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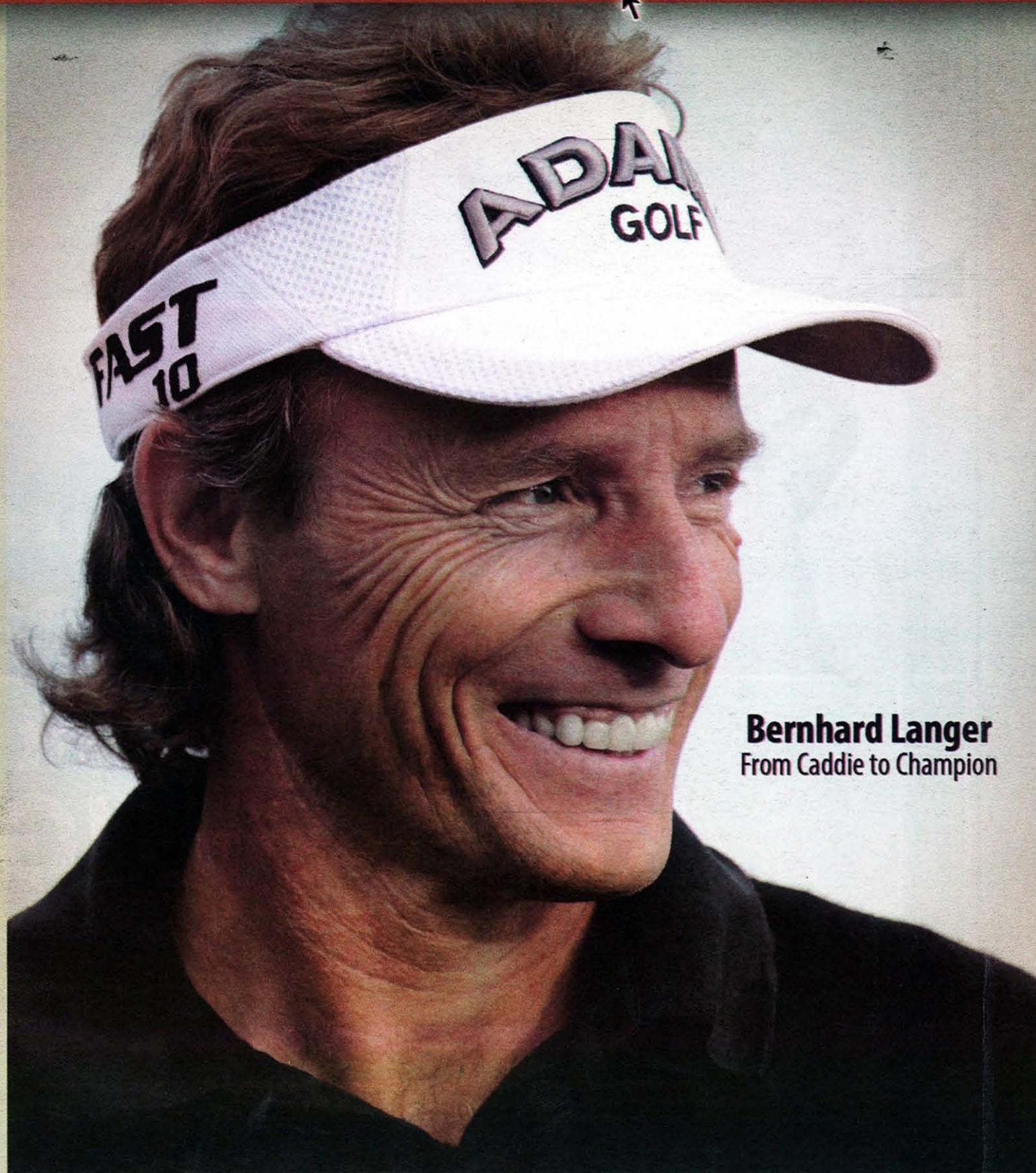
The Beauty of Fall in
the Adirondacks

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Fall in the Adirondacks Offers Festivals, Foliage and Family Fun

BY MEREDITH KLINGER

In the Adirondacks of Northern New York, Labor Day signals a distinct shift in the air. Mornings are crisp, and the canopy begins to change from lush green to a spectacular array of colors.

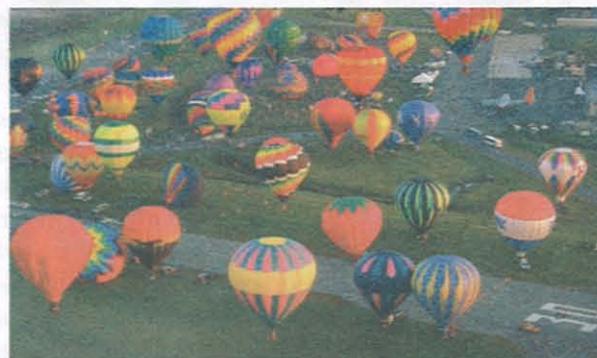
This fall, journey to the Adirondack Region of Northern New York and experience the beautiful transformation of a six-million-acre forest as the seasons change. Family-friendly events and harvest festivals provide ample opportunity to taste the delights of the season and celebrate outdoors before the snow flies.

Along the Adirondack Coast, 2012 marks the bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812, and the Lake Champlain Region offers a week of commemorative festivities. Experience the war's turning point during the pivotal Battle of Plattsburgh through re-enactments and encampments. Enjoy a parade, historic tours, tavern and musical performances and experience an event 200 years in the making.

Top Adirondack fall foliage events bring history into the present, honor cherished traditions and spice up chilly autumn days. Don't miss the Adirondack Museum's 25th annual Rustic Furniture Fair featuring unique, hand-crafted furniture made by Adirondack artisans. Tour the museum's exhibits and watch blacksmithing and twig-work demonstrations.

Family-friendly fall events in the Adirondacks include:

- Rocktoberfest at The Great Escape in Lake George Sept. 15. Enjoy German cuisine, live rock bands, games and seasonal brews.



The Adirondack Balloon festival celebrates its 40th year Sept. 20-23 in Queensbury.

- Cream Cheese Festival in Lowville Sept. 15. A community festival offering the nation's largest cheese-cake, wacky competitions and vendors.
- 40th Annual Adirondack Balloon Festival Sept. 20-23 in Queensbury. Watch as almost 100 hot air balloons launch over Lake George; enjoy family activities, entertainment, food vendors and more.
- 2012 Great Adirondack Moose Festival Sept. 22-23 in Indian Lake. This annual festival offers guided



Soldiers firing at The War of 1812 reenactment.

wilderness hikes, fly fishing, vendors, moose related games and an old-fashioned turkey shoot.

- 5th Annual Great Adirondack Rutabaga Festival Sept. 23 in Keene. Be part of the "rutabaga revolution" and sample rutabaga dishes, enjoy live music and entertainment, as well as events and the coronation of the 2012 Rutabaga King and Queen.

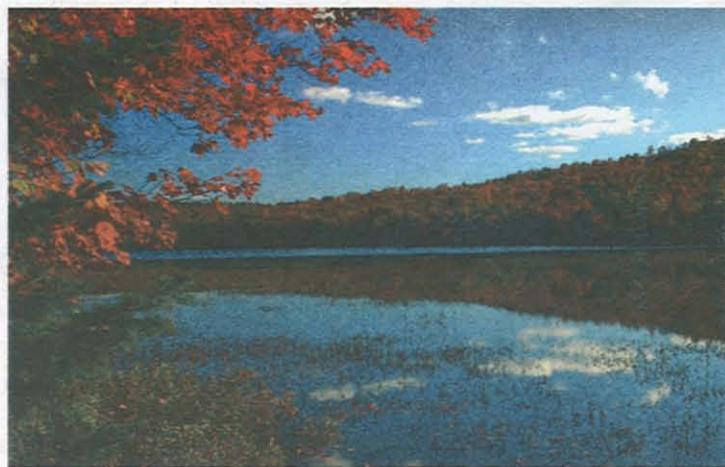
- Oktoberfest at Whiteface Sept. 29 in Wilmington at Whiteface Mountain Ski Center. Dust off your lederhosen and drink, dance and dine on German cuisine. Enjoy vendors, gondola rides and more.

Autumn is also spectacular in The Lake George Area in New York's Adirondacks, with many options for viewing the changing colors that offer a unique perspective:

- Prospect Mountain, located in the heart of Lake George Village, is an easy-to-access mountain that offers a scenic highway (with three scenic overlooks enroute to the summit) or a moderately challenging hike. Just before you reach the summit, park your car and take a narrated tram ride to the top. Bring a camera and picnic lunch; allow time to hike around the top and see the incredible 100-mile view!
- Gore Mountain Gondola (www.goremountain.com) is the best way to see the changing leaves in the northern part of the county from the comfort of a scenic gondola ride. This scenic skyride offers stunning views of the High Peaks and Southern Adirondack Mountains. You can bring along a picnic lunch and hike around the summit before heading back down to the base lodge. Be sure to bring a camera!
- The Saratoga and North Creek Railway (www.sncrr.com) train runs from Saratoga Springs to the quaint town of North Creek, with whistle stops along the way. Spend the afternoon in North Creek and stroll Main Street downtown; find a yummy restaurant for lunch; take a peddle cab over to Gore Mountain for a gondola ride, hike or enjoy one of their many workshops; the possibilities are endless. Enjoy the

round trip ride along the scenic Hudson River in coach or domed cars.

- Cruise Lake George (www.visitlakegeorge.com/things-to-do/cruises) and see foliage from a lake-view perspective! Several companies offer voyages on the lake with options ranging from an all-day historical cruise to a lunch, brunch, dinner cruise to a one-hour paddlewheel cruise.
- Whitewater Rafting (www.visitlakegeorge.com/outdoor-recreation/water-recreation/whitewater) on the Sacandaga or Hudson Rivers through Columbus Day offers an up close and personal view of magnificent foliage from the vantage point of your river raft! Your river guide will shout out instructions to keep the raft moving forward and will narrate along the way. Longer trips offer a riverside lunch and/or dinner.
- On and off-road bicycling (www.visitlakegeorge.com/outdoor-recreation/bicycling) is a great way to experience foliage along a canopied bikeway, forest trails and scenic roads. The Warren County Bikeway is a nine-mile route from Glens Falls to the Village of Lake George that is 100 percent family friendly; mountain and off-road trails are for the not-so-faint of heart; and those wanting to log some big road miles will have no problem with the many options available.



Camping and boating are some of the activities visitors can enjoy at Lake Durant.

- A scenic drive (www.visitlakegeorge.com/things-to-do/tours-excursions) through the Lake George Area includes historic byways, roads that meander through mountain and lake towns, and scenic byways routes. Stop for lunch and enjoy hometown restaurants and cafes.

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