



TOBY TALBOT/Associated Press

for toddlers, and trails that all funnel to the base of black-diamond, appealing to expert skiers.

Soft adventure ends in travel

The United Kingdom and France have been the top destinations for Americans for a number of years, according to the U.S. Commerce Department, and that is not expected to change once the 2003-04 figures are tallied.

But industry experts say Italy, Spain and Eastern Europe are increasingly popular. U.S. arrivals in Italy are projected at 3.8 million for 2004, up from 3.4 million in 2003, according to the Italian Tourist Office, and unusual itineraries are all the rage, like Go Ahead Vacations' "Tuscan Spa Week" (www.goaheadvacations.com, 800-590-1170) or a tour of the Italian lakes district.

While learn-to-cook trips to Italy are trendy, Spain "has been crowned by the media as the new hot place for great food," said Katerina Pavlitova, a member of the European Travel Commission's executive committee.

The March 11 bombing in Madrid, which killed 191 people, had far less impact than expected. From January to October 2004, 47.5 million tourists visited Spain, 2.5 percent more than the same period in 2003, according to Spain's Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry.

A trip by students from a high school in suburban Mamaroneck, N.Y., proceeded just three weeks after the bombing with only two students dropping out - and one of them for unrelated reasons. While they were there,

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globally rare white cedar can plant community that thrives on the edge of the cliffs.

You will see pretty waterfalls along Bed Pan Run, one of the streams that drain the tract.

Warblers and wildflowers thrive in the spring along Cliff Run, which is surrounded by boulders that have fallen from the cliffs above.

172 bird species

Birders love the Wilderness. In all, 172 species have been spotted there. Of that total, 107 breed there, and 11 are species of high concern.

Among the species that may be spotted are black vultures; hooded, black and white, Kentucky, pine, prairie, cerulean, prothonotary and worm-eating warblers; yellow-breasted chat; blue grosbeak; savannah, grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows; Bewick's wrens; ovenbirds; ruffed grouse; wild turkey; vireos; and tanagers.

To get to the Wilderness Trail, head for West Union. Take state Route 125 east for 72 miles. Turn left on Lynx Road in the hamlet of Lynx. Turn left on gravel Shiveber Road and proceed seven-tenths of a mile. The road ends at the trailhead.

I would suggest picking up a 72-page guidebook to the Edge by George Laycock. It includes pullout maps of the three trails, descriptions of sights along the trails, 15 pages of plant listings and plenty of interesting information.

The book is available from the Nature Conservancy for \$11.52 (\$10 for the book and \$1.52

Please see Wild, G3



BOB DOWNING/Akron Beacon Journal

The Wilderness Trail opened in 2000, is mostly wooded and lightly traveled. You may not see another person hiking.