

63rd Annual National Morel Mushroom Festival

May 18-21, 2023

P.O. Box 184

Boyne City, MI 49712

www.bcmorelfestival.com

Taste of Morels Celebrity Judges

Saturday, May 20, 2023: 12 – 3pm

ALEXIS DAHL



Alexis Dahl is a Michigan-based science communicator who's helped millions of people fall in love with the natural world around them. She's written for the *Smithsonian*, the University of Michigan, PBS, and acclaimed YouTube series such as "SciShow," "Crash Course" and "Study Hall."

Alexis has helped produce more than 600 educational videos, and her series celebrating Michigan's science and history stories has received more than 3 million

views. You can find her getting excited about Michigan's lava flows, mines, and more at [YouTube.com/AlexisDahl](https://www.youtube.com/AlexisDahl) or AlexisDahl.com.

DAN SIPPEL



Dan Sippel is the current CEO of the West Michigan Tourist Association, a 106 year old regional destination marketing organization, in fact the oldest in the country. Dan has a long history in tourism working throughout the Great Lakes Region with Booth Newspapers and mlive.com.

As Canadian-born hockey player, skier and outdoor enthusiast, Dan enjoys all the wonderful amenities the Great Lakes area has to offer. Dan has been hunting morel mushrooms around Boyne City for the last 45 years.

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DIANNA STAMPFLER



Dianna Stampfler has worked in the tourism industry for more than 25 years and is the President of *Promote Michigan*. Her client list includes the Michigan Brewer's Guild, Grand Rapids International Wine & Food Festival, Schuler's Restaurant and the Village of Walloon Lake. She is also Executive Director of the Kent County Hospitality Association and serves on the Ferris State University Hospitality Advisory Board.

Dianna is the author of "Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses" and "Death & Lighthouses on the Great Lakes." She is also a freelance writer who contributes to *Michigan Blue Magazine*, *Explore Michigan*, *Rural Innovation Exchange*, *Second Wave Media* and *Lakeland Boating*. She is a member of the Midwest Travel Journalists Association, Historical Society of Michigan, Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association and Michigan Hemingway Society, among others.

MIKE SZUKENT



Mike Szukent is the President and CEO of Michigan Festivals and Events Association which is a statewide, non-profit organization serving communities, events, festivals, fairs, businesses, and volunteers throughout Michigan. The Association promotes local events, festivals, and destinations while providing technical assistance, training, and education to its many members.

Mike has led an accomplished career. Some of his highlights include the former General Manager of Birch Run Speedway & Event Center, formerly Dixie Motor Speedway. Former VP of New Business Development for Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan. President & CEO of the Birch Run Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau. Past Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Flushing. Former Executive Director, Board Member, and past President of the Flushing Area Chamber of Commerce. Past VP of Business Development and Community Relations and VP of Business Development and Community for Relations Goodwill Industries.

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ALLI BAXTER



Alli Baxter joined the UpNorthLive News team in September 2021 as a Morning Reporter/Multimedia Journalist. She is a Virginia native who was raised in Lynchburg, right outside the Blue Ridge Parkway. Before her broadcast journalism career, Alli worked as a barista for six years. She graduated from James Madison University (Go Dukes!) with a double major in Journalism and Public Relations.

While at JMU, Alli anchored, reported and produced the award-winning student-run weekly newscast. She also filmed multimedia stories abroad in Greece, Italy and France.

When she's not waking up before the sun, Alli is taking long drives, going to yoga classes or watching Duke basketball. Alli is completely new to northern Michigan and will accept any recommendations of things to see, do or eat!