

## Bluefin Bay FAMILY OF RESORTS



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## Bluefin Bay FAMILY OF RESORTS

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Winter 2013-14

# THE FISHWRAPPER



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Bluefin Bay FAMILY OF RESORTS



## John Beargrease: The North Shore's Lead Musher

Born out of tradition and necessity, dog sledding on the North Shore survives today as a world-class race



Photo by: Paul Walsh (Flickr)

It sounds like a dream: gliding silently across a frozen expanse of lake surrounded by frosted evergreens, holding tight to the reins as a team of harnessed, brawny dogs bound forward through a deep blanket of snow. But that's the essence of the rugged 390-mile Beargrease sled dog race from Duluth to the Canadian Border and back, and its rich history begins right in our backyard.

John Beargrease was born in 1858 in Beaver Bay, a remote settlement on Minnesota's North Shore just 30 miles south of today's Bluefin Bay site. The son of an Anishinabe Chief, Beargrease and his two brothers survived through native practices of hunting, fishing and trapping, often trading their furs with European settlers along Lake Superior's coast.

As the Beargrease boys grew, so too did the population of the North Shore. Small settlements dotted Lake Superior's rocky shoreline. Despite this

Northern expansion, the train from Duluth only went as far as Two Harbors, leaving delivery of the US Mail – the shore's main form of communication with the world – at the mercy of the lake's temperamental weather and landscape.

Without a road or train, the only method of transporting mail was the Lake Shore Trail, a single rugged footpath running along the coastline. Small streams, deep ravines and raging rivers all had to be crossed on foot. Rains, hail, slippery clay, mountainous snowdrifts and thick brush crowded carriers from the trail.

The Beargrease family, already familiar with negotiating the Lake Shore Trail's unique perils thanks to a lifetime of trapping, hunting and trading along the path, adopted the job of delivering the mail. Traveling between Two Harbors and Grand Marais once (or sometimes twice) each week, John Beargrease and his brothers were greeted with great anticipation from folks seeking long-awaited news of friends and loved ones, reports of ice conditions and other vital information at every stop. In the summer, they hiked the trail or rowed a boat. In the winter, John made the trek by dog sled, covering 30 to 40 miles per day, once making the trip from Two Harbors to Grand Marais in as little as 28 hours.

For nearly 20 years, John Beargrease, his brothers and his dogsled were the only link between the North Shore and outside world. Today, we celebrate this rich heritage with the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, the longest sled dog race in the lower 48 states and

a prequalifying race to the world famous Iditarod. Mushers and their teams of up to 14 dogs brave the North Shore's rugged trails and elements in a race along the Lake Superior coast. This year's event marks the 30th annual running and will begin on Sunday, January 26, 2014. Events are open to the public and tickets are available at [beargrease.com](http://beargrease.com).

Plan your trip now to celebrate the history, experience the rush and join in the great adventure of North Shore dogsledding! ■

### Want to feel the rush of the mush for yourself?

Contact Bluefin Bay Guest Services or one of our favorite local dog sled kennels.

*Tofte*  
Stoney Creek Kennels  
218.663.0143

*Grand Marais area*  
Irish Creek Kennels  
218.370.0882

Arleigh Jorgenson Sled Dog Teams  
218.387.2498

*Two Harbors*  
Silver Creek Sled Dogs  
218.834.6592





Dear Guests,

Cold is in the forecast, snow is on its way and we couldn't be happier to welcome another amazing North Shore winter to Bluefin Bay. Why? Because the colder temps signal the return of some of our very favorite activities...and guests!

There's a reason why so many of you keep coming back here winter after winter – actually there are a lot of reasons. We talk about many of them – premier downhill skiing and snowboarding at Lutsen Mountains, our area's incredible network of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails, even dog sledding adventures and indulgent indoor pampering at our Waves of Superior Spa – in this edition of The Fishwrapper.

We hope you'll take a closer look and get inspired to start planning your next great winter getaway to the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts!

Warmly,

Dennis Rysdahl  
Owner and General Manager

## Need a Quick Lift? Head to Lutsen Mountains

Want the recipe for the winter vacation of a lifetime? Take 1,000 acres of skiable terrain. Add more than 110" of annual snowfall. Divide into nearly 100 runs, ranging from beginner to expert. Then top off with the brand new, high speed Caribou Express chairlift on Moose Mountain, making Lutsen Mountains' incredible skiing and snowboarding better than ever.

Opening with the 2013-14 season, the new six passenger high speed chairlift replaces the double Caribou Chair, tripling lift capacity and reducing the formerly 10 minute ride to a snow meltingly quick 3.5 minutes.

The Caribou Express is located on Lutsen's Moose Mountain, providing skiers with high speed access to Lutsen's 800 vertical feet of skiable terrain and 95% of the slopes on the mountain. For skiers and snowboarders, this not only means less time sitting on snowpants-padded rears, but also shorter lines and way more time spent shushing down the slope instead of riding up.

Also arriving at Lutsen Mountains this season are two new double-black diamond, adrenaline-pumping runs, located on the Moose Mountain North Face. Located between mid-America's steepest groomed run, The Plunge, and the gondola summit, both runs feature steep vertical grades and one of winter's best - and steepest – natural rushes. ■



## Enjoy Lakeside Views & Slopeside Access

Just eight miles from the base of Lutsen Mountains, the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is the perfect home base for a North Shore ski or snowboard vacation. Check out these need-to-know tidbits to make the most of your next snowy getaway!

The 2013-14 season opening weekend is slated for November 23-24. Early bird (through November 15) and multi-day discounts are available now at [lutsen.com](http://lutsen.com).

Check out our Ski & Stay Packages for great discounted lodging and lift ticket deals at [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com).

Enjoy lakeside accommodations and slopeside convenience with the Bluefin Bay Family of Resort's complimentary shuttles to and from the ski hill, available 9 am to 5 pm daily.

Avoid the rental rush at the mountain (and save some cash) with a visit to Sawtooth Outfitters, adjacent to Bluefin Bay, for full downhill ski and snowboard outfitting.

Grab some complimentary cross-country skis, hop the shuttle and head to Lutsen's Nordic Center – accessible by chairlift and offering gently rolling hills, groomed trails and spectacular views.

Add some ahh to your après ski with a Skier's Relief treatment at the Waves of Superior Spa or a glass of wine, good music and incredible views at the award-winning Bluefin Grille. ■

## Great Waves, *Great People*

We're thrilled to provide our guests with warm and friendly hospitality, something we couldn't do without an exceptional staff. This column is our way of introducing you to some of the faces behind the service at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts.

*John Wolf*  
Controller  
Retiring Winter 2013



**I've been with Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts for...**  
*22 years*

**The thing I'm going to miss most about Bluefin is...**  
*friends and the excitement of the resort atmosphere*

**My plan when I retire is...**  
*to be more active in hobbies and sports like tennis, golf, skiing, and building and flying remote control model airplanes*

**My favorite thing to do when I'm not working is...**  
*enjoying wildlife*

**One thing I'd like readers to know...**  
*I've worked a number of places in life and by far, appreciate and have felt appreciated more at Bluefin Bay than any other. Don't take it for granted when you work in a great place!*

*Kim Gager*  
Guest Services, Waves Spa Receptionist,  
Server at the Bluefin Grille  
(Wherever guests are, you'll find Kim Gager)



**Hometown:**  
*St. Catherine, Jamaica West Indies*

**I've been with Bluefin Bay for...**  
*2 years*

**What brought you to the North Shore?**  
*I came here on a work and travel program as a J-1 Student to work for the summer season*

**My favorite part about working at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is...**  
*meeting new people and learning about different cultures*

**My favorite things to do when I'm not working are...**  
*hiking and biking*

**I want readers to know...**  
*that Jamaicans can handle Minnesota's cold winters!*





## Winter Activities

### This Winter's Forecast is for Fun!

On the North Shore, the first snowfall can only mean one thing: it's time to go and play outside! And at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts you're at the heart of it all – a lakeside destination with the state's best snow and season's greatest fun right outside your door.

Along with our fantastic Ski & Stay packages, close proximity to Lutsen Mountains and "ahhh-pres ski" services at the Waves of Superior Spa, we also offer loads of fun winter ways to get out, get moving and get warm in the chilly air of a North Shore winter.

Check out some of our most popular seasonal activities below and be sure to visit [www.bluefinbay.com](http://www.bluefinbay.com) for more details.

#### ■ Cross-country skiing

Check out complimentary cross-country ski equipment and explore the area trails at your leisure or join one of our regularly scheduled guided excursions.

#### ■ Cross-country ski waxing table

Available for use for personal skis

#### ■ Snowshoeing

Explore the great North Woods with our complimentary snowshoe rental. Ask for a trail map at Guest Services or join one of our guides for a tour.

#### ■ Ice skating on-site at Bluefin Bay and Surfside

Complimentary ice skates, hockey net, sticks and puck available

#### ■ Complimentary shuttles to Lutsen Mountains

9am to 5pm daily

#### ■ Rinkside campfire & complimentary s'mores

Available every weekend and by request during midweeks

#### ■ Fun kids' activities & crafts

Weekends only

#### ■ Yoga

Weekends only. All levels welcome.

#### ■ Live acoustic music

At the Bluefin Grille on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8-10 pm beginning January 1st; live classical music and dinner every Sunday from 6-8 pm beginning January 5th

The following activities are offered for a fee and advance reservations are recommended. Contact Guest Services for more information:

#### ■ Dog sledding

#### ■ Horse-drawn sleigh rides

## The Way We See It

The Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts and the surrounding area are bursting with outdoor adventure and breathtaking sights. Here are some favorite activities and tips from those in the know – the Bluefin Bay team. For more details on any of these suggestions, our Guest Services staff will be happy to help.



### Favorite Winter Adventure: Snowshoeing or Hiking on Frozen Rivers

Many guests have experienced the awesome summer beauty of the North Shore's rushing rivers, but winter gives us the adventurous opportunity to experience those rivers in a completely different way.

Every week, we lead a guided Adventure Hike to one of the region's many frozen waterways, leading guests out onto the safe, solid ice. We snowshoe or hike on and along the river to give guests a completely new perspective of these wondrous natural treasures. This is an exhilarating & unique cold weather adventure you won't want to miss!



### Favorite Winter Amenity: Snowshoeing and Cross Country Skiing

With 400 kilometers of pristine cross-country ski trails and countless miles of snowshoeing adventures right in our backyard, it's not hard to understand why these are two of our very favorite winter activities.

Along with regularly scheduled guided adventures to some of our best-loved nearby trails, we also offer guests complimentary snowshoe and ski rental right on site.



### Favorite Winter Spa Service: Hungarian Thermal Mud Wrap

Guests love our mud wraps. The Hungarian Thermal Mud Wrap is especially soothing for skin in the winter since it's a heat-inducing, purifying service. This is the perfect 60 minute treatment for your body after just coming in from the winter elements. Contact Waves of Superior Spa for more information and to book your appointment.

## In Celebration of Snow

If variety is the spice of life, winters at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts have quite a kick. In fact, we think our snow is something really quite special. That's why our area is home to two of the best – and snowiest! – celebrations of the winter season.

### Winter Tracks Festival

Join us Jan. 31-Feb. 8 for the 2014 Winter Tracks Festival, a 10-day celebration of the best snow and snow-bound fun in the state. The county-wide festival will be chock full of activities for the whole family, including skiing, snowshoeing, sleigh riding, dog sledding, snow sculptures, snowmobiling, ice fishing, ice skating, arts, crafts and "snow" much more!

For more details and a full calendar of Winter Tracks events, visit Bluefin Bay's calendar of events at [www.bluefinbay.com](http://www.bluefinbay.com) or [www.wintertracks.com](http://www.wintertracks.com).

### Volks Ski Challenge

At the first sign of skiable snow, head out and take on the Volks Ski challenge and do your Nordic best to cover all 400+ kilometers of Cook County's scenic groomed cross-country ski trail network in a single season. Up for grabs? Bragging rights, winter adventure, incredible North Shore scenery and a svelte new skier's body. Find more information and to register, visit [www.volksski.com](http://www.volksski.com). ■





## Give the gift of Bluefin Bay

This holiday give a gift that will keep on giving long after it is unwrapped — the gift of a lakeside vacation getaway to the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts. Gift cards can be purchased in any dollar amount and used for lodging, restaurants, gift shops and the Waves of Superior Spa. Gift cards are mailed within a few days of placing your order and each card comes in special packaging with a place for a personal message — all making your job of giving even easier.

**Call 1-800-BLUEFIN (258-3346) or 218-663-7296 locally to order your gift cards today.**



## Inside the Season's Best Oohs & Aahs

The North Shore is famous for our snow. Our adrenaline pumping, snowy slope gliding and track making outdoor fun is simply legendary. But at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, some of the season's best moments can be found indoors at our very own Waves of Superior Spa, the shore's only full-service destination spa.

Check out two of the season's most ahhh-inspiring treatments below then contact Waves of Superior Spa for more information and to book your appointment!

Designed with the unique needs of North Shore cross-country skiers, downhill skiers and snowboarders in mind, the "Skier's Relief" package features a 60 min relaxation massage and paraffin foot treatment. It's the perfect antidote to slope- or trail-sore bodies!

Pamper yourself with this season's featured body treatment, the Hungarian Thermal Mud Wrap. This purifying 60-minute exfoliation and mineral-rich body masque renews dull winter skin and reinvigorates the soul.

We know you want to get outside and enjoy that beautiful snow. That's why beginning in late December we're extending our hours on Friday and Saturday evenings. So go ahead, play all day. Then head indoors for a little ahh-pres ski relaxation and rejuvenation. ■

## Cold Day's Deals!

### North Shore Holiday Special

*Valid Dec 1 – Dec 24, 2013*

Celebrate the holiday season at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts and enjoy 20% off two night stays or get three nights for the price of two. Kick off the holiday season and your shopping with coupons for local businesses, live music, family friendly activities and more!

### Extended Stay Package

*Valid all year*

With this progressive savings deal, stays of five nights receive 10% off, six nights receive 15% off and seven nights receive 20% off! Cannot be combined with other offers.

### January 3 for 2 & February 4 for 3

*Valid January 1- Feb 2, 2014 and February 1-28, 2014*

Stay three nights in January or four nights in February and get one of those nights completely free!

### March Weekends at Midweek Rates

*Valid March 14-31, 2014*

Stay three nights over a March weekend and receive all nights at our lower midweek rates.

### Ski & Stay Packages

For those who love to ski and stay at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, we offer packages combining discounted lodging and lift tickets to Lutsen Mountains ski resort. Visit bluefinbay.com and click on Packages, or call and ask your reservationist for details.

### Romance Packages

Crashing waves, a moonlit lake, romantic suites: no wonder Bluefin Bay is consistently named Minnesota's "Most Romantic Resort." For the ultimate romantic winter getaway, we've created new Honeymoon, Romantic Retreat and Couples Spa packages. Visit bluefinbay.com and click on Packages, or call and ask your reservationist for details.

### Internet Savings Deal

Book your stay online at bluefinbay.com and receive discounted lodging rates on stays of two nights or longer. Good for online reservations only. Some date restrictions apply. Cannot be combined with other offers.



## Don't Miss a Wave

## Keep up with Bluefin Bay even when you are away.

Find us on your favorite social media networks for updates on everything from holiday deals and events to wildlife sightings and the northern lights. Share your photos and stories with us using #BluefinBay.

For more on Bluefin Bay events and specials check us out on:



# 800.BLUEFIN (258-3346)

## Another Successful Fall Food & Wine Lovers Event

We had a sell-out crowd for all three events at our annual Fall Food & Wine Lovers Weekend co-sponsored by Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine on Nov. 1-2. This year's guest chef was Peter Botcher of the renowned Minneapolis restaurant Butcher and the Boar. Botcher, along with members of his skilled culinary team, and our own Bluefin Grille staff teamed up to make this year's event another huge success. Highlights of the weekend menu included Bluefin Chowder, Wild Boar, Braised Beef Short Ribs, Fulton Fried Superior White Fish, and much more! Reservations are currently being taken for our Spring Food and Wine Lovers, coming this May 2-3, 2014.

## Girls Gone North Weekend 2013

Our 6th annual Girls Gone North Weekend took place Nov 15-17 and was a hit with this year's participants! The event featured a special cooking demonstration by our own Waves of Superior Café Executive Chef, Judi Barsness (former Chez Jude fame), complete with samplings of seasonal, healthy meal offerings, recipes, tips, and wine pairing suggestions. Other events included yoga, a group hike to Oberg Mountain, relaxation time at Waves of Superior Spa, live music and happy hours, and just simple 'girl time'. Mark your calendars now for Girls Gone North Nov. 14-16, 2014.