



Moose Tracks

THE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Conservation (DEC), in coordination with the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Cornell University, launched a three- to four-year Adirondack moose study in January. The project aims to tally our resident *Alces alces* (the working estimate is 600 to 1,000 animals) and track population fluctuations, movement and habitat use. Along with aerial surveys, researchers will follow some subjects with GPS collars—12 have already been fitted with the accessory—and collect data from DNA samples (read: scat). An app is in the works to help the public report moose sightings; until then, Adirondackers who catch a glimpse of these beautiful giants are asked to contact the DEC at (518) 897-1291.

“There is no better place on Earth to gain perspective on the place of human beings in the cosmos than in the wilds of the Adirondack Park.”

—William C. Janeway, executive director of the Adirondack Council, praising Governor Andrew Cuomo for signing the Dark Skies Bill into law in December. The law establishes design specifications for state-purchased outdoor light fixtures to reduce light pollution.

Goodbye, Hello

THIS YEAR BEGAN with the loss of a landmark, when Elizabethtown’s Deer’s Head Inn Restaurant closed its doors in January. The place dished up food and poured spirits for almost 190 years (starting its life as the Mansion House in 1828), and provided a bed for two presidents, Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland. Mrs. John Brown spent a somber night there in 1859 as her husband’s body rested in the courthouse across the road.

But January also saw a return: fried fish and ice cream are again on offer under the cheerful orange roof of Howard Johnson’s restaurant in Lake George. The iconic eatery’s revival, after being shuttered since 2012, makes it one of only three left in the nation—possibly one of two. The sale of the Lake Placid HoJo’s is pending at press time.



Yusuf Burgess (1950–2014)

ON DECEMBER 5, Brother Yusuf Burgess, 64, died in Albany. He was coordinator of the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Capital District Campership Diversity Program, head of Youth Ed-Venture and Nature Network—the list is long. Here’s what I’ll add. He liked his kayak on the car roof, at the ready, good to go. He worked with kids—over decades, maybe a thousand of them—like he once was: city-mired, fake-tough, gang-savvy, poor. He loved, and deeply, wild places, the Adirondacks most of all.

The way he married his two loves was plunging teenagers into nature—scary, icky, boring nature—and getting them, against all odds, to be there. Listen. Breathe. Connect. He got them thinking: This is mine. I’m not a guest here. I’m a host, a stakeholder, a steward. Got a new backyard I never knew about. Most definitely, I’ll be back. —Amy Godine



BROTHER YUSUF BURGESS PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JEN KRETZER. THE WILD CENTER. RICHARD III ETCHING FROM ISTOCK

A Stitch in Time

THE REBURIAL OF A KING from the House of York has a surprising connection to Queensbury, New York. Bunny Morgan runs a sewing business specializing in church linens and vestments out of her Queensbury home, a stone’s throw from the Blue Line. She was commissioned by the Leicester Cathedral to sew altar linens for the March reinterment of England’s King Richard III, who died in 1485. The identity of his skeletal remains, discovered under a parking lot in 2012, were confirmed through DNA testing in December 2014.

Another Adirondack woman, Linda Jenks, is assisting Morgan with the sewing project. “I’m just in this little tiny village in Northville, New York, and I’m going to be making fair linens for a cathedral in England—it’s like nothing I’ve ever dreamed of,” Jenks told the Glens Falls *Post-Star*.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Description: Adults have spearlike beaks, maroon necks and chests, dark green backs and strikingly bright yellow eyes and legs. Height about 18 inches.

Habitat: Beaver ponds, woodland streams and wetlands.

Behavior: These wading birds migrate north from Central America in spring to nest in seclusion, not in colonies like great blue herons. Both parents build nests to hatch three to five eggs.

Fact: Though they might be mistaken for the slender bittern or chunky night heron because they occupy similar habitats, the green heron catches prey entirely differently. Sometimes they use bait—a leaf, twig or feather—to attract fish. They may plunge completely underwater in pursuit of a meal.



MOOSE AND GREEN HERON PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF NADLER (2)

LUMBERJACK *versus* LUMBERSEXUAL

PREFERS THE CLEAR MOUNTAIN AIR
WEARS A BEARD
WIELDS AN AX HANDLE WITH GRACE
WEARS FLANNEL FOR WARMTH AND COMFORT
ENJOYS THE REWARDS OF A DAY'S WORK
CAN BUILD A CAMPFIRE IN MINUTES
DRIVES A HEAVY-DUTY PICKUP
HAS A HUSQVARNA CHAIN SAW
DRINKS BEER

PREFERS THE CLEAR VIEW THROUGH HIS WINDOW
CULTIVATES A MANSCAPED FACIAL ACCESSORY
PREFERS NOT TO HANDLE "TOOLS"
WEARS FLANNEL THAT COSTS MORE THAN HIS RENT
ENJOYS BLOGGING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WORK
CAN GOOGLE "HOW TO BUILD A CAMPFIRE IN MINUTES"
DRIVES A LAND ROVER THAT'S NEVER BEEN OFF-ROAD
HAS A CAT NAMED HUSQVARNA
DRINKS ARTISANAL BREWS WITH HINTS OF JUNIPER

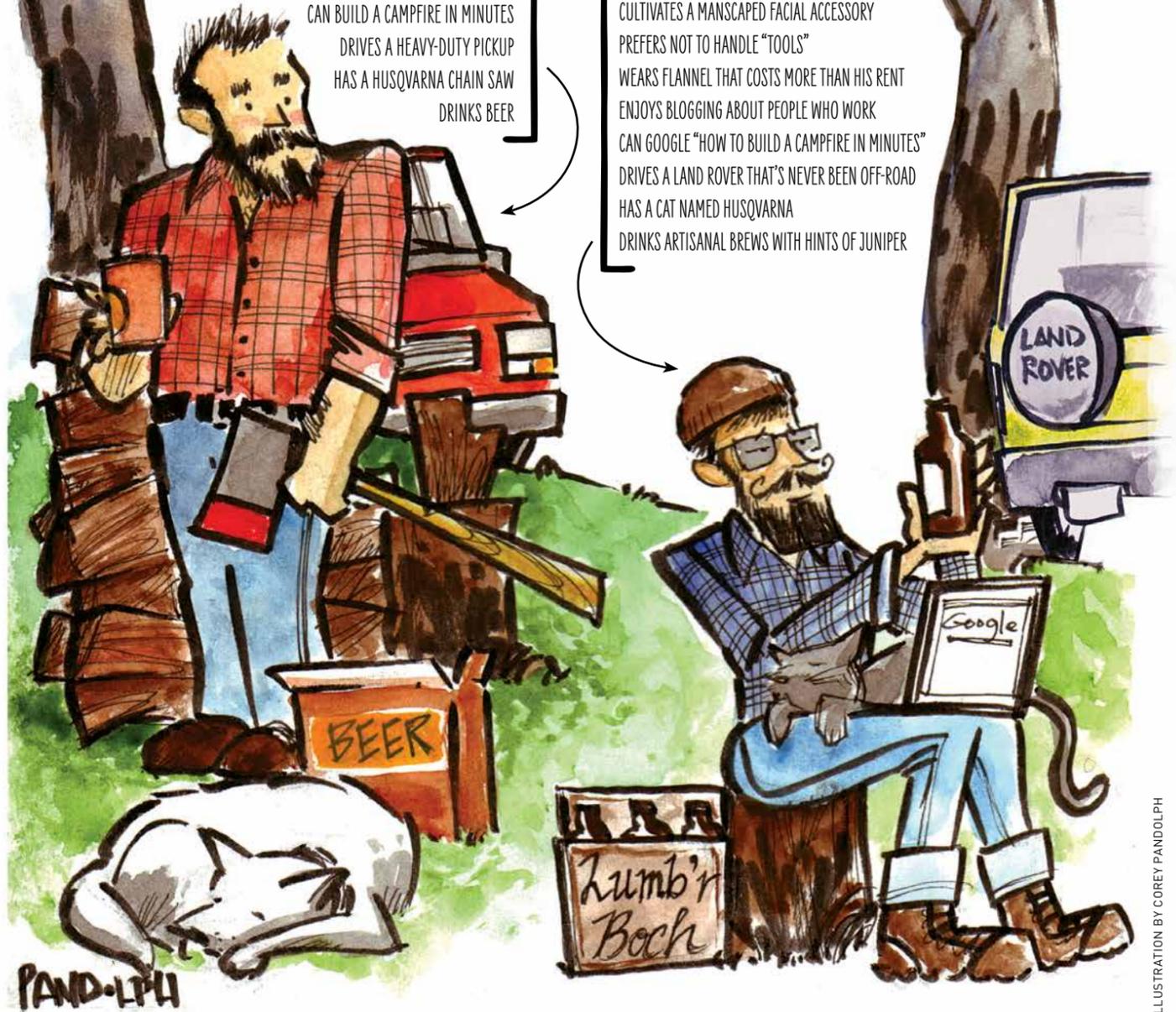


ILLUSTRATION BY COREY PANDOLPH



Kind of a Big Deal

BRANDON PARK, once part of William A. Rockefeller Jr.'s vast Bay Pond preserve, was purchased in May by Chinese billionaire Jack Ma for 23 million dollars. Ma is co-founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba and chairman of the board for the Nature Conservancy's China program. His spokesman told the *Wall Street Journal* that the primary motiva-

tion behind the 28,100-acre purchase was conservation, but that Ma will use the spread as an occasional retreat. Since 1978 the Franklin County property—which includes 168-acre Follensby Jr. Pond and more than seven miles of the St. Regis River—has been protected by a conservation easement held by the Nature Conservancy.

A Change of Plan

IN JUNE THE Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Transportation (DOT) announced that they would amend the unit management plan for the Remsen to Lake Placid rail corridor. The nonprofit Adirondack Scenic Railroad operates tourist excursions out of Thendara, in the southwest corner of the Adirondack Park, to Big Moose, and from Saranac Lake to Lake Placid, leaving the vast midsection of the line unused.

The proposal would remove tracks from Tupper Lake to Lake Placid to make way for a 34-mile route suitable for cyclists, hikers, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. Adirondack Rail Trail Advocates has pushed for the recreational corridor for several years. For more on the debate see "Keeping Track" (April 2014).

The state plan would restore service to Tupper Lake, a stretch of 44 miles that slices through remote backcountry. In



2009 the village completed a new depot in anticipation of passenger trains. See the proposal at www.dec.ny.gov; a decision is expected by year's end.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

ONCE-MARRIED UNDERWING (*Catocala unijuga*)

Description: Adult wingspan 2.5 to 3.5 inches. Coloration often mimics gray and tan tree bark.

Habitat: Deciduous forest from Newfoundland south and west; larvae feed on aspen and willow leaves.

Behavior: Adults are active from dusk to dawn through September. The vivid "underwing" is actually the top side of the usually hidden lower wings. Moths flash the bright pattern—said to imitate cat eyes—to ward off predators.

Fact: Victorian-era lepidopterists loved *Catocala*. Species names include Inconsolable, Penitent, Dejected, Tearful, Widow and Little Wife underwing.

Jailbirds

SOMETIME AFTER midnight on June 6, two convicted murderers escaped the maximum-security Clinton Correctional Facility, in Dannemora, thrusting the North Country into the international spotlight. During the 22-day manhunt that followed, legions of law enforcement officers scoured the dense Adirondack woods for signs of Richard Matt and David Sweat, who had apparently fled on foot after being stood up by their alleged getaway driver, prison employee Joyce Mitchell. As the bizarre, made-for-Hollywood details unraveled, people across

the country and beyond were riveted to the news—including on Twitter. Their impressions of the region made for interesting, and sometimes entertaining, reading.

Look for more coverage of the prison break in the November/December issue of *Adirondack Life*.

@rbcarlisle Jun 26

Funny by my sister re #PrisonBreakNY "So little espresso in Northern NY...I worry about the media" #Malone #Dannemora

@DoctorGooFee Jun 25
#PrisonBreakNY...at least being in the #Adirondacks...these Guys will have plenty of #Chairs...

@winslowbrook Jun 13

You know you're in the north country when the garage sales are taking place just yards from a manhunt for escaped killers! #PrisonBreakNY

@lmpeterson Jun 24

@Verizon @ATT @comcastcares The lack of cell towers and Internet service is hindering the #PrisonBreakNY search. Upgrade the Adirondacks!

@marcsummer Jun 27

I never realized the Adirondacks were so foreboding until I've been watching the escaped #Dannemora #PrisonBreakNY on #CNN ...

@DavidRegan Jun 22

#PrisonBreakNY is the biggest tourist promotion evaaa for the north country #UnintendedConsequences #Adirondacks #ILoveNY

@cKellly Jun 28
#PrisonBreakNY

Sounds like he gave up if he was walking on the road. Adirondack bugs can make you do that. Seriously.

@nmoran361 Jun 28

#PrisonBreakNY CBS should cast the next "Survivor" in the Adirondacks.

@TieDye_Squirrel Jun 12

I wish @CNN would stop questioning why they haven't found the escapees yet. Have they ever SEEN the Adirondacks? #PrisonBreakNY

@AlexRoseNews Jun 25

Matt and Sweat have to be distracted by the North Country landscape... maybe it'll slow them down! #PrisonBreakNY

BRANDON PARK PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LANDVEST. BIKE TRAIL PHOTOGRAPH FROM ISTOCK. MOTH PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT LUBECK

Closing Time



THE WHITE, BOXY BUILDING decked with faded script that stands at the four corners in Bloomingdale looks like it belongs to another era. And now, sadly, it does: Norman's General Store closed its doors in March after 111 years in business.

The family-run emporium specialized in the wholesale trade, outfitting local businesses and camps. But the mercantile time capsule—with its creaky floor-

boards and built-in, wooden-doored coolers—offered something for everyone, from candy bars and cans of pop to fishing lures and handmade sausage.

Owner Art Niederbuhl, great-grandson to one of the founders, says the future of the building remains unclear, telling the *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* he might “possibly sell it, possibly lease it, possibly reopen it as some other type of operation.”

“You don't own the moose. The moose is a free animal, and it roams the woods free, and it existed longer than the (Moosehead) brewery existed.”

— John Carr, owner of Adirondack Pub & Brewery, in Lake George, referring in the *Post-Star* to being sued by Moosehead Brewing Company, of Canada, for trademark infringement over its Moose Wizz root beer. Carr and supporters launched a #freethemoose campaign on social media. At press time, the court case was pending.

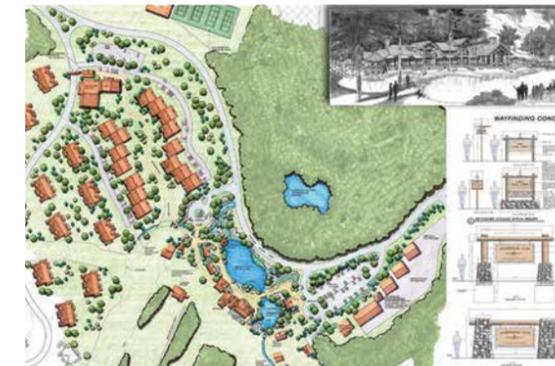
Public Offerings

ICONIC WATERFRONT properties in Lake George and the High Peaks are opening to public access this summer. In March the Lake George Land Conservancy (www.lglc.org) purchased an 18-acre tract adjacent to land the organization has preserved since 2000 on Anthonys Nose, a beautiful rocky peninsula on the east shore of the lake in the town of Putnam. Plans are to open a half-mile trail to Record Hill and create a parking area on Schwerdtfeger Road this summer.

In April Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the purchase of the MacIntyre East tract, 6,800 acres primarily in the town of Newcomb. This parcel, adjacent to the High Peaks Wilderness Area on the west, had been part of Finch, Pruyn & Company lands acquired by the Nature Conservancy's Adirondack chapter. This tract includes Lake Sanford and parts of the Opalescent and Hudson Rivers, and is of special interest because it may allow new ways to reach High Peaks trails without the congestion of eastern routes. See www.dec.ny.gov for more information.



NORMAN'S PHOTOGRAPH BY PHIL GALLOS. PERCH ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. ANTHONY'S NOSE PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II. COURTESY OF LAKE GEORGE LAND CONSERVANCY. RESORT MAP COURTESY OF THE LA GROUP. MOLD PHOTOGRAPH FROM ISTOCK



A Shark in Tupper Lake

AFTER CLEARING multiple hazards—mostly in the form of lawsuits from environmental groups—the Adirondack Club & Resort project, in Tupper Lake, appears to have hit a hole in one.

Australian golf legend and entrepreneur Greg Norman, known as the Great White Shark, has signed on as an investor in the 6,200-acre development, which includes plans for Great Camps, a golf course, improvements to Big Tupper Ski Area and other amenities. The news was announced at a Tupper Lake Town Council meeting in May.

Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

Toxic Relationship

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD the horror stories about the health effects of toxic household mold. Now, Clarkson University professor Shane Rogers is studying its possible connection to something even scarier: ghosts.

Haunted buildings tend to be old, and old buildings tend to be moldy. Since symptoms of mold exposure can include feelings of unease, anxiety and depression, Rogers thought it was worth investigating a link.

“We are not out to debunk all hauntings, and we do not believe that all hauntings can be explained by exposure to mold,” Rogers says. “Rather, we are trying to determine whether molds may be one factor in this human experience.”

The civil and environmental engineering professor and his students are testing samples from haunted houses and comparing them to samples from apparition-free zones. Know of a particularly spooky North Country structure they should test? Send suggestions to srogers@clarkson.edu.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)

Description: Golden to yellowish-green fish with five to eight dark stripes. Length up to 14 inches and weight up to four pounds, though most Adirondack perch are far smaller.

Habitat: Lakes, ponds and rivers with lots of vegetation.

Behavior: Perch spawn in early spring. Females attach strands containing thousands of eggs to aquatic plants; these streamers may reach eight feet long.

Fact: Formerly considered an invasive species introduced to Adirondack lakes and ponds for sport fishing in the early 20th century or accidentally released from bait buckets, yellow perch are now believed to be native. Recent research that scrutinized lake sediment found perch DNA in core samples estimated to be more than 1,000 years old.



Wild Walk

THE WILD CENTER, in Tupper Lake, has presented unusual perspectives on the Adirondack environment since 2006. The opening of the natural history museum's Wild Walk on July 4 extends the experience into the treetops, with more than 1,000 feet of bridges and boardwalks ascending 40 feet to the forest canopy.

The innovative, wheelchair-accessible structure was designed by Chip Reay, the award-winning architect who devised the original museum buildings. Learn more at www.wildcenter.org.

Spider Web
Imagine you're an arachnid—or its prey—in this giant web made of rope.

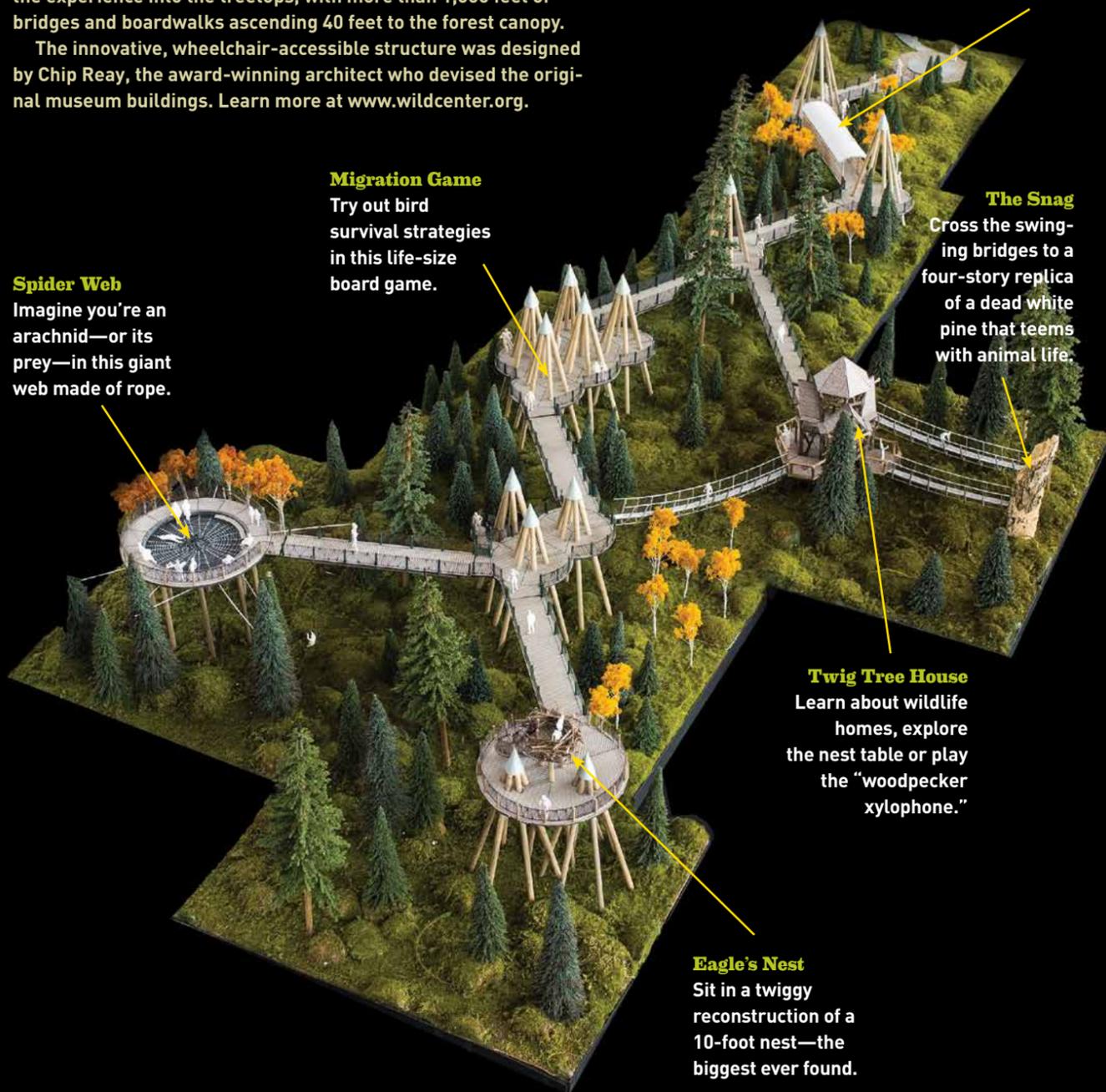
Migration Game
Try out bird survival strategies in this life-size board game.

Feeder Alley
A prime bird-watching—and listening—spot, behind a 60-foot blind.

The Snag
Cross the swinging bridges to a four-story replica of a dead white pine that teems with animal life.

Twig Tree House
Learn about wildlife homes, explore the nest table or play the "woodpecker xylophone."

Eagle's Nest
Sit in a twiggly reconstruction of a 10-foot nest—the biggest ever found.



WILD WALK MODEL, PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE WILD CENTER