



Suggested Itineraries

Great Lakes Seaway Trail 2012 Quilt Show The War of 1812 Quilt Challenge plus Birding!

Great Lakes Seaway Trail 2012 Quilt Show
The War of 1812 Challenge
4 days/3 nights About 300 miles
Plus Birding & Quilting & a little history
along Lake Ontario. Individuals/groups
March 17-20, 2012 only to coincide
with the "Great Lakes Seaway Trail Quilt Show"



22 bird themed Story Teller Signs are located at sites along the 518 mile National Scenic Byway.

The Great Lakes Seaway Trail is one of America's Byways and is recognized for its unique landscape, scenic fresh-water coastline, and historical significance. This National Scenic Byway parallels 518 miles of shoreline along the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Niagara River, and Lake Erie in New York and Pennsylvania. www.seawaytrail.com
Great Lakes Seaway Trail, PO Box 660, Sackets Harbor, NY 13685
Contact: teresa@seawaytrail.com phone: 315-646-1000

Sat, March 17 Enjoy National Quilting Day (always the 3rd Saturday in March) at the Seaway Trail Discovery Center 10 am to 5 pm — The War of 1812 Quilt Challenge featuring reproduction fabric "Cot to Coffin" size quilts, 1812 clothing & sewing equipment exhibit, vendors, demonstrations in historic lake front community of Sackets Harbor, NY headquarters for one of America's Byways. Overnight & dinner in one of several independently owned or chain restaurants, B&B's or hotels (Sackets Harbor or Watertown, NY 8 miles away)

Sun, March 18 Quilt Show continues or keep your hood up and your boots on to check out some nature and history — go to NYS Parks Recreation & Historic Sites Battlefield Museum Walking Trail in Sackets Harbor where you might see a Greater Scaup near Black River Bay. Then back in your car to follow Great Lakes Seaway Trail west to Derby Hill to possibly see all fifteen raptor species. (Good to invest in Birding the Great Lakes Seaway Trail Guide & Companion Audio Tape.) Back in the car to follow signs west to Oswego's Fort Ontario for a walk around this star-shaped fort that was first built in 1727. Then walking east to St Paul's Cemetery to good viewing areas for the last of the waterfowl courtship displays with showy breeding plumage. Overnight & dinner in Oswego (dry off the boots for Monday)

Mon, March 19 Lots of choices for a good hike with your binoculars: Sterling Nature Center, (buy a cookie to go at Fly by Night Cookie Company) Fair Haven Beach State Park or Lakeshore Marshes Wildlife Management Area. Marsh has good ratings for spring migrating waterfowl and wetland birds. Take a loop south to Montezuma Audubon Center to view restored native grassland and marshes — great nature photo opportunity.

Quilter Alert: If there is a die hard quilter or two in the car — good time to veer over to a quilt store - Patricia's Fabric House, East Rochester.

Get some warm soup; drive the Great Lakes Seaway Trail west to Braddock Bay Hawk Watch to the Lookout Platform to see sixteen or more species of migrating raptors. March & April are good times to "prowl" for migrant owls notably North Saw-whet and Long-eared roosting in the Owl Woods & Raptor Banding Station area. (Don't forget to read GLST Birding Story Teller signage along the way.) Overnight & dinner in Greater Rochester area - lots of choices or a little further west, if it is available, try Golden Hill State Park, 30-Mile Point Lighthouse (sleeps 6 adults in the 1875 lighthouse.)

Tues, March 20 In Western Lake Ontario Parks like Four Mile Creek State Park and others watch for dabbling ducks, loons and grebes and of course Canada Geese are abundant in flight. Consider checking out some of the 40 "Quilt Blocks" painted on barns, pick up a map of locations at Brown's Berry Farm in Waterport. Maybe you have been to Niagara Falls before for the ride on the Maid of the Mist but maybe not to see birds - the Niagara River is famous for Gulls, 19 species have been seen making it the best gull watching spot in the world. Consider watching the show from Goat Island in Niagara Falls, Tiff Nature Preserve, Beaver Island State Park and Fort Niagara.

Quilter Alert: Ok, if you need more fat quarters try out Aurora Sewing Center, East Aurora or Pine Grove Quilt Shop in Kenmore. Overnight in one of many "soon to be spring" locations on the Niagara River (Youngstown, Lewiston or Niagara Falls)

