

The Fishwrapper



SNOWBOARDING AT LUTSEN MOUNTAINS

A Winter of Ski & Lodging Specials

DECEMBER 3 for 2

Stay for three days and get one of those days FREE. Available in December EXCEPT Holiday Periods at Bluefin Bay 1-800-258-3346.

JANUARY 3 for 2 SPECIAL

Stay for three days and receive one of those days FREE. Available in January EXCEPT Holiday Periods at Bluefin Bay 1-800-258-3346.

Purchase a 2 day lift ticket and get a third day FREE at www.lutsen.com.

4 for 3 Special over MLK weekend

FEBRUARY 4 for 3 SPECIAL

Stay for four days and get one of those days FREE. Available in February EXCEPT Holiday Periods at Bluefin Bay 1-800-258-3346.

FEBRUARY FAMILY SKI WEEKS SPECIAL

Purchase a 4+ day adult ticket Sunday - Thursday, at regular rates, at www.lutsen.com and get a 4+ day Childs ticket FREE along with 3 FREE child ski lessons and FREE child rentals. Stay at Bluefin Bay for 4+ days Sundays-Thursdays and for each paid adult, one child stays free and eats free (from our kids menu) 1-800-258-3346.

MARCH WEEKENDS AT MIDWEEK RATES SPECIAL

Stay 3 or more nights and receive all at midweek rates. Available in March.

PURCHASE LIFT TICKETS ON-LINE SPECIAL

Purchase Lift Tickets on-line at www.lutsen.com and receive discounts on 2+ day lift tickets.

What Our Guests Say

"Beautiful, Beautiful, Beautiful! We hate to go home! We had an absolutely wonderful stay! Everyone is so friendly! We will be back! What a great place!"

—Ron & Terri Abbard-Monor

"I wanted to bring your attention to something done by one of your employees, Mike Scoles. We had called to have the outdoor pool uncovered for us. Mike promptly showed up, uncovered the pool & spa and then proceeded to vacuum the sand out of the bottom of the spa. I asked him if it was standard procedure to vacuum the pool each morning. He said no, but once he saw the sand at the bottom he couldn't leave without cleaning it up. As you well know, these little things done by people like Mike are the things that make Bluefin great."

—Mike & Maureen McDaniel

Bluefin Bay

The sky has turned black
And the fireside is warm
Despite the chilly wind
Blowing in from Canada.
We sit around,
Forgetting all worry.
Remembering
The wonder of the day
Passing behind us
Roasting marshmallows,
The moon rises above us
Each crashing wave
Brings gentle sounds
Of foghorns.
We snuggle under the blankets
And try not to fall asleep
In this serenity.

—Brittany

Lutefisk Lament

'Twas the day before Christmas with all things a bustle,
As mama got set for the Christmas Eve Tussle.
Aunts, uncles, and cousins would soon be arriving
With stomachs all ready for Christmas Eve dining.

While I sat alone with a feeling of dread,
as visions of lutefisk danced in my head.
The thought of the smell made my eyeballs start burning
the thought of the taste set my stomach to churning.
For I'm one of those who good Norskes rebuff.
A scandahoovian boy who can't stand the stuff.

Each year however, I played at the game to spare Mama
and Papa the undying shame. I must bear up bravely, I
can't take the risk of relatives knowing I hate lutefisk. I
know they would spurn me, my presents withhold if the
unthinkable, unspeakable truth they were told.

Then out in the yard I heard such a clatter, I jumped
up to see what was the matter. There in the snow, all
in a jumble three of my uncles had taken a tumble.
My aunts as usual, gave them what for,
and they were soon up and through the door.

Then with talk, and more cheer, an hour passed as
Mama finished the Christmas repast. From out in the
kitchen an odor was stealing that fairly set my senses
to reeling. The smell of Lutefisk crept down the hall
and wilted a plant, in a pot on the wall.

Mama announced dinner by ringing a bell, they
pushed to the table with a yump and a yell. I lifted
my eyes to heaven and sighed, and a rose on the
wallpaper withered and died. With leaden legs I
found my chair and sat in silence with an unseeing
stare. Most of the food was already in place,
there remained only to fill the lutefisk's space.
Then Mama came proudly with a bowl on a trivet,
you would have thought the crown jewels were in it.

She placed it carefully down and took her seat and Papa
said grace before we would eat. It seemed to me, with
my whirling head, the shortest prayer he'd ever said.
Then Mama lifted the cover on the steaming dish, and I
was face to face with that quivering fish. "Me first," I
heard Uncle Kermit call, while I watched the paint peel
off the wall. The plates were passed for Papa to fill, I
waited, in agony, between fever and chill. He would dip
in the spoon and hold it up high, it oozed onto the plates,
I thought I would die.

Then came my plate and to my fevered brain, there
seemed enough lutefisk to derail a train. It looked
like a mountain of congealed glue, oddly transparent,
yet discolored in hue. With butter and cream sauce I
tried to conceal it, I drummed up my courage, I tried
to be bold, Mama reminds me to eat before it gets
cold. I decided to face it, "Uff da," I sighed, "Uff da,
indeed," my stomach replied.

Then I summoned the resolve for which our breed is known,
My hand took the fork as with a mind of its own,
And with reckless abandon that lutefisk I ate
within twenty seconds I'd cleaned up my plate.

Uncle Kermit flashed me an ear to ear grin,
as butter and cream sauce dripped from my chin.
Then, to my great shock, he whispered in my ear,
"I'm sure glad this is over for another year!"

It was then I learned a great and wonderful truth,
That Danes, Swedes and Norwegians, from old men to
youth, must each pay their dues to have the great joy
of being known as a good Scandahoovian boy.

And so to you all, as you face the great test,
Happy Christmas to you, and to you all my best.

—H.J. (Tony) Anderson

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2002

DECEMBER 3 for 2 SPECIAL

- 1 Winter Activities Start at Bluefin Bay
- 5-7 & 12-15 Alice in Wonderland (Grand Marais Playhouse)
- 6 Birch Grove Benefit and Silent Auction
- 18 Birch Grove Christmas Program
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day (Canada)
- 31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2003

JANUARY 3 for 2 SPECIAL

- 1 New Year's Day
- 10 & 11 Wintefest at Lutsen Mts.
- 11 Local Musician Showcase (North Shore Music Assn)
- 18 & 19 Grand Portage Passage Sled Dog Race
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY 2003

FEBRUARY 4 for 3 SPECIAL

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Happy Birthday Dennis
- 17 President's Day
- 28 - March 6 John Beargrease Sled Dog Race

MARCH 2003

MARCH WEEKEND at MIDWEEK RATES

- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 17 Old Time Dance (North Shore Music Assn)
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 30 Spring Fever Special and Spring Quiet Time start at Bluefin Bay.

APRIL 2003

SPRING FEVER SPECIAL

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 6, 1981 Bluefin Vision Began
- 13 Mt Melt Down at Lutsen Mts - Free Skiing

MAY 2003

SPRING FEVER SPECIAL

- 2&3 Food & Wine Lover's Weekend at Bluefin Bay
- 11 Mother's Day
- 18 Senior's Weeks start at Bluefin Bay
- 26 Memorial Day

F.Y.I.

SHUTTLE BUS

Our complimentary shuttle bus is providing service for Guests to and from Lutsen Mountains Ski Area and Cross Country Trailheads, making Bluefin Bay the most convenient winter resort in the area. As one Guest said, "Thanks for the great shuttle service. We really like getting on the bus at Bluefin and being dropped off and picked up right on the slopes. Our kids can come and go as they please and we don't need to be driving them around. It's nice for our whole gang."

CROSS COUNTRY

The Bluefin groomers have already been out on the North Shore Cross Country Ski Trail. The snow has been falling and the groomers have been working to make your experience the best. Our new cross country skis, boots and poles are complimentary to Bluefin Guests and available for fitting at the Front Desk.

SCREEN SAVER

Thanks to Darren Peck, In-House Technical Wizard and Guest Service Manager, you can now download a Screen Saver consisting of the 2003 Bluefin Calendar photos. Just go to www.bluefinbay.com. Right now the Screen Saver is PC compatible. We are working on MAC compatible as well.

INDOOR POOL

A new ventilation system has been installed in the Indoor Pool Building which has brought great response from Guests. The new system provides much more conditioned fresh air into the space and has greatly improved dehumidification.

ICE SKATING

The Bluefin Bay ice skating rink is available



THE L. GOLDISH ON WINTER SEAS

THE INAUGURAL NORTH SHORE MOUNTAIN SKI CHALLENGE

With the cooperation of its many members and the support of charter sponsors, the Lutsen Tofte Tourism Association proudly announces the highly anticipated inaugural North Shore Mountain Cross Country Ski Challenge to be held Saturday February 1st, 2003. For many of our visitors the beauty and challenge of the North Shore Ski Trail has long been known as one of the regions most spectacular systems. With abundant snowfall, the diverse terrain of the North Shore, and 196 kilometers of piston bully groomed trails the possibility for a race was always here, and now it finally has arrived! We will be offering three different levels to choose from to accommodate a wide spectrum of skiers; a 45 km race which gets it start from the Superior National Golf Course Clubhouse and winds through the Sugarbush Trail System encompassing the Oberg, Picnic and Homestead loops. We will also be offering 20 km race which will start at the golf course as well and be primarily comprised of the Rollins Creek ski thru, and the Oberg Loop. And finally to round it all out, we will be offering a 5 km ski tour for kids. All events will have prizes to award our skiers for their successful completion of the challenge. Information on the race can be obtained by calling 1-888-616-6784. or, visit www.northshoreskitrail.com. The registration fee for participating in the North Shore Mountain Challenge will be \$25 before January 1st, 2003, and \$35 thereafter up to and including race day. We have a maximum of 500 spots available and registration is filling up fast! Patrick Christopherson, Executive Race Director.

Winter Activities

Once again Bluefin is proud to announce our Enhanced Guest Services for the winter. Activities provide varied and unique opportunities for all ages. Some of the activities that will be offered are:

- Crafts & Indoor Games
- Guided Snowshoe Tours
- Guided XC Ski Tours
- XC Ski Waxing Lessons
- Pizza Feed & Movie Night
- Campfire, S'mores, Hot Drinks, and Ice Skating
- Therapeutic Massage
- Daily Shuttle Bus Rides to Lutsen & XC-Ski Trailheads

Please call 800-BLUEFIN for more details or visit www.bluefinbay.com.

for Guest enjoyment again this winter. Our new skates are available at the Front Desk and are complimentary to Bluefin Guests. Nate will be organizing frequent hot chocolate and skating parties.

FOOD & WINE EXPERIENCE

Bluefin Bay Restaurants have been invited to participate in the 9th Annual "The Food & Wine Experience" January 31, February 1 & 2, 2003 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. "It is a great honor to be invited to show our products at this tremendous event." said Chef Tracy Jacobsen. The show, where you can sample gourmet food from around the world and the North Shore, includes some 250 exhibitors and has more than 300 wines to taste. Sponsored by MINNESOTA MONTHLY MAGAZINE, the Food & Wine Experience has become the premier event for foodies in the Upper Midwest. Tickets are available at the door or at a discounted rate on the web at www.minnesotamonthly.com or www.foodwineshow.com.

REMODELING CONTINUES

As you know, improvements are continually occurring at Bluefin Bay and this year has been no exception. Work has been completed converting all the Superiors (Units 44-53) into three full bedrooms with a jacuzzi both in the Master Bedroom upstairs and on the first floor. These are beautiful renovations.

LUTSEN MTNS.

Years of dedication to innovation in snow making are paying off for the 2002/2003 ski season. The new technology was helped along by cooperative weather which has produced the best base in Lutsen history. This translates into more runs open earlier and staying open later in the season. For snow conditions, go to www.lutsen.com.

ANIMALS IN WINTER

Ever wonder what animals of the North Shore do during the long Minnesota winter? Here is a quick look at three of the most popular inhabitants of these northern woods and waters.

Black Bears spend winter curled up asleep inside a den; maybe under a tree stump, in a small cave, or a hole in the ground just large enough to curl up in. Once in their dens bears live entirely off stored body fat and may lose 30% of their pre-denning weight. They don't need to eat, drink, or eliminate waste. Mother bears give birth during this time to 1 - 4 cubs which feed and suckle on the mother as she dozes. Though asleep most of the time, black bears are not true hibernators; their body temperature only drops slightly and they may wake and wander outside their dens.

Moose stay active all winter searching for food. Their diet necessarily changes from green vegetation to twigs and shrubs of fir, birch, maple and willow. Their long legs move easily through snow too deep for deer and wolves, though they can be vulnerable on ice and frozen ground where traction is difficult. Moose are well insulated and not particularly bothered by cold. In fact, they tend to have more problems with summer's heat than winter's chill.

Beavers spend much of winter out of sight in their homes sharing space above the waterline with other beavers for warmth. By damming rivers, beavers often raise water levels enough to surround their homes with a protective moat, creating water deep enough for winter food storage. Their homes are well insulated-on the coldest days, temps rarely drop below 32 degrees-yet provide plenty of ventilation. Beavers may remain here for several months if ice prevents underwater access to the house. A colony of 5-6 on average will occupy the lodge and co-exist peacefully throughout the winter living on a larder of logs and twigs put away during the fall.

—Todd Whitesel