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## Weathervane selected for 2010 Best Food Finds

### CAROL R. SULLIVAN

The February issue of *Traverse Magazine* recently highlighted 33 favorite food finds from the restaurants and speciality stores throughout of Northern Michigan, and The Weathervane's planked whitefish was one of them. Mackinaw Island to Traverse City, Boyne City to Harbor

Springs, popular local food favorites were selected for inclusion in their exclusive list of Northern Michigan's 2010 Best Food Finds.

Each food item selected is in some way unique. "What makes our restaurant unique," said Weathervane dining room manager Tim May, "is the quality of the food, the

unparalleled service and the signature regional cuisine -- including and especially our planked whitefish."

Fresh food is the name of the game at The Weathervane. "We take great pride in using only the freshest ingredients," said General Manager Jeff Sprecksell. "Everything is prepared and selected by an outstanding culinary team with a strong background in regional cuisine.

The Oak Planked Whitefish, a Weathervane speciality, starts with local John Cross Fishery's whitefish. The fish is seasoned with salt, fresh pepper and paprika and baked on a seasoned oak

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*"... the unparalleled service and the signature regional cuisine -- including and especially our planked whitefish."*

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Tim May, Weathervane dining room manager

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plank, and served with Parmesan whipped potatoes and Stafford's remoulade sauce. The dish is a favorite regardless of season and is a highlighted feature on The Weathervane menu.

"The restaurant by the bridge," as Stafford's Weathervane is often referred to, has been in operation in Charlevoix for over 60 years

and officially became a Stafford's property in 1988. "Charlevoix's only true waterfront dining," as the restaurant claims, is situated on the Pine River Channel in the heart of downtown Charlevoix.

The restaurant was originally built as a grist mill and was converted to a restaurant in the early 1950's. The build-

ing was designed by famed local architect Earl Young, and draws hundreds of hungry locals and tourists each year to enjoy the flavorful and fresh tastes of Northern Michigan regional cuisine.

"We are completely honored and flattered to be included in such an illustrious grouping," said May. "There are a lot of fantastic restaurants in Northern Michigan and to be placed in that category is certainly something to be proud of."

*For more information about The Weathervane and Stafford's other dining and lodging establishments, visit [www.staffords.com](http://www.staffords.com).*