Gillespie Creek Journal

The N45-46th parallel includes the following U.S. locations and world centers of population: Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, France, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Romania, Crimea, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, People's Republic of China, Mongolia, Japan,

Observing Our Changing Planet

Rainbow Lake Trail Straight Lake Park Wisconsin -45.83N Latitude



Fresh Garden Vegetables being harvested at the N45 parallel today worldwide



Evening Primrose flowering in meadows and gardens N45 degrees worldwide



Deer Flies driving hikers crazy N45 degrees World wide



Indigo Bunting Found east of the Mississippi at N45 degrees

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The Ice Age Trail which defines the northern property line of Straight Lake State Park is Wisconsin's premier hiking trail. Not far from my summer home beside Gillespie Creek, my family and I have found sections of the park to be a peaceful haven for not only investigating the natural environment at this latitude, but a place for stretching our legs and expanding our lungs. This photo was taken on July 24. The geology here can be described as a "Kame and Kettle" landform. Wow did I get exercise! Up and down...more up than down. Definitely stimulating; exhausting.

This week as we in the Northern Hemisphere are savoring the best of summer days it seems appropriate to not only look at the beauty of wild life and flowers common to this latitude but to remember Alexander Humboldt, the guy who "Invented Nature." His late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century travels proved that at specific latitudes the natural world is the same, underground to the sky. Thus all life at N45 degrees is identical across the globe.

Read his recently published biography titled **Invention of Nature** by Andrea Wulf. The story is fascinating.

Engage Your Senses