** place for complete Island information and maps. www.beaverisland.org (Public washrooms are north of the Community Center.)

4. Paradise Bay Park - Next to the Ferry dock, a small, landscaped area with brick pavers, a bench, a Beaver statue and exotic plants, this is a place to watch the arriving boats, the beauty of the Bay and just meditate.

5. Beaver Island Ferry Dock - The Beaver Islander and Emerald Isle ferry boats to and from Charlevoix operate from here. Just north of the ferry is the Municipal Yacht Harbor.

6. Beaver Island Post Office - Send a postcard home; tell them how much fun you're having!

7. King Strang Hotel - Originally the Beaver Hotel, this is now a private condominium. The boulder on the lawn, a jasper "puddingstone" from an outcrop near Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, was left by the last glaciations during the Pleistocene Epoch, which began 3 million years ago and ended 10,000 years ago.

7.1 AmVets Memorial Park - Past the St. James Marine dock, built on the site of the first power plant. Flags and monuments honoring our service men and women create a sense of being blessed and at peace.

8. Marine Museum - The Museum depicts the Island's maritime occupations. Beaver Island was once the center of a prolific fishing ground, and most early Islanders were engaged in fishing. By 1890 the fishing began to decline, and by 1950 the lamprey had decimated the whitefish population. The Museum is located in the Martin net shed, a

tribute to the last of the Irish fisherman. One of the last gill-net boats can be entered from inside the Museum; its Kahlenberg 3-banger was restored by Karl Bartels.

9. Fish Market - Owned and operated by local Native Americans engaged in commercial fishing under the 1856 treaty rights, sadly the market is now closed.

10. Beaver Island Toy Museum and Store - The combination store, museum, and gallery features displays of antique toys and totally unique, nostalgic, and inexpensive children's toys for sale along with Mary Rose's art, and photos taken on Beaver Island. Only open in the summer months during limited hours (11am - 4 pm).

11. Harbor Light and Coast Guard Boat House - The tower and beacon is the only remaining part of what was once a lighthouse built in 1856, which formerly included a keeper's house. The fieldstone "Monument to the Dead at Sea" is a tribute to those Beaver Islanders who died in the lake. Formerly part of a U.S. Coast Guard station, the Boat House is now a research center for Central Michigan University's aquatic studies.

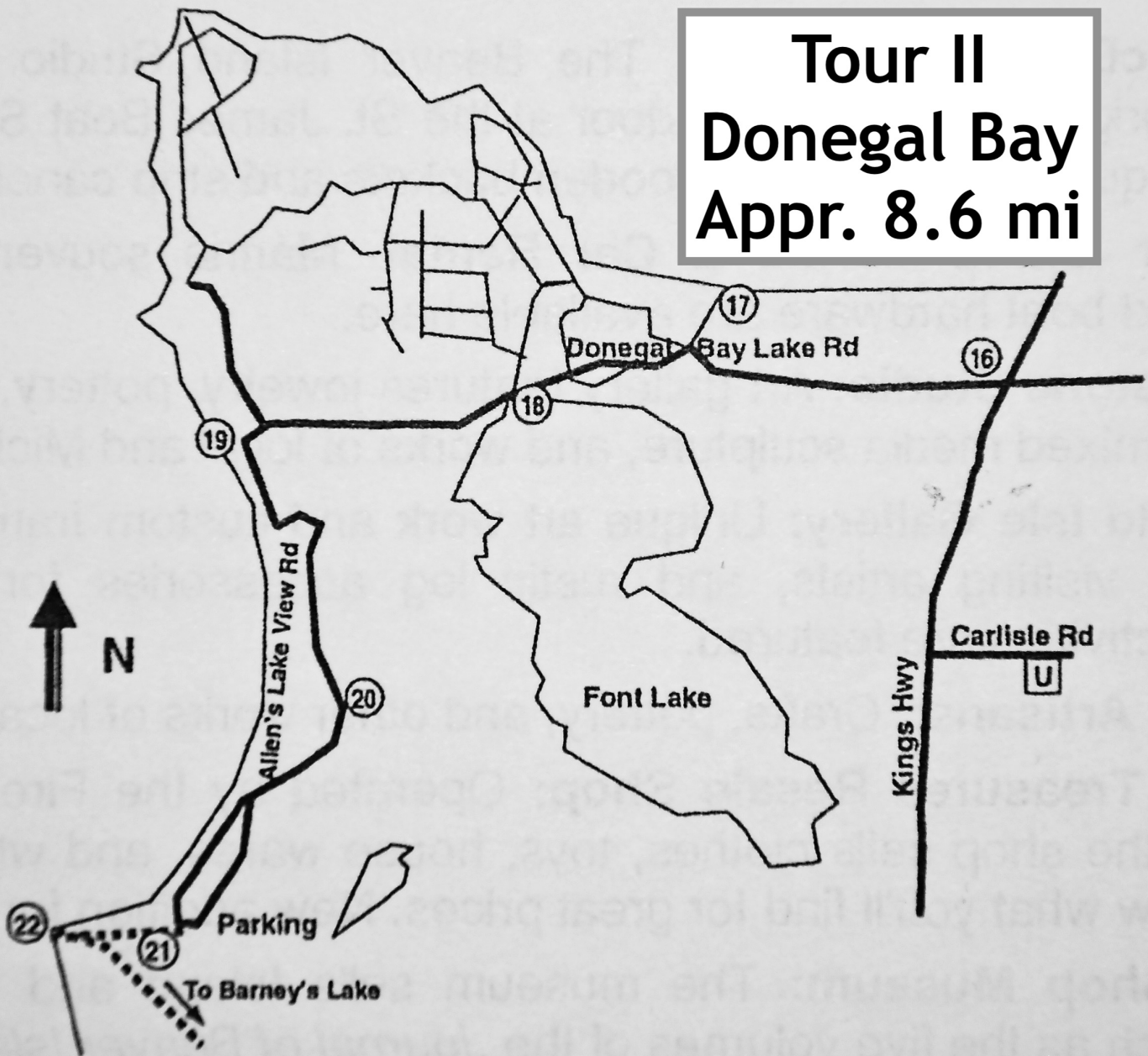
12. Gull Harbor - A place to stop and take a 15 min. walk. The short, flat trail will take you past cedar groves and wetlands containing a population of Northern Water-snakes (non-poisonous). Along the shore, exposed in the roadway you'll find shingles of bedrock which were deposited roughly 400 million years ago. Fossils of ancient plant life can be found among the rocks along the shore. NOTE: The stretch north to Lake Rd, marked with an X on Gull Harbor Drive, is sometimes impassable as the Lake floods the road.

13. Township Cemetery - When the very few non-Irish-Catholic Island residents in the late nineteenth century died, there was a need for a place for burial other than the Holy Cross Cemetery on Church Hill in the country side near Four Corners. This particular piece of land was set aside, and the cemetery is still in use for burials today.

14. Heritage Park - This is an outdoor display of unique historic artifacts from early Beaver Island living. The first generator to bring power and the last thresher used by Island farmers, plus the original grade from the Beaver Island Lumber Company railroad, whose tracks were ripped up in 1915, are exhibited here. **Great place to have a picnic.**

15. Beaver Island District Library - A small architecturally-attractive building whose vaulted ceilings induce a feeling of tranquility, this library has a good collection of books on the Great Lakes and Beaver Archipelago. They also have reference materials, fiction, non-fiction, videos, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, and music-to take out or listen to there. Visitors are permitted to check out materials. They are willing to order whatever you'd like.

Tour II Donegal Bay Appr. 8.6 mi



DISCOVER DONEGAL BAY

Starting from **Daddy Franks** onto Donegal Bay Road at the King's Hwy intersection, you go west to Allen's Lakeview Rd., where you take a left towards McCauley's Point (4.3 miles-One Way).

16. Donegal Bay Bike Trail - This is a paved bike and walking trail, which begins at Heritage Park and ends at the St. James Township Campground. Before the paved path turns right to the Campground, you may want to go straight on Donegal Bay Rd.

which now turns into a gravel road, by-passing the Campground. Another option here is going direction Indian Point. Beware however as some roads are dead-end streets.

17. St. James Township Campground (1 mile / public toilets)

There is a public picnic area on a bluff overlooking the Lake, with a view of Garden Island. No advance registration needed.

18. Font Lake Public Access - Visitors can often view loons in late Spring and Summer, and nesting Mute Swans whose cygnets can be seen in summer. Eagles and Osprey 'patrol' the lake and surrounding forest. Be careful not to disturb the loons. Lilly pads are in abundance, and fishing for panfish and large-mouth bass is good. This is the closest access to our inland lakes and a place to launch canoes and kayaks. Font Lake was named by the Mormons and used for baptisms.

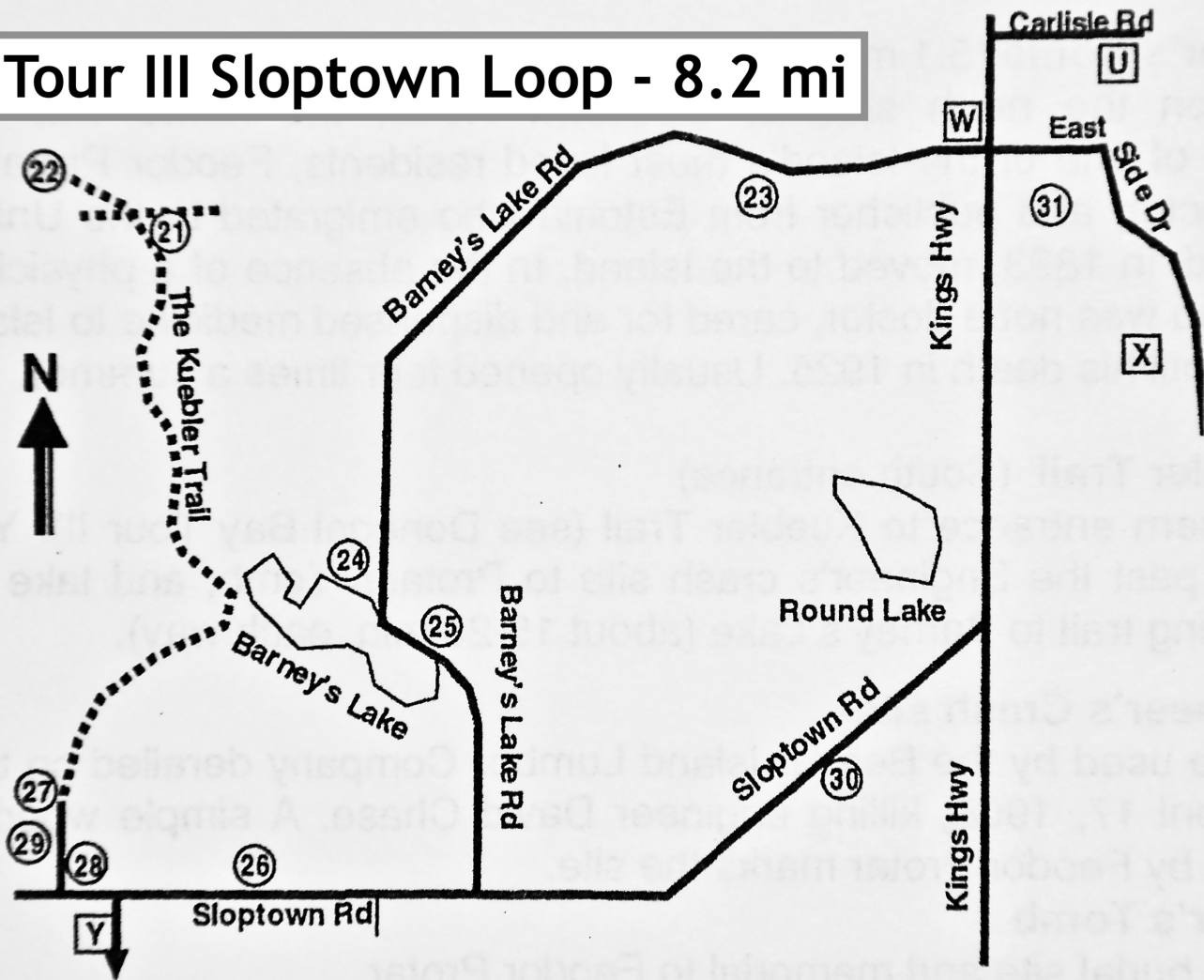
19. Donegal Bay Beach - The beach has a shallow sandy bottom and a walkable bay. It is a great place to view sunsets with High and Trout Islands on the western horizon , and passing freighters in the main Lake Michigan north-south shipping channel. The beach and pavilion are on private property owned by the Port of St. James HOA. There are several picnic areas with benches and tables

20. Mt. Pisgah - The highest dune on the Island, 150' to the top, Mt Pisgah, named by the Mormon population, is a favorite climbing spot, also owned by the Port of St. James Homeowner's Association.

21. Kuebler Trail - (Northern Access, from here it's 2 miles round trip to Barney's Lake and 4 miles round trip to Protar's Tomb). The mostly flat, walking trail was part of a narrow gauge railroad track that ran from the sawmill to outlying lumber camps on the west side. The tracks were removed in 1915, but it is still possible to find old railroad spikes. The trail goes through a beech and maple forest, a culvert under a private road, beneath a hemlock-studded bluff, crosses another private road, and passes alongside an aspen grove, past wild raspberry bushes and junipers and the Western side of Barney's Lake. It continues onto the southern end of the trail to Protar's Tomb and the Engineer's Fatal Crash site, which also can be reached by car from Sloptown Road (See Tour III, Barney's Lake/ Sloptown Loop). The trail winds through private property, so stay on it, to respect the owner's wishes and privacy. Kuebler was the island's Nature Preserve commissioner in the 1950s.

22. McCauley's Point - This state owned land is accessed off Allen's Lakeview Rd by going past the Kuebler Trail entrance, taking a short walk to Lake Michigan, and turning left. From McCauley's Point you get a great view of all of Donegal Bay to the north and Bonner's Bay to the south. It's a good spot for viewing lots of shorebirds and for starting a walk along the beach in either direction. You might catch a glimpse of blue herons, ducks, gulls and sandpipers. South of this point is a known spot to find Morrell Mushrooms in May and September.

Tour III Sloptown Loop - 8.2 mi



DISCOVER the SLOPTOWN LOOP

(8.2 mile loop) (no restrooms on this loop). Take King's Hwy South from town to Barney's Lake Rd. (Four Corners). Beginning of Tour: Barneys Lake Rd at Island This This tour starts at Four Corners, the intersection of King's Hwy and Barney's Lake Road where The Gas Station and convenience store is located.

The tour goes west towards Sloptown Rd. and then south to the start of the Kuebler Trail and then back east to King's Hwy and finally back north to Four Corners and Paradise Bay.

23. Barney's Lake Road - You will see some interesting private properties as you drive on Barney's Lake Road: the Lakeside Centennial Farm, Unfinished Farms (horses),

farm implements on Martin's Corner, and Joe Nuke's silo (remnants of a hippie commune). Wild turkeys and deer are often seen along the road.

24. Barney's Lake (3.5 miles) - This is home to nesting loons in late Spring and Summer and more recently to nesting swans. The eastern side of Barney's Lake can be seen from Barney's Lake Road. Please do not disturb the loons. Eagles and osprey are often viewed circling the Lake. The many different habitats make this a great spot for bird watching. It's also a good place to launch a canoe or kayak and to fish for bass, stunted pike, and panfish.

25. Little Traverse Conservancy Nature Preserve - Across the street from the lake is the Barney's Lake Nature Preserve. There is an entrance to the north on Barney's Lake Road, or enter at the parking lot across from the boat launch. The preserve includes an open bog, sedge meadow, cedar swamp, and old farming trails.

26. Protar's Home (5.1 miles-turn west on Sloptown Rd.) - Located on the north side of Sloptown Road, the home was the residence of one of the Island's most loved residents, Feeder Protar, a scholar, actor, and publisher from Estonia who emigrated to the United States and, in 1893, moved to the Island. In the absence of a physician, Protar, who was not a doctor, cared for and dispensed medicine to Island patients until his death in 1925. Check for open dates with the Historical Society.

27. Kuebler Trail (South entrance) - The southern entrance to Kuebler Trail (see Tour II). Check out the Engineer's crash site and Protar's Tomb and take an easy walking trail to Barney's Lake (20 min. each way).

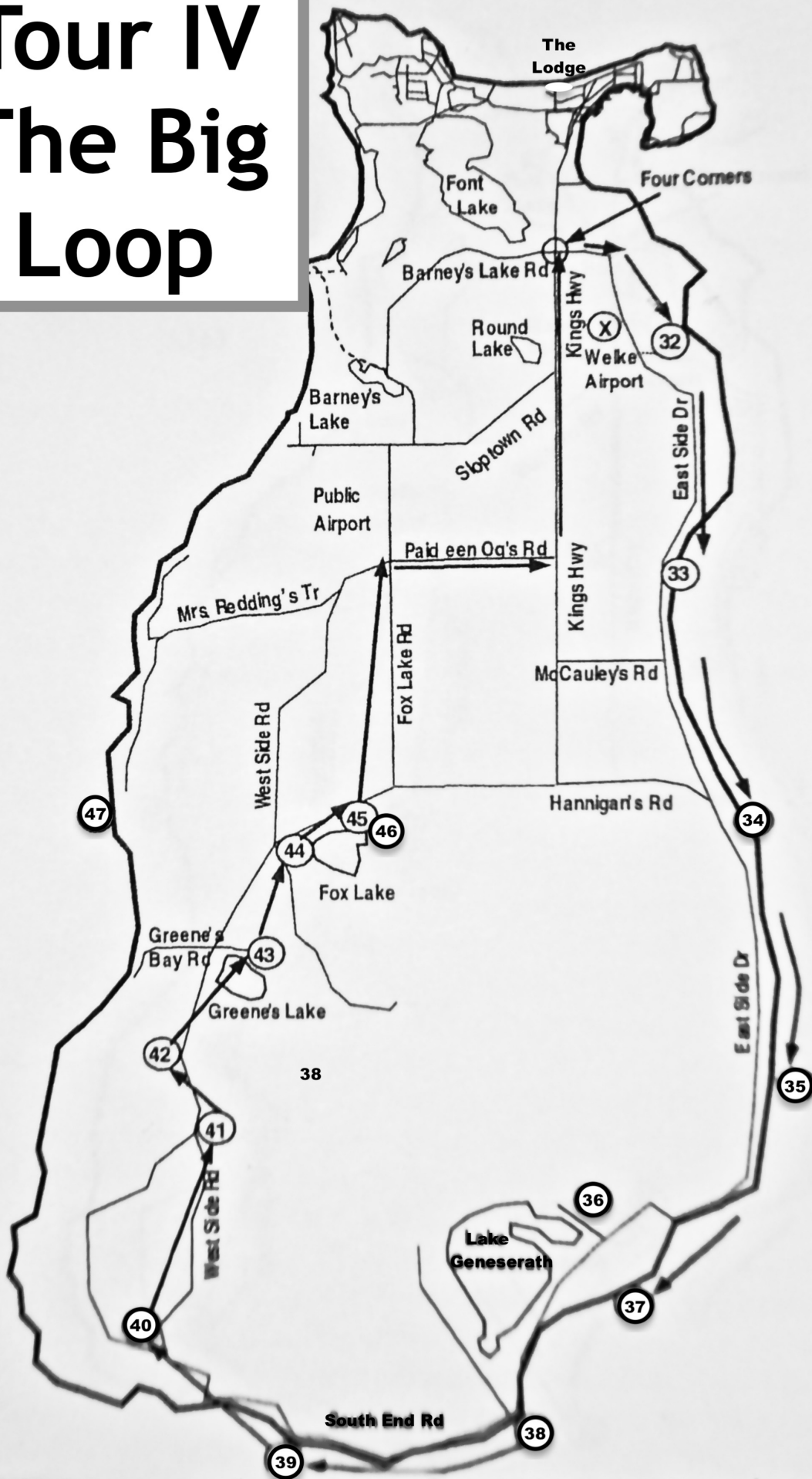
28. Engineer's Crash site An engine used by the Beaver Island Lumber Company derailed on this location on April 17, 1908, killing engineer David Chase. A simple wooden cross built by Feodor Protar marks the site.

29. Protar's Tomb - This is the burial site and memorial to Feodor Protar. Returning to the road: If you turn right (west) and continue on the road (0.4 of a mile), you can park at the top of the hill and walk a private road down to a path to Lake Michigan and 1,500' of public beach to the south (Bonner's Landing). If you turn left, you'll continue on the loop back to King's Hwy.

30. Microwave Tower - On the south side of Sloptown Road, on the top of the microwave tower, there is often a large osprey nest built of sticks. This large bird of prey is dark brown with a white belly and head, and in flight it has a hook in its wings. The osprey catches fish by diving in feet first, and then helicopter back up.

31. Holy Cross Cemetery - Many of the Irish settlers who came here between the mid-nineteenth century and from there on, are buried here. The Arranmore Grotto was built by volunteers, a tribute to our Twin, the home of the ancestors of many Irish settlers. Behind the Peaine Park Town Hall on King's Highway, next to the gas station, is a place for picnics, Frisbee, dog runs, and a Font Lake viewing stand.

Tour IV The Big Loop



DISCOVER BEAVER ISLAND

Only the strong bicyclists will finish this 40 mile loop, so be prepared. Especially south of Four Corners you will only find nature, so bring food and drinks if you are going to undertake this beautiful, but challenging ride on a bicycle. Cellphone service is spotty, even though there are many beautiful homes lining the southern shore line.

START: Intersection of King's Hwy and East Side Drive (Four Corners), East Side Dr. to South End to West Side Rd. to Fox Lake Rd to Paid een Og's Rd. to King's Hwy (26 miles) to Four Corners (29 miles) (West Side Rd. is a Natural Beauty Road). All distances shown, approx. from King's Hwy. (Allow 4-5 hours to make some stops and take a few hikes on the shorter trails.)

32. Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve (1.3 mi. from King's Hwy) - A two-track road off East Side Drive (just south of Welke Airport) leads to the trailhead in a field of juniper and apple trees. The short trail enters a dimly-lit cedar swamp featuring boardwalks over natural springs and streams. As you near Lake Michigan you'll pass "the Beaver Deceiver," a fake dam designed to discourage beaver from locating here (past activities caused flooding and blocked access to the trail). The forest along the edge of the beach includes cedar, balsam, and birch trees. The trail ends at an open sandy beach and a little stream emptying into Lake Michigan. The beach is a sensitive habitat and visitors should be careful not to trample rare plants or disturb the stream bank. A great place to picnic and swim, but carry out what you bring.

33. CMU Biological Station (3.5 mi.) - This state-of-the-art facility offers high school, undergraduate, and graduate students the opportunity to study the Island's diverse ecosystem and to participate in research of both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Across the street is a short trail, the Paula Simpson Memorial Trail (1937-1991), to the old Burke Farm.

34. Bill Wagner Campground (5.7 mi. / public toilets) - Access to Sand Bay- Kilty Point picnic tables, boat launch, swimming and a place for walking, canoeing, or kayaking Sand Bay are all found here. A Boy Scout-improved trail runs a mile west starting across the road.

35. Martin's Bluff (7.6mi.) - A short flat trail along the bluff is a beautiful location to watch the sunrise or eat at the picnic table. A rope-railing leads visitors down a steep bank to the beach (strenuous).

36. Lake Geneserath Public Access (10.7 mi. / public toilet) - This is the largest of the island's inland lakes. From the public boat launch you only see the North Arm, a small part of the 496-acre lake, which is stocked with walleye, pike, bass, and other species. A few hundred feet north of the launch, Buffalo's Camp Trail heads off to the west; it's one of the Island's prettiest and longest trails, passing over streams, up onto

high hemlock ridges, and skirting a large bog before intersecting Doty's Camp Trail (a long and sometimes difficult trek).

37. Cable's Creek Trail to Cable's Bay Public Beach (11.2 mi.) - A short drive off East Side Drive will take you to parking and a picnic table at the trailhead. The trail (known as "Warblers' Alley") crosses a bridge over Cable's Creek, goes up and down in the woods, through sand dunes, and ends at one of the Island's most beautiful sandy beaches. It's the site of an 1840-1852 non-Mormon trading settlement founded by James Cable and (1915) the ill-fated Wildwood Inn.

38. Beaver Head Lighthouse (14.9 mi.) - The lighthouse was completed in 1851, and the existing tower was rebuilt in 1858. The keeper's house dates to 1866. The light was replaced with an automated radio beacon in 1962. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is property of the Charlevoix Public Schools and part of the adjacent Lighthouse School, an alternative high school that had to be closed down several years ago because of lack of federal funding. You can walk the 52 steps to the top of the tower, take the steps to the rocky beach, or just sit on the platform and enjoy the view.

39. Iron Ore Bay Beach (15.6 mi.! public toilets) - This beautiful beach has a steep drop-off. Its name comes from two iron ore shipping accidents. The Betsy Smith, a freighter wrecked off shore, carried iron ore in the bottom of its hull, and the Barbarian, which off-loaded 100 tons of iron ore in 1882. Iron Ore Creek opens into the Lake and spawns a population of brook trout which enter the Lake through the culvert. A good walking trail follows the Creek north.

40. French Bay Road (17.8 mi.) - This road historically led to the LaFreniere lumber camp. The trail is known for dwarf lake Iris and leads to a rocky bay. The trail is long and strenuous and not always accessible.

41. Miller's Marsh (18.5 mi.) (public toilet) - Named after Harrison "Tip" Miller, a Mormon and lighthouse keeper in the 1860s, there is a well-marked 1-mile loop around the Marsh that takes you through a biologically diverse eco-system of American beech and sugar maple forest and an area dominated by white pine and hemlock. A structure of a few boards protects an early pioneer's hand-dug well. Carpeting the forest floor are what look like miniature pine trees, the "club mosses." Circling the Marsh, you walk on an old beaver dam next to the channelized waterway created by beaver, and see stumps of beaver-chewed trees. You'll pass through a grove of paper birch and see a beaver lodge built at the edge of the Marsh. Finally, you'll walk through wetlands dominated by "sedges" (3-sided triangular stems). Turtles are abundant in the marsh.

42. Old Mill Clearing (19.2 mi.) - The clearing is the site of a former sawmill that used to make croquet mallets and now serves as a spiritual retreat.

43. Greene's Lake Public Access (20.2 mi.) - This tranquil and mystic lake is a place to view a real beaver lodge.

44. The Giant Birch Tree (abt. 250 years old) - This giant birch tree is worth a picture or two, especially with family, friends or your spouse in front of it. Do not climb or sit on the branches or carve in them. The fence around it was erected just a couple of years ago, to protect this awesome tree from human abuse.

45. Fox Lake Boat Launch (21.8 mi.) - This peaceful boat launch and picnic area offers a view of a popular fishing lake. It is particularly delightful in the fall when the oaks burst out in color. Many parts of the shoreline remain undisturbed and it is an ideal place for canoes and kayaks, or fishing for panfish.

46. Fox Lake Road-Big Rock (21.6 mi.) - The Big Rock is the largest glacial erratic known on Beaver Island, and much of it may be below the surface. The igneous rock was carried from the Canadian Shield during the last ice-age.

Tour V - Mrs. Redding's Trail to the Beach (Just follow Mrs. Redding's Trail on the Map on the Cover) Paid een Og's Road which becomes West Side Rd. Where West Side Rd. turns south, take a right turn onto Mrs. Redding's Trail to Oliver's Point.

The trail was named after Mrs. Ina Redding, a Chicago seamstress who came to the island in the early 1900s. About half a mile in, you will find on your right Angelina's Bluff with an overlook of the deepest bluff on the island, where in the 1920 the Indians from Traverse City founded a small village called Peshabestown.

These bluffs were created by rising and falling water levels of Lake Michigan since the Ice Ages. Another 3/4 of a mile on your left is the Sun Circle of Stones, an allegedly old Indian display of sun worshipping in the style of Stone Henge, but much smaller.