



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 21, 2010
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Blue Tractor & The Shed Continue to Grow in Popularity, Space and Dedication to Michigan Craft Beers

(TRAVERSE CITY, Mich) – It's been less than year since The Shed opened up in downtown Traverse City's Olde Towne next to its sister-property, the Blue Tractor Cook Shop. Since that time, the feedback from customers has been overwhelming. In order to keep things fresh and exciting, the 2Mission Development and Design team of Greg Lobdell and Jon Carlson are making a few changes.

"We are introducing some exciting new menu items, expanding the beer list even more and creating an indoor/outdoor beer garden," says Lobdell. "We recently added a satellite sports package and additional TVs and will be adding pool tables to create a more casual, fun environment."

The expansion, which moves into the site previously occupied by Café Habana, is set to be complete by St. Patrick's Day.

The Shed proudly serves exclusively Michigan microbrews and throughout 2010 celebrates this with "Michigan Beer Month." Founders was the featured brewery for January, Short's is now on tap for February, followed by New Holland (March), Arcadia (April), Michigan Brewing Company (May), Keweenaw (June), North Peak (July), Mount Pleasant Brewing (September), Bell's (October), Corner Brewery (November) and Grizzly Peak (December).

"Without a doubt, we believe Michigan makes the best microbrews and we're honored to be able to offer a beer list at The Shed that features the best of the best, made right here in our home state," Carlson says. The Shed currently features some 22 bottled beers from 10 Michigan microbreweries. A draft tower will eventually be added and the number of brews served will increase, with one common element – they'll be hand-crafted in Michigan.

Throughout the winter, visitors to any of Blue Tractor or The Shed can warm themselves with one of two special menu offerings. The Chili & a Salad (\$5.95) is offered 11am-4pm, Monday thru Saturday and includes a salad, warm potato rolls and one of three special chili offerings. The Chili & a Brew

(\$8.95) is offered Sunday thru Thursday nights and includes a steaming bowl of chili, warm potato rolls and a pint of Michigan craft beer. Chili options include:

- Texas Chili con Carne: Beef sirloin slow cooked with spicy chili peppers, garlic, onions and cumin (Recommended pairing - Short's Pontius Rd Pilsner)
- Sante Fe White Bean Chicken Chili: house-smoked chicken, roasted green chiles, white beans and pepperjack cheese (Recommended pairing - Short's Soft Parade)
- Five Alarm Roasted Pepper Chili: slow roasted beef brisket simmered with fire roasted red peppers and a blistering blend of cayenne and habaneros - not for the faint of heart (Recommended pairing - Short's Pandemonium Pale Ale).

The Shed brings its own unique and relaxed atmosphere to Traverse City, a community that is garnering national attention for its unparalleled culinary offerings and spectacular locale along Grand Traverse Bay. The food and beverage menu changes and additions of the beer garden reinforce 2Mission's dedication to providing the best options in casual entertainment.

The Blue Tractor Cook Shop building has a long-standing history as a local watering hole, opening first in 1886 as Novotny's Saloon. Prohibition put a halt to business in the early 1900s, but by 1938 the building was purchased and opened as Dill's. Over the years, the building changed hands frequently but always remained a place for people to relax and enjoy fine food and cold beer. The Blue Tractor, which opened in 2007, proudly smokes all its own meats, purchases its produce locally, mixes up its own sauces, dressings and soups from scratch, and supports not only the Michigan breweries, but the Grand Traverse region's award-winning wineries as well.

2Mission projects include the soon to open Mission Table and Jolly Pumpkin Restaurant & Brewery (formerly Bowers Harbor Inn and The Bowery) on Old Mission Peninsula, North Peak Brewing Co., Killkenny's Irish Public House, Café Habana and the Blue Tractor - all in Traverse City; Bastone Brewery, Café Habana and Vinoteca - all in Royal Oak; and Jolly Pumpkin Café & Brewery, Grizzly Peak Brewing Co., Blue Tractor BBQ, and Café Habana - all in Ann Arbor.

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

The Blue Tractor Cook Shop and The Shed are found at 421-423 S. Union St., Traverse City.
www.BlueTractorCookShop.com