

## Sink Your Teeth Into Klondike Days



### Gary's Great Getaways

By Gary Knowles

Twice each month this column highlights great happenings, exhibits, travel deals and good reasons to travel - primarily in our Upper Great Lakes Region. Gary Knowles has worked in the travel industry since 1979 for the State of Wisconsin Tourism Office, as a travel writer and as a consultant to travel businesses. He has poked around the Midwest, crisscrossed the US and traveled in Europe, Australia and Asia. There's too much going on out there to stay home. Don't miss the fun. Getaway!

#### Klondike Days

Eagle River, Mar. 3-4

Travel through the ages to Wisconsin in the 1880s at Trig's Klondike Days Winter Festival. Get up-close to the wilderness sports at the

chainsaw-carving contest, lumber-jack competition and dog and horse weight pull events. Try the snowshoe races, shop the craft market, explore the Native American Cultural Exposition, sample the woodsman cuisine and enjoy the music. For area information contact the Eagle River chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center at 800-359-6315 or Klondike Days at 715-891-2679 or [www.klondikedays.org](http://www.klondikedays.org).

#### 40 Years of Cheers!

##### Wollersheim Winery

Wisconsin's historic Wollersheim Winery celebrates its 40th anniversary with a grand Open House Mar. 3-4. Its roots go back to the 1850s and first owner, Hungarian Count Agoston Haraszthy. He left Wisconsin for California after three tough winters and eventually became known as "The Father of the California Wine Industry." It was (the late) Bob and JoAnn Wollersheim who revived the Wisconsin vineyard in the 1970s and today their daughter Julie and son-in-law Philippe Coquard oversee Wisconsin's premier winery. They produce exceptional wines that win national awards. Everyone is invited to the free open house for wine tastings, self-guided tours, cooking demonstrations and winemaker presentations. 800-847-9463 or visit [www.wollersheimwinery.com](http://www.wollersheimwinery.com).

### Grow Jurassic Park Size Cabbages Colossal Contest!

Sometimes you don't need to travel farther than your own backyard for a big adventure! This one is targeted at third graders, their teachers and parents - so pay attention kids! The National Bonnie Plants Cabbage Program sends all the fixens for 3rd graders to raise huge cabbages in their backyards. One young grower in each state wins \$1,000. Each year Bonnie Plants, the largest producer of vegetable and herb plants in North America, trucks *O.S. Cross*, "oversized," cabbage plants to third grade classrooms whose teachers have signed-up on-line for the free program. Kids take the 2-in. plants home to grow and teachers submit "best in class" images to Bonnie Plants. Agriculture Commissioners, state to state, randomly choose state winners from submitted entries. Teachers can sign up and learn more at [www.bonnieplants.com](http://www.bonnieplants.com). Last year more than 75,000 students in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin participated.

#### Dinosaurs Stalk in Davenport

They're baaaaack! And this time they're moving! The "Dinosaurs Unearthed" exhibit at the Putnam Museum, 1717 West 12th Street in Davenport, IA, features "dynamic animatronic" dinosaurs and visitors get to step into their larger-than-**(Continue! on page 3D)**



life world. The big lizards are set in an awe-inspiring naturalistic settings with gorgeous backdrops and realistically landscaped scenes. Dinosaurs Unearthed is on exhibit through July 8. For more information about the Quad Cities: 800-747-7800 or [www.visitQuad-Cities.com](http://www.visitQuad-Cities.com). More Dino Details are at <http://bit.ly/yFI1ST>.

### High Wheeler Train Fest Rolls into Palatine

Trains of all sizes will be featured at the 34th annual High Wheeler Train Show at Harper College Sports Center, Mar. 3 and 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Twenty-one operating models in scales ranging from tiny "Z" thru garden sized "G" trains as well as museum and historical society rail transportation exhibits are displayed. A kids' activity area has trains made from Legos and train-themed craft activities. Admission is \$8 for adults, seniors \$6, kids 5-12 are \$2 or free with coupon at [www.HighWheelerTrain-show.com](http://www.HighWheelerTrain-show.com)

### Get Paddled! Canoecopia

**returns to Madison**  
Canoe and kayak enthusiasts and outdoor lovers from around the country know the annual Canoecopia event is the largest consumer paddle sport expo in the world. Hundreds of exhibitors, paddle-sport experts, parks and recreation representatives and outdoor organizations come to meet and teach show-goers about the art of enjoying the great outdoors. If you're planning summer getaways, looking for adventure ideas or shopping for outdoor gear, don't miss this one! At the Alliant Energy Center, Madison. 608-267-3976; [www.canoecopia.com](http://www.canoecopia.com).



Klondike Days Winter Festival invades Eagle River this weekend. (Photo courtesy Eagle River Chamber of Commerce)



Klondike Days (Photo courtesy Eagle River Chamber of Commerce)



Canoecopia returns to Madison. (Photo courtesy of Canoecopia)



Wisconsin state cabbage contest winner Austin Mezera. (Photo courtesy [Bonnie Plants](#))