



# Myths & Minnesota

*Imagine, if you can, the excitement that was caused by the birth of Paul Bunyan!*

A Tall Tale, [www.paulbunyantrail.com](http://www.paulbunyantrail.com)

In the Land O'Lakes a lot depends on what you want to believe. There is Geology: It says a giant glacier crashed through with a melt that left 15,000 lakes as a calling card. And there's Legend: It says a lumberjack almost as huge – his name, Paul Bunyan – tromped around these North Woods with his pet (a blue ox named Babe whose horns were as wide as seven axe-handles and a plug of tobacco) and the tracks Paul and Babe made filled up with rain – hence the fact that in Minnesota there are so many lakes, rivers and streams that 95 percent of the population lives within 10 minutes of the state's 90,000 miles of shoreline, which is more than that of California, Hawaii and Florida combined.



Water, water everywhere and nothing to do but play.  
Gull Lake and Madden's resort

Were you to bet on Geology, you'd believe gorgeous Gull Lake in the town of Brainerd, which is close to 465 other lakes but none as special as Gull, is nature's little pride. Were you to put your money on Legend, however, you would understand the lake created by the lumberjack so strong his lungs could empty a whole pond of frogs with one holler...well, this lake, you'd know, is something wondrous.

As it is, indeed. Gorgeous Gull Lake is an act of creation – whichever you choose to believe – where in summertime the living is...sweet? Can't be beat? How about *is so much fun it probably should be illegal*. First there's the golf: 450 holes total at many top-rated courses, some of which are so environmentally superb they have earned worldwide recognition and, in the case of one, the Legacy Courses at Cragun's, prestigious status as a "Signature Sanctuary" of the International Audubon Society. There is the fishing – walleye, crappie, large- and smallmouth bass, sunfish, perch, northern pike and muskie – that sends anglers into ecstasies. And there are the lakeside resorts like Madden's, where 1,000 acres of play – tennis to trapshooting to croquet – could lure even Paul Bunyan away from his work day, which for him meant felling trees with Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, Elmer and Elmer, the seven axe-men who were his 300-lb (each) co-loggers.

In the Land O'Lakes a lot depends on if

you want to believe Minnesota's official thermometer, in Embarrass, wintertime reads to 75-below and one time broke from cold. Or that lake divers in spring haul-up from the state's 7,762 square miles of muddy bottom, typically, 20 snowmobiles, three autos, boats, trucks, airplanes and, once, a D7 Caterpillar tractor. But if you choose otherwise and believe Minnesota in summer is as summertime wonderful as life gets, then you will land at grassy East Gull Lake (9Y2) or Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport (BRD) and be immensely, just hugely, pleased: It's true. Here there are incredible rustic-luxury lodges: The Grand View – 700 acres of prime woodland and shore and three award-winning golf courses that include The Pines, Golf Digest's #1 resort course in Minnesota; Madden's – sitting exquisitely on one mile of shoreline with four, yes four, golf courses that include Pine Beach East, a doozy of a challenge with two dozen sand bunkers and plenty of 1920's charm; and Cragun's – "a place of the earth for the spirit," as rhapsodizes Robert Trent Jones, Jr. designer of what he calls the "golfing paradise" of its Legacy Courses.

The five giant storks working overtime to deliver Paul Bunyan to his parents couldn't get a better rest than at Gull Lake. Even if they were too pooped to bike the beautiful Paul Bunyan Trail – 97 infamous miles from Brainerd to Bemidji, MN – or thrill to drag racing and Grand Prix speed at the

# Experience Water Flying-Experience Life!



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# Float One, Float All

Golfing-fishing-lake playing fun at Gull Lake is perhaps most thrillingly accessed by float plane. Pilots not yet water-worthy need not fret, however: seaplane training as well as purchase and installation of everything needed to get amphibious is as easy as a Minnesota summer day in the Brainerd Lakes area.

Wipaire ([www.wipaire.com](http://www.wipaire.com) 651.286.7007) at Fleming Field South St. Paul (SGS) specializes in the manufacture and installation of FAA-certified floats while its partner Wings, Inc. ([www.wingsinc.com](http://www.wingsinc.com) 651.227.8981) located at Wipaire offers float-flying training (typically 2-6 hours) at SGS and at its Brainerd Lakes seaplane base, where lodging and an examiner always are on hand. Adventure Seaplanes, Inc. ([www.adventureseaplanes.com](http://www.adventureseaplanes.com) 612.868.4243), which specializes in tours all over creation, including the Arctic Circle, offers a float rating in 6 hours as well as float-equipped Cessnas and Pipers for rent. Happy amphibious adventures!

Brainerd Int'l Raceway – where Paul Newman in '82 won his first pro victory in the Pepsi Trans-Am – they certainly would have lots of cushy accommodations and tons of entertainment to delightfully soothe and amuse them.

You, too. At Madden's, book a cozy cabin-like room that faces the lake or undulating greens, or the 8-bedroom Lakehouse

that will sleep the whole family (all 14-20 of you). Rise and shine and get out on the lake – you choose: sailboat, kayak, canoe, rowing skull, paddle boat, water bike, speedboat, pontoon craft, or in the company of local legend, guide "Walleye Dan" Eigen; his 30-years' fishing experience will help you land a catch worthy of a good fish story. Tell the tale over ale at O'Madden's Pub. At

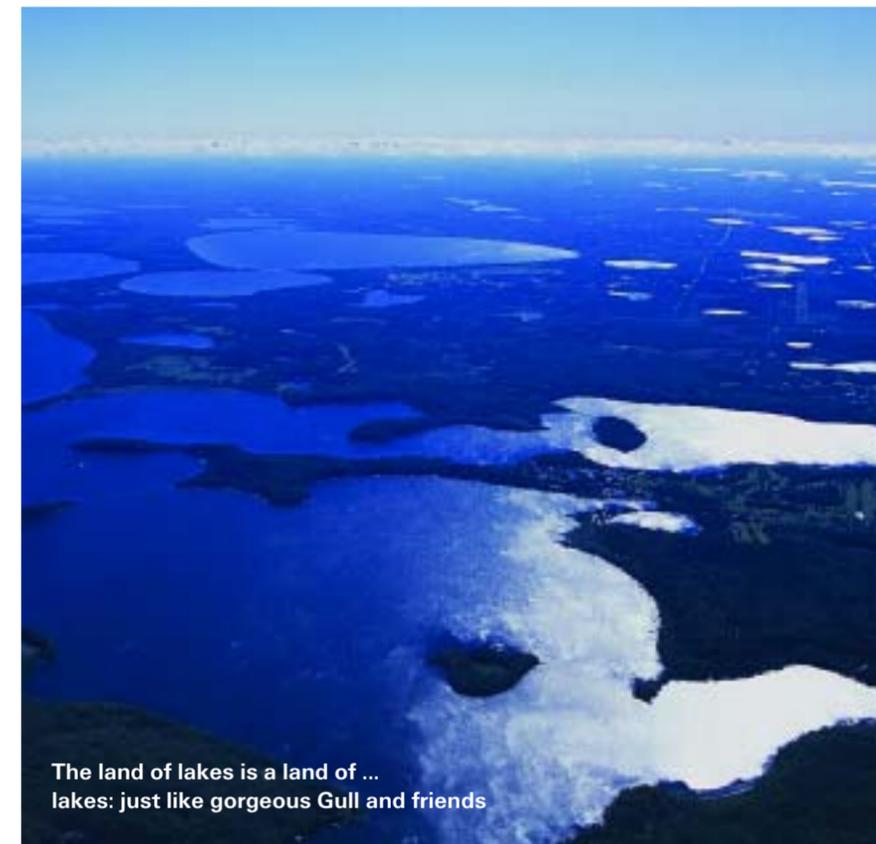
Grand View Lodge, re-woo your squeeze in a romantic Honeymoon Cabin (with lake view), then indulge in a massage and "glacial water plunge" at the Glacial Waters Spa. At Cragun's Resort, throw some wood on the fire in your happy haven of a room after dining in the Legacy Grille; pan-fried wall-eye or slow-roasted prime rib should suit your pleasure splendidly. Then maybe steep yourself in blissful North Woods solitude, just you and the great blue herons, geese, ruffled grouse and bald eagles that thrive in this sanctuary's wondrous wetlands.

In the Land O'Lakes a lot depends on whether you want to believe the native Sioux's Minnesota, or "land of sky-tinted water," was very good to the 16th c. French explorers who fur-traded (beaver, muskrat), and the British, Germans and Scandinavians who later joined them to fish and lumber their way to civilization. Or whether you want to believe that if Paul Bunyan had better things to do than supervise the enormous

ants he trained to log (they who ate only imported Swedish snuff), he would fly a float plane. Why? Well, here at Gull Lake to fly a float plane is to partake most truly of the local paradise. The Brainerd Lakes landscape is not just one, not two, but 465 spectacular lakes. And so whether it's a splash-down for lunch at Madden's, a water approach for a round of golf here, some practice putting there, or a day of lake touch-and-go's simply for the giddy thrill of it, flying a float plane hither and thither in fun is the only way to go.

Yes, in the Land O'Lakes a lot depends on what you want to believe. But there is a truth upon which everyone – Geology, Paul Bunyan, Babe, the Sioux and you, dear reader – will agree. When it comes to a trip to Gull Lake, there is no way it won't be great. ✕

Visit [www.brainerd.com](http://www.brainerd.com) for even more of a taste.



The land of lakes is a land of ... lakes: just like gorgeous Gull and friends

### EAST GULL LAKE AIRPORT (9Y2)

<b>AIRPORT DATA</b>	Elevation: 1236'
Runways: 13/31 2,168'	
Approaches: Visual	
ATIS / ASOS: 218.828.3314	

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<b>FIXED BASE OPERATIONS / FUEL / SERVICES</b>	
Parking Tiedowns, No Facilities	

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<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
Madden's Resort & Lodge (1/2 mi.) 800.642.5363	

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Lake Runway

Turf Runway

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