The Michigan State University Alumni Association Presents

DOG SLEDDING in NORTHERN MICHIGAN
Friday, February 20 - Sunday, February 22, 2015

$550 PER PERSON (single occupancy), $1,025 per couple (double occupancy)

Nature’s Kennel, Michigan’s premier dog sledding destination, is owned by Michigan State alums Ed Stielstra ’91, Lyman Briggs College and Tasha Stielstra ’98, College of Education. Nature’s Kennel is located in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan and is home to 160 magnificent Alaskan Huskies. Both Ed and Tasha are well-accomplished mushers and Ed has completed seven Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races.

This unique winter adventure offers you the opportunity to drive your own dog team or to take a ride with the sled dogs of Nature’s Kennel. Also included is a presentation about Nature’s Kennel and how Ed and Tasha went from MSU grads to business owners. You will go behind the scenes as you learn about this extremely unique business. You will also have the opportunity to enjoy a bit of Upper Peninsula winter splendor with a trip to Tahquamenon Falls State Park where Park Naturalist and MSU alum Theresa Neal ’03 will lead you on a private snowshoe hike.

Tour Inclusions:
- Drive or ride with sled dog team
- Two nights of lodging at Chamberlin’s Ole Forest Inn in Curtis, MI.
- Iditarod Presentation
- Snowshoe hike at Tahquamenon Falls State Park
- Tahquamenon Falls Presentation
- Exploration of Tahquamenon Upper Falls
- Dinner each night
- Breakfast each morning
- Lunch at Tahquamenon Falls Brewery
- Transportation from and to Marquette airport and during the tour

Not Included: Transportation to Curtis, travel insurance, items of a personal nature, meals not mentioned in the tour inclusions.

Chamberlin’s is nestled high on a bluff overlooking Big Manitou Lake in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. This incredible lakeside country inn offers charming accommodations and casual fine dining. Rich in History, this gracious 7500 square ft., 19th century-style lakeside dwelling was built by a railroad company to serve as a passenger hotel near the Curtis train station.

For reservations or further information, call Nature’s Kennel at 906-748-0513
Trip Itinerary:

Friday, February 20th

6:30 pm Dinner at Chamberlin’s Ole Forest Inn.
Welcome to winter in the Upper Peninsula! Following dinner, you will get an introduction to Nature’s Kennel Iditarod Racing Team with owner Tasha Stielstra. Tasha will give a short PowerPoint presentation about Nature’s Kennel Sled Dogs and Ed’s past participation Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and Ed’s past participation in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Saturday, February 21st

7:30 am Breakfast at Chamberlin’s Ole Forest Inn

9:00 am Dog Sledding at Nature’s Kennel
Try your hand at mushing your own team or take a ride in the dog sled. Our dog sledding trip is designed for beginners. You will meet our fabulous guides (and sled dogs) and learn all the basics of mushing. You will also receive instruction necessary to mush your own five-dog team on our scenic ten mile trail. Or, if you prefer, you can ride in the sled with the guide.

1:00 pm Lunch at Tahquamenon Falls Brewery, Tahquamenon Falls State Park

2:00 pm Snowshoe Hike with Tahquamenon Falls State Park Naturalist Theresa Neal ’03
Enjoy a scenic hike at Tahquamenon Falls State Park. Theresa will talk about the park’s history, winter in the Upper Peninsula and will answer your questions about Tahquamenon Falls. You will also have time to explore the Upper Falls of Tahquamenon Falls. Snowshoes are available to use at no cost or you are welcome to bring your own.

6:00 pm Dinner at Chamberlin’s Ole Forest Inn
Enjoy a fantastic dinner and relax in front of the giant fireplace after a great day of winter activities. There will be a slide show of the photos taken from the day and everyone will be able to share mushing stories.

Sunday, February 22nd

9:00 am Breakfast. Departure at your leisure. Please note that the ground transportation van to Marquette will depart at 9:30 am.

Transportation is provided on Saturday to and from all locations (Chamberlin’s, Nature’s Kennel, Tahquamenon Falls, and return to Chamberlin’s).

Travelers, whether alumni or friends, must be current MSUAA members to participate in Association travel offerings. For more information on membership rates, call the MSU Alumni Association at (877) 678-2586. You may also join on-line at www.alumni.msu.edu.

Additional activities in the area include:
Snowmobile Rentals, available in Curtis
Cross country skiing and snowshoeing at various locations.

Getting There: Air transportation is available to Marquette, MI (Sawyer International Airport). Ground transportation will be provided from Marquette to Curtis. The courtesy van will leave Marquette at 2 pm on Thursday and will return at 11:30 am on Saturday.

Cost: $550 per person, single occupancy or $1025 per couple, double occupancy. Please note trip is limited to 15 participants. Gratuities included.

Cancellation policy: In the unlikely event the trip is canceled due to weather conditions, a full refund will be issued. If participant(s) request a cancellation, the deposit will be refunded if the request is made by January 20, 2015. Once the trip has been paid in full (after February 20th) there will be no refund issued.

Reservations: To make your reservation, please contact Tasha Stielstra, Nature’s Kennel 906-748-0513 or info@natureskennel.com. Please note this trip is limited to 15 participants. Trip must have a minimum of 6 participants (if minimum is not meet by February 7th), deposits will be refunded.

Contact information:
Chamberlin’s Ole Forest Inn, 906-586-6000, www.chamberlinsinn.com
Tahquamenon Falls State Park, www.mi.gov/talsseducation

The Michigan State Alumni Association and Michigan State University, their respective employees, officers, agents, servants and representatives (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Michigan State”) are acting only as agents for the tour participants with respect to travel services and shall not be responsible or liable for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, damage, injury (including death), loss of baggage, accidents, delays, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies or insolvency’s, acts of God, acts or omissions of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or carrying out any other arrangements in connection with the tour, or any other event or occurrence beyond Michigan State’s control. Further, Michigan State shall not be responsible or liable for losses or additional expenses incurred by any participant due to sickness, disease, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God or any other cause or occurrence beyond its control. Michigan State shall not be responsible or liable for alterations or changes in the itinerary deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. Michigan State reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. In such an event, participant’s entire payment may be refunded without further obligation or liability of any kind on the part of Michigan State. Michigan State also reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour should the person’s health, actions or personal deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of any tour participant. In such an event, no refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour. Applicants for participation in this tour accept all of the terms and conditions set forth above.

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