



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

Susan Wilcox Olson (231) 590-5930

susan@cherryfestival.org

Paul Beachnau (989) 732-6333

Paul@gaylordmichigan.net

Gaylord Is Home to Pure Michigan's Water Wonderland – For Superior Fishing, Pristine Paddling, Kayaking, Canoeing and Swimming

GAYLORD, MICHIGAN – April 20, 2015 – Otsego County has over 100 inland lakes and five premiere rivers, all perfect to enjoy Pure Michigan's Water Wonderland. The newest way to enjoy the many inland lakes including Heart Lake is Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP). Guest visiting the area may choose to stay in a vacation luxury home equipped with paddle boards, kayaks and canoes.

For those looking for the area's catches, dozens of lakes are stocked with the catch-of-the-day. Otsego Lake offers a variety of species of freshwater fish and a variety of seasons in which to pursue them. The water is alive with walleye, perch, small-and large-mouth bass, pike sturgeon and crappie, among other sport fish.

Beyond Otsego Lake, Dixon Lake, Big Bear Lake and Big Lake are also favorites for having aquatic fun. Big Bear Lake has a maximum depth of 36 feet and occupies 350 square acres. Big Lake has a maximum depth of 81 feet and is about a third of the size of Big Bear Lake. The Gaylord area is no stranger to pristine paddling too. Both Dixon Lake and Big Lake offer the perfect kayak experience complete with public access, restrooms, and a dock. River Kayaking

is found on the north segment of the Sturgeon River. Paddle enthusiasts will find their way into the quaint villages of Wolverine and Indian River.

Boat, Jet Ski and Kayak Rentals can be found at Pro Source Rent/All, Incl. located in the heart of Gaylord on South Old 27 and at Northern Sports Sales & Service also located on South Old 27.

Sure, Gaylord's got loads of fantastic fishing lakes-they're those big blue blurbs all over the map, but did you know the area is stocked with a heap of streams chock full of the North's famous trout?

Otsego County is the headwaters to five favorite rivers: Black River, Pigeon River, AuSable River, Manistee River & Sturgeon River.

The **Black River** is just 20 minutes from downtown Gaylord and jumping with the Midwest's premier brook trout. Said to be the best stretch of fishing, between the bridge located on Tin Shanty Bridge Road to the bottom of the steps at Town Corner Lake.

The **Pigeon River** is where fishing enthusiasts will find the best in both brown trout and brook trout; rainbows and the Pigeon River's "tubes". The Pigeon River is easily accessed via the Pigeon River Campground, the tubes are generally jumping from the second week of May through August.

The **AuSable River** is a blue-ribbon trout stream. Michigan legendary AuSable draws anglers from all over the world. Anglers visiting the north branch will be rewarded with the brookies and browns that made this river famous. Access at the Sheep Ranch is public, a half-mile north of Twin Bridge – about two miles north of Twin Bridge Road and County Road 612.

The **Manistee River** is nearly 250 miles long, the mighty Manistee seems to offer as many fishing holes as it does lunkers. The headwaters inside the 4,700 acre preserved DeWard Tract boasts the most pristine stretch that make way for breathless river views.

The **Sturgeon River** is one of the most pristine and high-gradient streams in Lower Michigan. It is one of Michigan's top cold-water streams and a notable blue ribbon trout stream. Flowing through the heart of Pigeon River Country, it is a sought-after destination for the outdoor enthusiast. The Sturgeon River runs through Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRC), a premier destination for hiking, hunting and fishing.

Simply put, the Gaylord area is home to the best trout fishing in the Midwest.

With the abundance of fresh water lakes, streams, and rivers it is only appropriate to pair the outdoor water experience with the catch of the day. Gaylord is home to Michigan's best in 'Catch and Cook' opportunities. From walleye to bass; to trout and perch, there's a catch perfect for pairing with a fisherman's hungry appetite. Fishing enthusiasts will enjoy preparing their own catch in rentals ranging from rustic and rugged to modern and luxurious.

Fishing enthusiasts may also hire one of several local expert fishing guides including Alex Cervaniak of Northern Michigan Fly Fishing and guides serving Jay's Sporting Goods to assist in finding the best catch of the day. Several guide and charter services throughout northern Michigan are part of the 'Catch and Cook' movement which may allow the guide, through certification and partnership with local restaurants, to clean and have the catch cooked, and served at a participating dining establishment. To learn more about the many inland lakes, river, and streams, along with fishing guide services, boat and kayak rentals visit www.gaylordmichigan.net or call 800-345-8621.

#

#

#