

15th Biennial Hemingway Society Conference
HEMINGWAY UP IN MICHIGAN
June 17-22, 2012

As all of you must know by now, Northern Michigan, particularly Petoskey and Bay View, will be the site of the 15th Biennial Hemingway Society Conference, hosted by the Michigan Hemingway Society. The planning committee and Michigan Hemingway Society board of directors have been working diligently to ensure that we show our guests as much of the Northern Michigan experience as possible.

We are thrilled to be holding our meetings and academic sessions on the campus of the Bay View Association, an intact Victorian Chautauqua community where the Hemingway family members attended various activities. The Society has visited many places in the world with connections to Hemingway's life or to his work, but the participants will never have seen anyplace which is still so much the same as it was during the early part of the 20th Century.

The Victorian ambience, with modern conveniences, can extend to one's accommodations as well by booking with our partners, The Perry Hotel, The Bay View Inn, or The Terrace Inn, or by renting a cottage on the Bay View grounds. Our friends at the Odawa Hotel are also offering us a conference rate, and there are a few B & B's in the area, along with all major hotel chains. Keep up with the latest conference news at www.hemingwaysociety.org

While the detailed schedule is not complete, the major activities have been planned and booked for quite some time. The opening reception will be held at The Perry Hotel on Sunday, June 17, 2012, and afterward everyone will have the opportunity to attend the Bay View Music Festival opening Vespers Concert, a stunning variety program by professional musicians. The city of Petoskey will offer street entertainment and downtown activities on Monday evening to complement the opening of an exhibit and the premiere of a documentary on the history of the Little Traverse Bay area. We will also inaugurate the "Hemingway's Petoskey" walking tour based on a 'trail' of historic markers and plaques.

Our week will provide as many tours as we can fit in, including one to Horton Bay and a sunset cruise beneath the Mackinac Bridge.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Ernest Mainland and the Little Traverse Bay Historical Society, conference attendees will have the opportunity to visit Windemere Cottage. Day tour sign-up will be offered at the time of conference registration, and Mr. Mainland will also be hosting a benefit reception before the start of our conference and will be auctioning two overnight visits of two nights each at the Cottage Annex. Links for these activities will be available on the conference website www.hem2012.com .

Other events are still in the planning stages, but there will be something very special offered as a fundraiser for the PEN/Hemingway Fiction Award. Please remember that the Hemingway Society and Foundation now bear the entire fiscal responsibility for the costs of judging and for the cash award itself, and plan to participate. Such encouragement of excellence in writing is one of the main charters of the organization. The award was founded by Mary Hemingway as a tribute to her husband's memory and literary legacy. For more information, see the society home page www.hemingwaysociety.org and click on Pen/Hemingway Award.

Our closing reception and banquet will be on Friday evening at the beautiful Bay Harbor Yacht Club, a very grand facility where Ernest never ate. Bay Harbor is a new Victorian-style structure, but the views of sky and water are those that Hemingway compared to the Bay of Naples. Sunsets seen from there are breathtaking, and an evening of fine food among like-minded friends will be a lovely close to our week in Petoskey and Bay View.

It does not, however, have to be the close to your Up North experience. The Michigan Hemingway Society will sponsor an optional one-day tour to the Upper Peninsula (that Jan Byrne and Jack Jobst have put together) so that we may see the Fox River, Seney, Nick Adams' railroad tracks, and so forth. Hemingway fished the Fox and described it eloquently under the pseudonym "The Big Two-Hearted River." Visits to that area are magical. Our hotel partners have agreed to extend conference room rates for those wishing to stay over for the tour.

Keep watching the web site for updates. Hemingway scholars and aficionados from all over the world are going to be in Northern Michigan in June, 2012. Plan on being a part of this amazing week!

Charlotte Ponder, co-site director