

Jim DuFresne

End of the Trail



This year Jim DuFresne's classic "Isle Royale National Park: Foot Trails & Water Routes" will celebrate its 40th year of continuous publication, an amazing achievement in the world of book publishing. The "backpacker's bible" for Isle Royale was released in 1983 and was the first detailed trail and paddling guidebook to an area in Michigan. Since then, DuFresne has gone on to write more than 20 books for a range of wild places: from Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park to Michigan's own Porcupine Mountains and North Manitou Island. In his presentation, the author will reflect on how he stumbled into writing outdoor recreation guidebooks and why he stayed in it for his entire career.

Best of all, DuFresne will showcase his top adventures from his favorite titles and then wrap up his presentation by explaining why it's time for him to follow a different path. It could be an emotional finish for one of Quiet Adventures' most beloved speakers and anybody who has a trail-worn copy of a DuFresne guidebook.

Jim DuFresne has a deep-rooted passion for two things; sunsets and shoreline, no doubt the result of living his entire life in the two states that have more coastline than any other; Alaska and Michigan.

After graduating from Michigan State University with a journalism degree, it didn't take Jim long before he was moving to Juneau, Alaska. As the outdoors and sports editor of the Juneau Empire, he became the first Alaskan sportswriter to win a national award from the Associated Press. More significant than the writing award, he discovered his passion for the mountains and wilderness travel while living in Alaska's capital city.

In 1981, Jim spent a winter in New Zealand to backpack and write his first book, "Tramping in New Zealand" for Lonely Planet. He followed up with the first edition of Lonely Planet's "Alaska" and later "Hiking in Alaska" and then returned to Michigan to write "Isle Royale National Park: Foot Trails & Water Routes."

Today Jim lives in Michigan, where he's never more than an hour's drive from the shoreline of the Great Lakes. He is the main contributor to <https://www.MichiganTrailMaps.com>, a resource website devoted to trail trails in his home state. Among his other titles are "Backpacking in Michigan" and "12 Classic Trout Streams in Michigan: A Handbook for Fly Anglers" (University of Michigan Press), "The Trails of M-22" and "Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park" (MichiganTrailMaps.com) and "50 Hikes In Michigan" (Backcountry Publications).

This year he is launching a new map for Sleeping Bear Dunes. Stop by the Michigan Trail Map booth to pick up a copy.

