

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR YOUR GENERATION

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# LIVING WELL *50 Plus*

ENTERTAINMENT • HEALTH • BARGAINS • LIFESTYLE

## Ouita Michel

Classically trained chef makes her mark in Midway and beyond

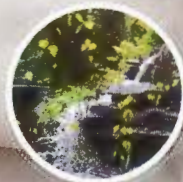
Holly Inn  
Ouita Michel

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# TRAVEL

## Maumee Bay State Park

Ohio lodge and conference center is an undiscovered spring break getaway



by Jan Ross,  
Staff Writer

Spring break is coming soon, and if a trip to the southern coast is not on your radar for one reason or another, you should think about heading north instead to the Maumee Bay State Park Lodge and Conference Center in Ohio.

Located in quiet Oregon, just a few minutes from Toledo, Maumee Bay State Park is an undiscovered paradise for families, couples or even large or small groups. Our expectations were, honestly, pretty low when we stopped at the lodge for a few nights on our way home from a recent getaway in Michigan, but they immediately soared when we spotted the beautiful, modern lodge at the park.

The sprawling building – complete with two expansive fireplaces

and huge windows overlooking beautiful Maumee Bay on Lake Erie – was a total surprise. So were the many room options, which include large loft suites that would be great for families, all with private balconies overlooking the water. The park also has several very nice two- and four-bedroom cottages available to rent, many also overlooking the water. The large, heated indoor pool was full of happy kids, and the volleyball and racquetball courts and video game room were equally popular.

We enjoyed several meals at the Water's Edge Restaurant in the lodge and were again pleasantly surprised by the quality of the food. The breakfasts were especially delicious – be sure to try the blueberry pancakes. We were feeling lazy one night and ordered a pizza that we took back to our room, and it was equally scrumptious.

One of the most amazing attractions is the boardwalk that winds through the park, providing a variety of views of the bay, the wetlands and the wildlife that lives in the park, including many deer and a huge variety of birds. The park is a Mecca for bird watching of all kinds, particularly migratory birds. It even offers the Biggest Week in American Birding every spring, which attracts bird watchers from all over the world to photograph migrating birds and add them to their birding list. In addition, the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Magee Marsh and Metzger's Marsh, all prime bird-watching locations, are nearby.

Although we were there in the winter, it was easy to see how popular the park and lodge would be in the summer. An outdoor pool with a hot tub and an 18-hole



golf course provide plenty of entertainment. The lake is obviously a great place to be in warm weather. Fishing is available both inland and in the deep water. There is a sandy beach for swimming and a full-service marina with a wide variety of boat rentals available. There are also slips for boats coming in from Lake Erie. Hiking, biking, tennis, basketball, rollerblading, sand volleyball and summer concerts all add to the appeal of Maumee Bay.

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