



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 18, 2006

Contact: Jamie Jewell-VanDuzen
231-334-5524
jvanduzen@thehomesteadresort.com

The Homestead Focuses on Area's Natural Beauty During Mark S. Carlson Photo Tour Weekends

Glen Arbor, MI – Weekend photographers and nature lovers are invited to capture the quiet solitude of the Sleeping Bear Dunes area during two upcoming Photo Tour weekends with well-known nature photographer Mark S. Carlson at The Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor. The Spring Photo Tour Weekend is May 4-7; the Fall Photo Tour Weekend is October 19-22. Each tour includes three, day-long field trips.

Mark's *Sleeping Bear Dunes Photo Tour 2006* will introduce participants to some of Michigan's most inspiring scenic and natural areas on the Leelanau Peninsula. From high sand dune ridges to deep sandy craters, participants will enjoy exploring the many beautiful vistas found throughout the area. Numerous shoreline scenes will come to life with Lake Michigan's changing moods and sunsets. Sparkling inland lakes, rivers and streams tempt viewers to capture all their mesmerizing charms. Pastoral farm scenes roll like Wyeth paintings across the Leelanau landscape, while enchanting hardwood forests climb up and over hillsides to provide the perfect inspiration for every photographic artist. Close-up nature, sweeping panoramas and much more wait to be composed during this *Sleeping Bear Dunes Photo Tour*. From digital 'snap-shooters' to advanced amateur photo enthusiasts, all will benefit from Mark's 25 years of experience as a professional naturalist photographer.

Not to be confused with a photography workshop, Mark invites participants to enjoy daylong-guided field trips to wonderful natural locations, offering the attendee a wealth of natural history information, as well as helpful tips and suggestions on how to make better nature photographs.

Mark has explored the natural beauty of the Great Lake State from shore to shore since childhood. His passion for nature and nature photography soon led to his profession after his first image was published in 1980. Since then, Mark's work has appeared in magazines, books, on music CD covers and in calendars. His work has been featured in *National Wildlife & Nature's Best* magazines. He writes the "Lasting Impressions" column in *Whisper in the Woods - Mother Nature's Journal* and is a featured photographer in the book - *Michigan Simply Beautiful*, from Farcountry Press. His fine art photography is regularly exhibited in galleries and in private collections throughout the Midwest.

Packages for the Mark S. Carlson Photo Tour Weekends include lodging, most meals and tour, starting at \$178 per person/per night, for spring and \$198 per person/per night for fall. Rates are based on double occupancy. Space for both is limited.

The Homestead is a waterfront resort community that is located inside of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, a unit of the National Park Service. Along with its unmatched natural setting and miles of frontage on Lake Michigan and the Crystal River, the resort offers guests pools, tennis and golf in the summer; downhill and cross country skiing in the winter; and shops, restaurants and meeting centers in all seasons of the year.

For more information about this or other events, call 231-334-5100 or visit The Homestead on the web at www.thehomesteadresort.com.