

MARGE HOSKIN: Travel to ends of the Earth — and beyond — without leaving home

Photos

Photos



Marge Hoskin - Quiet Corner Whispers

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By MARGE HOSKIN

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Friends used to recommend their favorite books; now they recommend their favorite Web sites.

Ruth Bayer of Brooklyn, whose summer home is on a Maine lake, suggested that I take a look at the Biodiversity Research Institute's live loon cam at www.briloon.org for the latest nest activity of a pair of common loons. They return to breed each year on Maine's mid-coast. If you've ever heard the haunting cry of a loon, you'll never forget it.

Carl Plassmann of Woodstock is fond of the Mount Washington Observatory's Web site. He met his wife, Helen, on one of his climbs up the New Hampshire mountain. Using www.mountwashington.org

he can “check the views from the top of the highest peak in the northeast without the long drive and long hike,” Plassmann said. “The sunrise views are especially nice.”

Mark Paquette of Mansfield, as a member of the EastCoast Greenway National Trail Committee, is working to create a 2,000-mile biking-hiking trail from Calais, Maine, to Key West, Fla. He uses www.bikewalk.org to keep current on the latest biking and walking ideas and technology. Paquette, executive director of the Windham Regional Council of Governments, is known for his efforts to create walking trails and greenways in the Quiet Corner.

Georgia Stauffer of Scotland is enthusiastic about www.googleearth.com. “There is nothing like soaring over land and sea and then coming down to view whatever site ... you choose,” she said. “What a trip!” The first site she chose was her home, the 1820 Nathan Fuller House Bed and Breakfast.

Kathy McKnight of Plainfield introduced me to www.spaceweather.com with its news about the latest meteor showers and solar flares. It has remarkable telescopic photographs and keeps me informed about the latest International Space Station flyover and the 952 (at last count) potentially hazardous near-Earth asteroids. None are on a collision course at the moment.

My neighbor, Jill Brumfield, has shared her favorite Web site — www.bookreporter.com — with me. Brumfield, who loves to read, likes the book reviews and information about new releases.

Web sites about books are useful, but books that list Web sites quickly become outdated, historical documents.

Marge Hoskin, a Quiet Corner native, is a retired naval officer. She is the former chairwoman of the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor Inc. board of directors and one of the founding members of the corridor. Her column appears every Tuesday. Reach her at mlhoskin@sbcglobal.net

