

Welcome to the new digital *North Woods Call*

September 2012

Vol. 59 No. 1
Digital Delivery



Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953

Meet Michigan's DNR Director

Page 1

The Call Resumes Publication

Page 1

New Publisher Discusses the Future

Page 3

18th Annual Au Sable River Cleanup

Page 1

A "Conservation Conversation" With Tom Dale

Page 5

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Alaska Pilot Has Michigan Roots

Page 6

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an 8.5" by 11" version that is friendly to most home printers?

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THE NORTH WOODS CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953

North Woods Notes

AU SABLE CLEANUP: The 18th annual Au Sable River Cleanup will be held September 8 at Gates Au Sable Lodge near Grayling.

The event, sponsored by Anglers of the Au Sable, will begin around 9:45 a.m. and continue through the George Alexander Memorial Luncheon, which starts at noon.

Volunteers should pre-register with Josh Greenberg at (989) 348-8462 or josh@gateslodge.com to make sure all areas of the river are covered. The cleanup will include parts of the main stream, south branch and north branch.

Anglers of the Au Sable will hold their annual meeting after the cleanup at 3 p.m. and the board of directors will meet September 9 at 10 a.m.

MANISTEE RIVER CLEANUP: A new Manistee River Cleanup day is also being planned for September 22 at Grayling's Old AuSable Fly Shop.

Among other things, 50 cedar trees will be planted along the river. Anglers of the Au Sable members are encouraged to participate in this event, which will begin between 8:30 and 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Andy Partlo on e-mail: andy@oldausable.com.

MUCC HONORED: The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) presented Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) with a Partners in Conservation Award at its regular monthly meeting June 14 in Lansing.

In presenting the award, which honored MUCC's 75th anniversary, former Department of Natural Resources Director Rodney Stokes recited a litany of contributions MUCC has made to the cause of conservation.

SMITH BRIDGE GAUGE: The U.S. Geological Survey gauge at Smith Bridge in Crawford County is scheduled to be shut down this fall.

Anglers of the Au Sable members, local fly shops and individuals have started a petition to see if they can keep the gauge open because of its importance to the enjoyment and safety of anglers and water sports enthusiasts who use that section of the river.

Many times, they say, the lower gauges will not accurately reflect the flow of the South Branch and can produce a false sense of security for all but the most knowledgeable.

MUCC CONSERVATION AWARDS: Michigan United Conservation Clubs celebrated its 75th anniversary recently with a special event that featured an awards ceremony honoring MUCC's 2012 Conservation Award winners.

Ken Kelly of Mag-na-port of Harrison Township and Bob's Gun and Tackle Shop of Hastings each received MUCC Outstanding Conservationist awards for their contributions to conservation in Michigan. To cap off the awards ceremony, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund was inducted into MUCC's Conservation Hall of Fame.

BEACH CONFERENCE: The 2012 Great Lakes Beach Association Conference will be held October 16-18 at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. Registration is now open at glc.org/glbsa/register.php.

ANTLER-LESS DEER QUOTAS: The Department of Natural Resources will offer a total of 708,650 antlerless deer licenses for the upcoming season, a decrease of 47,550 from 2011. A total of 70,750 public-land antler-less deer licenses and a total of 637,900 private-land antler-less deer licenses will be allowed.

MICHIGAN HUNTERS' DATABASE: A new "Hunters Helping Landowners" program allows hunters to enroll in a database to harvest antlerless deer on private property in up to two counties of their choosing. Landowners with deer damage issues or disease concerns could then contact the DNR for the list of interested hunters in their area.

FARM BILL: The U.S. Senate has approved a Farm Bill that will provide billions of dollars for the conservation of water, soil, forests, working farms & ranches, and thousands of acres of vital wildlife habitat. The House Agriculture committee has also approved a bill, but the full House of Representatives will need to take action before the current Farm Bill expires September 30.

Cuts to discretionary spending are sure to be made during this time of fiscal austerity, so the Nature Conservancy and other groups are encouraging you to make your voices heard about whatever funding you'd like to see set aside for conservation programs.

Meet Michigan's new natural resources chief

Keith Creagh, former director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, is the new director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

He replaces Rodney Stokes, who has moved to a new position heading up the governor's urban parks initiatives.

Creagh brings a vast amount of experience and love of the outdoors to the job. He has a background in policy development, strategic planning and relationship building, and avidly pursues his lifelong interests in outdoor recreation, such as hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. He holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

"We have enjoyed working with Director Stokes and feel he did an admirable job in his tenure as the director," said Erin McDonough, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

"He made progress in moving the DNR to address the priorities of the conservation community and we want to wish him well in his new position. At the same time, we must ensure that momentum is not lost and the commitment to change that we received from the department is honored."

Prior to his appointment on July 9 by Governor Rick Snyder, Creagh had served as director of the Agriculture & Rural Development



Keith Creagh (DNR Photo)

Department since Jan. 1, 2011.

"Keith is a natural choice to become our next DNR director," Snyder said. "He has a strong understanding of Michigan's conservation, economic and environmental needs, vast experience and ability to bring people together, and a love of our state's great outdoors that will make for a seamless transition."

Eyes partnerships & customer service

Local partnerships with conservationists, landowners and nonprofit organizations are essential to the ongoing efforts of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the new director of the agency said.

"Natural resource conservation issues can't be fully driven out of Lansing and the director's office," said Keith Creagh, who was recently named by Governor Rick Snyder to head the department. "As the governor is fond of saying, there is something the administration can do, something the legislature can do and something the department can do, but citizens can help a lot, too."

Creagh said the DNR already has many passionate partners located

(Continued on Page 2)

New publisher honors conservation legacy

The North Woods Call resumes publication

Michigan's premier conservation newspaper has returned after an 18-month absence.

The North Woods Call, which has been out-of-publication since longtime publisher Glen Sheppard died in early 2011, is being re-launched online under new ownership.

Sheppard's widow, Mary Lou Sheppard, sold the newspaper last year to former journalist and award-winning writer Mike VanBuren of Kalamazoo. Since then, VanBuren has been working to re-tool the operation and looks forward to continuing *The Call's* well-respected legacy, which dates back to 1953.

"Today's challenging newspaper economics and growing digital world require that we publish the *The Call* electronically," VanBuren said, "so we are beginning the re-launch in primarily an online format. We hope that former subscribers will stick with us and that we can expand the community of conservation-minded citizens who appreciate the insightful news and information for which the newspaper is widely known."

VanBuren said he understands that some subscribers prefer to receive a printed version of *The Call* in their mailboxes. Unfortunately, he said, rapidly escalating printing and mailing costs — along with the public stampede toward all things digital — make this less practical going forward.

Given sufficient demand, some kind of print option may be considered, VanBuren said, but it would

likely require higher subscription fees. Perhaps an e-mail file containing the classic *Call* layout can be regularly sent for output on home printers, he said.

"We will have to see what develops," VanBuren said, "and what today's subscribers really want."

For more than 58 years, *The North Woods Call* has been a must-read for people who love Michigan's north country and has earned a much-deserved reputation as a staunch defender of nature.

"We greatly respect *The Call's* longstanding tradition of unvarnished news coverage and are committed to making sure Michigan doesn't lose this important voice," VanBuren said.

Glen and Mary Lou Sheppard published *The Call* for more than four decades after purchasing it from founder Marguerite Gahagan in 1969. Gahagan had operated the newspaper for 16 years prior to that.

Glen Sheppard died January 5, 2011, and *The Call* ceased publication shortly thereafter. For several months, the future of the newspaper was uncertain.

"*The North Woods Call* has been a dynamic force in the history and day-to-day realities of the nibbling and outlandish massive assaults on the integrity and beauty of Michigan's precious natural bounty," noted Michigan environmental lawyer Jim Olson of Traverse City at the time of the sale.

"It is a tribute to Glen Sheppard and his wife Mary Lou that Mike VanBuren has the passion, talent and ability to continue *The North Woods Call*."

Meet the new chief of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources

Continued From Page 1

issue and build consensus. Keith's passion for our natural resources, tourism and agriculture industries will help us revitalize and reinvent Michigan."

McDonough said it's not about simply plugging in another person. The DNR has struggled to move its operations to reflect the changes needed to bring the DNR into a 21st Century conservation model and the conservation community has been steadfast in its requests for those changes, she said.

"The department has made a commitment to the conservation community that it will complete a strategic plan to better guide the department forward," McDonough said. "This plan should be created in a transparent manner and include a thorough review of the department's finances and budget. With the relatively small general fund monies in the DNR's budget, it's critical that the department spends its budget wisely and in the best interests of Michigan's resources and users. There must also be transparency and accountability for its use of Game and Fish Fund dollars and other restricted funds."

In addition, there is a need for a more coordinated approach to improving and managing fisheries

and wildlife habitat, including forest areas, on state, federal and private lands, McDonough said. Part of this must include the department taking a new look at its role in the management of those resources, she said.

"In some cases, the DNR should be moving towards being the facilitators, leaders and planners, while conservation partners are the 'doers,' she said. "With reduced budgets, more emphasis must be placed on partnerships and public involvement.

"We want to see efforts focused in the field, not in Lansing. That's what our members are most interested in seeing. It's not about having a bigger DNR, it's about having a department that is effective in the areas that matter most."

Transparency in all things is critical, according to McDonough. By engaging the public in a manner that is transparent and trustworthy, she said, relations between the DNR and the hunting and angling public will improve.

At the same time, the DNR must also recognize that our approaches to managing the resources cannot be "one size fits all" across the state, McDonough said. The DNR must recognize the different natural resource assets, priorities and partners each region has to offer, she said, and adjust their opera-



tions to reflect these differences.

MUCC has asked that Director Creagh embrace the vital economic thrust of Michigan's hunting, fishing, trapping and outdoor recreation opportunities.

"Michigan's great outdoors is an economic driver," McDonough said. "Our public lands, fish and game populations, and outdoor heritage are tremendous assets of this state and should be treated as such. Our outdoor heritage, and our hunting, fishing and trapping traditions, are vital, long-standing pieces of this state's fabric. MUCC hopes that this heritage, tradition and pride will be reflected under Director Creagh's leadership and that the commitments made under the Snyder administration are fulfilled.

Complementing his public service, Creagh worked as director of Industry Affairs for the Neogen Corporation, a company that develops and provides food and animal safety solutions to the

agri-food industry.

Creagh's service with state government began in 1974 and has included a wide range of positions during his tenure, including land use deputy director with the Department of Natural Resources and MDARD, where he coordinated a multi-agency implementation plan in response to the recommendations from the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council.

Creagh has provided leadership for the Farm Bill and conservation programs, which brought together conservation organizations, state and federal agencies, and local conservation districts to establish conservation practices in the state. Working through the ranks, Creagh's assignments provided him experience with invasive and exotic species, conservation easements and environmental stewardship.

His background also includes working closely with stakeholder groups, federal agencies, the state legislature and U.S. Congress.

He and his wife, Laska, have four children and reside in Williamston.

— *From the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.*

Local partnerships are essential to the DNR's ongoing work, director says

Continued from Page 1

throughout the state, but "we need to make sure we engage them appropriately as we make decisions and form programs."

Engaging these partners will be one of Creagh's top priorities as he moves forward in his new role as DNR chief, he said during a July 26 telephone interview. While Creagh doesn't foresee any major reorganization of the department, he will be engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process to make sure the best decisions are made for Michigan's natural resources and the people of the state.

"It's not just about fish, wildlife, forest fees, recreation issues, or any one thing," Creagh said. "We need a strategic plan that recognizes the importance of the stakeholders, as opposed to just input engagement. If we better align things across the various areas, we can be more effective in dealing with our stakeholders."

Creagh said the DNR is part of a "quality of life" grouping in state government that also includes the departments of Environmental Quality, and Agriculture and Rural Development.

"We have a role to play in the quality of life for Michigan citizens. My goal is to be a full partner in that quality of life grouping and to make sure we play the appropriate role for the citizens of Michigan. We have great natural resources and many opportunities in the state. We need to assure that these resources are here for current and future generations, and still leverage them to benefit the regional economy and link our assets to help citizens."

Creagh said that both Governor Snyder and citizens are asking what the strategic land use plan is for the 4.6 million acres of state-owned land. "We will be engaged in that conversation," he said. "The agency must show value for our investments."

There is also an opportunity to decentralize decision-making in the DNR, he said.

"With highly competent people in various field staff positions, we can empower people and hold them accountable for outcomes," he said. "Many times, those closest to the resource make the best decisions. We have great professionals here who are passionate about their work. We need to make sure they are able to do their work and tell their stories."

The DNR has a lot of processes with multiple check-offs and approvals, said Creagh, who has had significant past experience with personnel and policy issues. "Maybe we could do with fewer steps in those processes," he said. "If you hire the right person in the right place at the right time, you normally get the right decision. My management philosophy (and experience) will inform that."

Creagh said he is committed to continuing the DNR's efforts to create a "culture of customer service."

"Because we are so user-fee focused and supported, we need to keep the customer in mind at all times," he said. "We need to engage with them and get people information electronically in real time."

Citizens are vitally important to making sure that conservation efforts are successful, Creagh said.

"If you're a hunter, you can be a good steward of the resource and be an ethical person when it comes to hunting and fishing," he said. "Most of the outdoor men and women of the state have that ethic. Let's pass that along to our friends, neighbors, kids and the next generation."

Creagh said it is also important to mentor others.

"We're starting to have youth who are not exposed to outdoor activities," he said. "They're occupied most of the time doing other things. The same is true on the food and

agriculture side. There seems to be a disconnect between some of our heritage and where we are at today. We are a couple of generations removed from growing our own food and knowing where that food comes from."

Creagh said that the "No Child Left Inside" program and other activities are helping get young people outdoors, but he encourages everyone to get involved in these efforts.

"You can teach someone to hunt, fish, or canoe," he said. "If you're teaching someone to fish, you can tell them about the fish, stream dynamics and all those neat experiences you had as a kid that not all kids have anymore."

Direct citizen involvement in protecting natural resources and related assets can make DNR efforts more cost-effective and efficient, Creagh said. In some divisions, for example, the DNR spends a significant percentage of its budget picking up trash, fixing gates and posts, and generally responding to vandalism. "We need citizens who use the resource to say they won't tolerate that behavior," he said.

As director of the DNR, Creagh sees himself as "a tireless advocate" for the agency's programs and Michigan's natural resources.

"I just came back from a U.S. 23 tour," he said. "We stopped at many places along the way and people applauded the activities of the DNR. At all those stops, people told me that this would not have happened without the involvement of the DNR. At the same time, people had concerns about the DNR, its business practices and things that may have happened two decades ago.

"What people need to know is that there are competent individuals working in the field who want to solve problems and find solutions. We will be fully engaged with the public to make sure that happens."

— *The North Woods Call*

Group calls for stronger laws on fracking to protect water resources

A legal analysis by the National Wildlife Federation finds that laws in Michigan and Ohio need to be improved to protect the region's streams, rivers, lakes, and wildlife from the risks of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking."

Energy companies use this controversial technique to extract natural gas from fine-grained shale, injecting a mix of water, chemicals, and sand into a well at high pressures to crack open the rock. The natural gas then flows out into the well and is captured above ground. Fracking has raised significant environmental concerns, including the potential for impacts on water quality and water-dependent natural resources.

"Our analysis shows that Michigan and Ohio are doing some things right, but the states remain vulnerable to risks associated with fracking," said Sara Gosman, water resources attorney for the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes office and lecturer at the University of Michigan Law School.

The new report — *Hydraulic Fracturing in the Great Lakes Basin: The State of Play in Michigan and Ohio* — is available at www.nwf.org/greatlakes.

Looking for Hickories: The Forgotten Wildness of the Rural Midwest

A Book of Essays by Tom Springer



A Michigan Notable Book
thewildnearby@gmail.com

Wanted

Correspondents

We would like to hear from quality writers & reporters interested in contributing conservation-related news from across Michigan — particularly in the northern lower and upper peninsulas, and the capitol city of Lansing.

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Building a public square

New publisher sees *The North Woods Call* as a conservation community

The latest steward of *The North Woods Call* legacy says he hopes to “build a public square” where various citizens interested in the conservation of natural resources come together to discuss issues of the day.

“My hope is that friends of conservation will become friends of *The North Woods Call*,” said Mike VanBuren, the publication’s new editor and publisher. “As such, we will welcome story ideas, letters, viewpoint columns, news tips and other input from readers.”

VanBuren said *The Call* will continue to serve as a trustworthy news source for people who love the north and will lean heavily toward representing nature’s viewpoint. But it will also be a practical journal of human ecology that chronicles our ongoing relationship to the natural world, he said.

“I’m interested in the truth about this relationship between people and the earth,” VanBuren said. “The earth is blessed with

many resources and I believe that they were put here for our use. Yet we have to use them wisely. Too often, natural resource issues are used to gain political leverage, or to convince voters that one candidate, or agenda, is good and another is bad. We need balanced reporting of truth – at least as much truth as can be found where foolish and self-centered rhetoric often pervades our civic debate.”

Without this commitment to veracity, VanBuren said, we cannot make good, informed decisions about environmental policy and other issues.

“Unfortunately, much of the media these days is seriously challenged when it comes to telling the complete unvarnished truth,” he said. “They are biased and deceitful when reporting on issues of vital importance to the people of a free nation. This is disgraceful, in my opinion, and very unhelpful in terms of self-governance.”

VanBuren said *The Call* will strive to present the best available facts from all sides of a given issue so that citizens and policymakers have the information they need “to make the right decisions about our God-given resources.”

“We can disagree,” he said, “but there’s no use in lying to each other about the difficult decisions we need to make.”

VanBuren, who currently lives near Richland in southern Michigan’s Kalamazoo County, said he considers his home to be in the north, although not necessarily the geography traditionally represented by *The North Woods Call*.

“I may eventually move back north of the 45th Parallel, but there are other things I need to consider in the immediate future,” he said, “including family obligations, the economy and the abysmal housing market.”

Consequently — for the time being, at least — *The North Woods Call* will be pub-

lished from southern Michigan.

“That is easier to do these days than it used to be,” VanBuren said, “because we can readily visit various locations via the Internet, conducting interviews and sharing photos online. I will undoubtedly travel to the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula on a regular basis, reporting from various locations, and hope to eventually develop a stable of good writers in those places who will contribute to the publication.”

However it is done, VanBuren said, *The Call* remains committed to thorough coverage of outdoor/conservation news and information throughout Michigan and the Great Lakes Region.

“We will be relying on members of *The North Woods Call* community to help us with that,” VanBuren said, “by actively engaging in the public square and keeping us informed of key issues in their own areas.”

Introducing *The Call*’s third editor and publisher

The third editor and publisher in the nearly 59-year history of *The North Woods Call* is an award-winning journalist who spent almost a decade as a writer, editor and photographer at several newspapers in northern and southern Michigan.

Mike VanBuren also worked for nearly 23 years as a writer, communication manager and documentary video producer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in

Battle Creek.

VanBuren holds a bachelor’s degree in English and natural resources conservation, and a master’s degree in organizational communication. He studied at the Sony Center for Applied Video Technology in Hollywood, California, and the International Film and Television Workshops in Rockport, Maine.

As a freelance writer, he contributed articles to a range of general circulation

magazines. He also has been a commentator for Michigan Public Radio’s Great Lakes Radio Consortium and *Living on Earth*, a National Public Radio program.

A former president of the Kalamazoo River Protection Association, Mike is a recipient of the prestigious Ben East Prize for excellence in conservation journalism and twice has been named Michigan Agricultural Communicator of the Year.



Mike VanBuren

Founder & first publisher

Marguerite Gahagan: “Maggie of the North Woods” created the legacy

As a woman publisher, in the day when such occupations were more often held by men, Marguerite Gahagan (1907 – 1997) generated a lot of attention when she owned *The North Woods Call*.

Feature stories about her appeared in various other publications — ranging from *The Bay City Times* to the national *Time* magazine.

In a November 1965 article entitled “Woman Publisher Stirs Embers in North Woods,” the Bay City newspaper said she had “a calculated devotion to causes and the bulldog traits of a police reporter.”

She started *The North Woods Call* with \$2,000 and a strong work ethic. It was common for her to work from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

From an initial press run of 1,000 in November 1953, the newspaper had grown to nearly 7,000 subscribers by 1965. Most readers lived in metropolitan areas south of Bay City, according to *The Bay City Times*.

Time magazine had visited Gahagan a few years earlier — in 1959 — and called her “the voice of Michigan’s

Editor and publisher for 42 years

Glen Sheppard: “A conservation and journalistic legend” in Michigan

The irascible and opinionated Glen Sheppard (1936 – 2011) purchased *The North Woods Call* from Marguerite Gahagan in 1969 and set about putting his own

stamp on the publication — a task that he relished and continued until his death more than 42 years later.

Shep, as he was widely known,

died unexpectedly on January 5, 2011, as he neared his 75th birthday.

The following information was published in the January 19, 2011, *Call* — which is the last edition on which Shep worked:

“Michigan has lost a conservation and journalistic legend.

“No one else in the state (and possibly the country) has written as passionately and in depth about conservation for as long and regularly as Shep. Week in and week out, Shep was there with the news and views that no one else was reporting.

“In fact, many of the largest news issues covered by the mainstream press, from Pigeon River oil and gas issues to protecting the Mason Tract, started with coverage in *The Call*. Shep had a unique combination of journalis-

wilderness.” It described her as a “trim (5ft, 4 in., 116 lbs), blue-eyed, self-styled ‘Irish old maid’ who scarcely knew a brown trout from a black bass when she swapped city life for the backwoods.”

Here’s an excerpt from the *Time* story, entitled “Maggie of the North Woods:”

“Daughter of a harness racer and niece of turf writers, Maggie early decided to invade the male provinces of journalism and eventually became a front page byliner for *The Detroit News*.

“A woman of strong causes, Maggie led a (Detroit Newspaper) Guild organizing move at the *News*, and for her pains was stripped of her byline and assigned to the police run.”

“I guess they thought a convent girl wouldn’t last there very long,” she is quoted as saying. “I stayed on that damned beat twelve years.”

Gahagan had attended the Ursuline Convent in Toledo, Ohio, prior to her newspaper career and for a time wrote romance novels.

Another excerpt from *Time*:

“When her mother died in 1953, Maggie found city life suddenly stale. She quit the *News*, went 180 miles north of Detroit to a summer’s solitude in an Otsego County cabin five miles from the nearest settlement — Johannesburg (pop. 120). “I put a lot of second-hand furniture in there,” she said, “and decided this would be my life.”

“With a \$2,000 stake, she began publishing *The North Woods Call* — dropping in on wildlife stations and private resorts, combing the memories of oldtimers for stories, crusading for sound conservation practices.

“... It is man-killing work. Maggie puts in a 14-hour day, runs down ad accounts as well as stories, helps set type ... bundles the papers for mailing.

“I feel I should go on strike against myself,” she says. “I’m the worst person I ever worked for.”

All this work did not go unnoticed by readers. As one faithful subscriber pointed out, “You can smell the pine woods in her paper.”



Glen Sheppard with a friend during earlier years.

friends and longtime subscribers contributed written memories to the memorial issue.

In one piece written by Traverse City environmental lawyer Jim Olson, the noted attorney said, “Glen knew people and uncovered facts to support his stories, or he coaxed a story out of someone during one of his phone calls.

“At the table sipping coffee, (wife) Mary Lou nearby to add her clear observations, while looking out over his yard atop a wooded glacial moraine, he once told bits of his beat as a reporter for various papers in southern Michigan and how he came upon Marguerite Gahagan ... when she decided to pass (the *Call*) along to someone else.

“Glen sure fit the job description

Continued on Page 7

Opinion Page

Conservation Quote

"I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly."
— Robert Traver (John Voelker)

In Gratitude: Maggie & Shep

With this issue, we are re-launching *The North Woods Call* as a beacon of conservation sanity in the dark and confusing world of public deception and competing environmental interests.

Before we can move forward, however, we must first acknowledge those whose shoulders we stand upon.

Marguerite Gahagan and Glen Sheppard were tenacious and able stewards of the *Call's* voice for more than 58 years. We are deeply indebted to them for all they did to advance the good stewardship of Michigan's natural resources.

Gahagan established the publication in 1953 and ran it for 16 years. Sheppard — with the able assistance of his wife, Mary Lou — purchased the newspaper from Gahagan in 1969 and continued the tradition for the next 42 years.

Those are big shoes to wear.

We don't claim to fit neatly into those shoes, or to view the outdoor world and the myriad issues affecting it quite like these legendary former publishers. We have our own unique viewpoints and approaches, as will become evident to longtime subscribers in the coming months.

But we have a profound respect for all they accomplished, and wish to honor their drive and determination with a bit of our own tenacity.

It is a privilege to be entrusted with *The North Woods Call* legacy and we pledge to do everything in our power to live up to the high standards set by those who went before.

These are challenging times for the newspaper industry — and for conservation in general. It is difficult to predict what will happen in the future.

But with your continued support and commitment to becoming active members of *The North Woods Call* community, we are confident that we can build on the solid foundation left by these two giants of Michigan conservation, and remain a potent voice for nature and lovers of the outdoors.

In the meantime, thanks to Maggie and Shep for the important roles they have played in Michigan conservation history.

We, the People, of America

Effective conservation of natural resources requires committed citizens working in tandem with those who represent them in public offices and agencies that are aimed at that purpose.

We must each take personal responsibility and do our part to ensure a clean and vibrant environment for this and future generations. And we must approach this task honestly.

Far too often, conservation issues become political footballs used by charlatans and demagogues to divide the people and trick them into decisions that benefit greedy power mongers, but do little to advance the good stewardship of resources.

It is difficult at times to know who is telling the truth and which argument is based in political and scientific reality. Who really knows the truth about "global warming," for example, and how do we objectively determine it?

What about the impacts of gas and oil exploration, or the use of hormones and chemicals in our food supply? Liars with hidden agendas abound in the public square and have led many astray with their dishonest pronouncements.

This does little to improve civic debate, or to help us find the best solutions to our environmental problems. We must reject this type of chicanery and insist that verifiable facts and physical reality become the basis for our collective decisions.

Only by knowing the truth on all sides of an issue — and the motivations behind the various arguments — can we reach the proper conclusions together.

It is up to each of us — we the people — to hold our politicians, bureaucrats, advocacy groups, fellow citizens and the news media accountable to the truth. Without such accountability, we will continue to make unwise decisions based on half-truths and outright lies.

And the best answers to some pretty serious questions will continue to elude us.

Thank A Hunter Today

It doesn't always occur to us to thank a hunter for the conservation programs we enjoy, but hunting and fishing license fees pay for the bulk of fish and wildlife conservation in Michigan.

Sportsmen also pay extra federal taxes on guns, ammunition, bows, arrows and various other accessories, which are allocated to states for conservation programs — \$261 million in Michigan alone since 1939. It's time we show our appreciation.

The great north woods and me

OK. It's time to confess.

I didn't grow up in northern Michigan and I don't live there now. I spent a significant amount of time there as a boy and young man, though — kind of like Ernest Hemingway, without the Nick Adams stories and Nobel Prize for Literature.

I learned to love the north country early on during family campouts with assorted friends and relatives. Regular destinations included state parks at Interlochen, St. Ignace, Indian Lake, Brimley and Baraga.

We fished in Duck Lake, crisscrossed the Mackinac Bridge, toured the Keweenaw Peninsula, swam in the Great Lakes, skied on Wexford County's tiny Lake Meauwataka, watched big ships move through the locks at Sault Sainte Marie, and generally enjoyed the clean air and fresh water that personified the so-called "winter-water wonderland" of my youth.

Adventure tales by Jack London, poetry by Robert Service and stories by Farley Mowat only added to my fascination with all things north.

Nevertheless, most of my time was spent in the Spring Brook Watershed of Richland Township, located in the southwestern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

My friends and I would wade the meandering stream, catch trout in the cold spring water and build dams at various swimming holes — unwelcome obstructions that the Department of Natural Resources would promptly remove. We climbed trees, roamed the woods, camped in the meadows, explored the wetlands, dug small ponds and stocked them with captured frogs, and looked forward to the annual outdoor show in the Kalamazoo County Center building at the local fairgrounds.

That's where I first saw *The North Woods Call* — back in the days when Marguerite Gahagan was still publisher. There was always a stack of the little newspapers near the entrance and I would beeline over to pick up my copy. I was as fascinated by the publication then as I am now.

Book Review

Our Natural World: Edited by Hal Borland

J.B. Lippincott Co.

Philadelphia & New York. 1969.

We don't think this book is in print anymore, but it can still be picked up here and there, including at some used bookstores and on Amazon.com.

We found it at a small bookstore in Three Rivers, Michigan. If you run across it anywhere, it's worth the read.

The book is actually a collection of thoughts by 85 writers, and what they have observed about America's land and wildlife.

Editor Hal Borland selected some of the best observers of the natural world for inclusion in the book, including Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Mark Twain, John Burroughs, Roger Tory Peterson, John James Audubon, John Muir, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Sigurd

North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



Years later, when I became a newspaper reporter and editor at weekly publications in the northern Michigan communities of Mancelona and Kalkaska, I would occasionally get telephone calls from Marguerite's successor, Glen Sheppard. Shep, as he was known, always had a good tip for a story in my coverage area and I was pleased to follow up on them.

It was Shep who introduced me to Bud Jones of Alba. Bud took me on an early morning trip to the sharp-tail grouse dancing grounds in eastern Antrim County. Shep also connected me to legendary conservationist Ford Kellum, who gave me a tour of the forsaken stump country surrounding the Deward tract near the Antrim-Crawford county line.

It was about that time — in 1978 — that I started to think that someday I would like to own *The North Woods Call*. I had always had a heart for writing and journalism, and I couldn't think of a better place to ply my trade than with a publication that actually made a difference.

I first started to talk to Shep about the future of *The Call* during the late 1980s. He said he wanted to take on a partner — and maybe even sell the publication — but I'm not sure he really did. The newspaper had become such a part of him that it was difficult for anyone — let alone Shep — to think about the publication continuing without him at the helm.

I submitted several proposals over the years, but he wasn't very responsive to my ideas. He wasn't a business guy, he said, and wanted someone willing to "jump in and charge the hill" without so much consideration of business plans, profits and losses.

Anything short of that did not resonate with his "take no prisoners" personality.

It ultimately took his passing and several months of negotiations with Shep's widow, Mary Lou, and her attorney to seal the

deal. But now it's done and here I am, wondering just what I've gotten myself into.

It's still a significant risk — and probably a dubious business deal. Given today's newspaper economics, it could be downright crazy. Maybe I do meet Shep's partnership requirements after all.

I still visit northern Michigan as often as possible and I'd like to return one day to live and work there. Unfortunately, life circumstances at the moment do not allow for that. So I am going to attempt — for the near-term, at least — to write and publish *The Call* from my home in Kalamazoo.

That will be a challenge, I'm sure, but it is much more feasible in this era of advanced communication technology than it might have been in years past. After all, Shep did a fair amount of news-gathering over the telephone — particularly in his later years. I don't think he used the Internet much, but that is another powerful tool that I can employ.

I'm also hoping to develop a stable of top-notch environmental writers to contribute articles, features and opinion pieces. That may take a while, but it is a goal worth pursuing. Ultimately, we want to make *The Call* the go-to source for news and information about outdoor and conservation issues in Michigan — and beyond.

The important thing is to build an active learning community around *The North Woods Call* — one that engages citizens, businesses, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and policymakers in the important work of protecting our natural resources.

You are part of that community, and can help by subscribing and contributing comments, story ideas and general expertise.

Welcome aboard.

Now let's move forward and see what we can accomplish together.

The North Woods Call

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel
Since 1953

Published regularly online by:
Newshound Productions LLC
5411 East DE Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004.

Telephone: (269) 342-8724

E-mail: editor@mynorthwoodsfall.com

Website: mynorthwoodsfall.com

Online subscription: \$35 per year and
\$60 for two years.

Address changes: Please send \$2 to
cover costs.

Editor & Publisher: Mike VanBuren

Publishers Emeritus:
Marguerite Gahagan
Glen and Mary Lou Sheppard

Advertising rates upon request.

A Newshound Publication

Conservation Conversation: Tom Dale of the Gahagan Nature Preserve

The North Woods Call periodically publishes insights from various conservation leaders and educators.

We ask each of them to answer six questions about their own outdoor interests and the current needs of Michigan conservation.

Today we visit with **Tom Dale, education director at the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve** in Roscommon, Michigan.

Dale holds a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in plant science and genetics from the University of New Hampshire.

He also has a secondary teaching certificate and was a science instructor at Kirtland Community College in Roscommon from 1973 until he retired in 2000.

Dale joined the Gahagan Preserve in 2000.

Where did you first develop an interest in conservation and outdoor education?

My fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Matthews, gave me an A in science without even looking in her grade book. She said I was the class scientist. She sure convinced me. I've been one ever since. I was also a Boy Scout. Still am.

I hunted and fished with my dad and neighbor, Gil Merchant, and his son Craig. I still have two of

Gil's wildlife paintings hanging in my office. I watched him paint them both.

My dad was kind of quiet, while Gil was apt to talk to me about nature and life. I liked trapping minnows and digging wigglers with him, even when it was freezing cold.

How has that interest shaped your life's work?

I was going to become a doctor until I met the pre-med advisor at

Central Michigan University. I quickly switched to become a biology major.

Dr. Jack Adams, a geneticist, was my advisor and mentor. He pretty much picked out my graduate school for me and helped me win a fellowship.

I became a junior high science teacher to dodge the draft. I found the job at Kirtland Community College quite by accident.

When I retired, the job at Gahagan just sort of dropped into my lap. I have pretty much been "following the bouncing ball" all my life.

I sure wonder what's next.

What do you believe are the three biggest conservation issues facing Michigan?

- #1 – Toxic chemicals in the environment
- #2 – Invasive species
- #3 – Global climate change



Tom Dale

How would you recommend that we deal with each?

The chemical companies of the world make a lot of money developing and selling new chemicals. It is not until later that the harmful consequences are discovered and by that time, they are ubiquitous in the environment. The free enterprise system makes it all legal, even desirable. A laptop computer must have all sorts of man-made chemicals in it. Some of

them are likely to be very toxic, but I sure wouldn't want to give up my computer.

World-wide travel has shrunk the planet so that organisms of all sorts, including humans, can get anywhere quite quickly. If they happen to have any sort of competitive edge, they invade. Some invasive species can be stopped, or controlled, but it is hard to imagine the paradigm shift that would have to happen in order to stop it all.

The earth's climate has been cycling from hot to cold and back to warm again for millions of years. The earth is currently in a warming trend that should take tens of thousands of years to complete before cooling again. The burning of fossil fuels has greatly speeded up the process so that what might have taken many thousands of years will likely happen in only a few hundred. It is hard to imagine what the consequences of that will

Continued on Page 6

Stumped by all those house projects? Start a bucket list

When the Memorial Day tornado of 2011 tore through my rural Michigan neighborhood, the skies had scarcely cleared when a chorus of chainsaws echoed through the land.

There's plenty of indefatigable types out here. They're folks with farm tractors, muddy pickups and stout friends who know how to use both. At Gerald's place down the road, where a ghastly tangle of splintered maples covered his yard, they'd cleaned up the whole mess by noon the next day. No mere funnel cloud can slow down a steel-toed guy like that.

As for me I showed my defiance in true lazy-man fashion: we went boldly ahead with the cookout we'd planned for that evening. We grilled our beefalo burgers in a backyard still littered with post-tornadic debris. The blue spruces — the ones I watched topple over as my daughter and I took cover in the barn — could wait.

And wait they did until well past

The Wild Nearby

By Tom Springer



the 4th of July ... of 2012. My brother-in-law Bob, himself an indefatigable guy with a full complement of countryman hardware, did the heavy lifting. He cut up trees and yanked out stumps with his John Deere. Their orange roots quivered, twanged then popped loose like the ganglia of some giant woody tumor.

We heaped dry branches around the big stumps and started an eyebrow scorching bonfire. While the branches turned to ash and cinders, the stumps retained the same size and shape. They smoldered on for two days and I puzzled about what to do. Leave them as primitive lawn art and ring them with marigolds? Encircle them with tractor-tire flower planters (painted white) per the popular

local fashion?

Then when I nudged one of the stumps with my foot I was surprised to find how light it had become. It was a charcoal facade of its former self — I could drag it by hand to a nearby field. Its apparent weight had been all in my head.

The stumps are a good metaphor for what happens when life (disguised as an old farm house) overwhelms you. It makes you over-estimate the difficulty of just about everything.

So you neglect to weed the flower beds overrun with saplings and poison ivy; fix the stubborn leak in the chimney flashing; haul away those moldy couches "temporarily" stored in a dilapidated shed. Thus paralyzed by despair

and self-pity you begin to ask yourself "How and when will I ever find time to do all this?"

Some of it probably never. I've put off cleaning our atrocious Michigan basement for 16 years now. Yet in defense of fellow procrastinators everywhere, let me explain the well-intentioned thinking that makes it so.

The procrastinator's problem isn't simply that he (I'll speak only for males) does too little. Rather, it's that he tries to do too much. When a procrastinator envisions "this weekend" he pictures a sunny interlude with unbound time to fish, garden, nap, hike, cook out and putty storm windows. That, instead of the scattered five or six free hours that he actually has to get something done.

But I recently read something about the steadfast work habits of writer John McPhee that's given me new motivation. McPhee has published 29 books on subjects

that range from oranges to canoes. Remarkably, he never writes more than one, single-spaced page a day. "You know," he says "you put an ounce in a bucket each day and you get a quart."

So this summer I've tried to master the art of the bite-sized project. There's no need to let the perfect (the mythical endless weekend) become the enemy of the good (a productive evening's work). In the 60-minute window after supper, even a guy with a handsaw can prune a few dozen dead branches off a blue spruce. Or fill two wheel barrows with noxious garden weeds.

It's hardly profound stuff — but sometimes a procrastinator needs a swift kick in the bucket to remember it.

Tom Springer writes from rural Three Rivers, Michigan. A collection of his essays, Looking for Hickories (University of Michigan Press), was a Michigan Notable Book in 2009.

The Moon Watcher: Ode to a peaceful night of outdoor chores

Looking west over nine acres of moonlit pasture on a cool and breezy May night, I stood silently on the back step of our small barn.

The midnight hour had already passed. My job was to supervise two white goats and one chocolate-colored pony as they grazed freely and somewhat obliviously within the tree-lined rectangle.

A barred owl repeated its haunting eight-note call from a favored woodlot across the county road. A pack of coyotes yipped and howled somewhere far to the north, their high-pitched canine voices carried by the wind.

For thirty seconds or so, they vocalized boldly, then went dead quiet. The next time I heard them, their location had clearly changed. Coyotes always seem to be on the move, and are smart enough not to give away their position for long.

The hooved critters in front of me paid no attention. Each would probably be more than a match for a single coyote; the goats being obstreperous un-neutered males

Outdoor Rhythms

By Doug Freeman



with horns, and the horse a feisty gelding weighing in at about 250 pounds — more than capable of delivering a sharp kick or bite, as needed.

Over the years, a neighboring farmer with great eco-sense has planted numerous trees around his forty-acre field, filling in the gaps on our adjacent boundary. I've added spruces, firs, pines, and whatever else I could find or buy, extending the tree line and creating habitat where once there were only patches of open ground.

Wild trees have also sprouted, and all are entitled to an extra drink of unconsumed barn water, which I have to replace at least twice daily anyway. The hundred-yard bucket haul has become a regular part of my daily exercise program.

As an ex-city kid whose grandfather taught him to respect the

outdoors on frequent summertime hiking and fishing expeditions in northern Michigan, I realize how fortunate my wife and I are to live on this little piece of beauty tucked away in a corner of Muskegon County, only a mile from the Lake Michigan shore. When conditions are right, we can hear breakers slamming against the sandy beach just beyond the high wooded dunes.

On this particular night, the rustling of branches and tall grasses predominate, mixed with occasional critter calls. Our livestock (a.k.a. "pets") are used to their noon and late-night feedings, due to my many years on a second-shift work schedule. We're all accustomed to being outside together under the open sky, except in times of storm, or deep snow.

Opossums, skunks, porcupines,

and raccoons have all occasionally found refuge in our barn — sharing whatever food the domesticated animals don't eat. So far, all (even the barn cats) have managed to coexist without major problems.

After a manure and wet hay cleanup done by the light of a battery-powered headlamp, I checked the barn clock — 2 a.m. The cats have eaten their fill and gone to bed in the straw, or on top of the folded blankets I keep ready for wintry weather. The goat boys have returned voluntarily to their indoor pen and are quietly sucking down some fresh water.

The little horse has wandered beyond the edge of the pasture's single-strand electric fence, and is grazing slowly toward the neighbor's alfalfa field. He's nearly two hundred yards away, visible only because of the moonlight shining off his blond mane and tail.

Grabbing a halter from a wall peg, I start after him at a walk. He

hears the clinking metal buckles and loops long before I reach him. Knowing the barn is his next destination, he plods begrudgingly in that direction, tearing up mouthfuls of young grass and clover along the way.

The barn smells fresh and provides a good shelter from the wind. A person could fall asleep in the comfy camp chair I keep folded by the workbench. I make an effort to check each animal before leaving — I call it getting a "positive location ID."

That done, the gates are finally closed for the night, and I dawdle on my way back to the house, strolling under the swishing branches of a row of sugar maples thoughtfully planted more than a generation ago.

The bright and highly useful three-quarter moon won't set for at least another hour.

Doug Freeman is a writer and amateur naturalist living near the Lake Michigan shoreline north of Montague, Michigan

Michigan native inspired by adventurous life in the far north

Kalamazoo-area native David G. Bogart was called to the north woods at an early age and has been captivated by the primitive landscape ever since — most recently in the nation's 49th state.

A 1972 graduate of Gull Lake High School in Richland, Bogart said his childhood experiences in Michigan fed his sense of adventure and inspired his eventual move to “the land of the midnight sun” some 35 years ago.

“I have many, many fond memories of Michigan,” said Bogart, now an aeronautical captain for Federal Express, a bush pilot and a longtime resident of Wasilla, Alaska. “Both the upper and lower peninsulas are etched forever in my mind.”

As a boy, Bogart spent a portion of his summers from 1963 to 1968 at YMCA's Camp A-Hara in the Walkerville/Hart area and, in 1969, at Camp Hayo-Went-A on Torch Lake. Among other activities, there were canoe trips on the Pere Marquette, Pine and Betsy rivers, as well as a longer journey in the Ranger Lake area of northern Ontario.

He also enjoyed hunting small game and waterfowl on Beaver Island, as well as deer and pheasant in various other locations.

After high school, Bogart attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton and, later, Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.

The main draw to Michigan Tech was its geographic location, according to Bogart. “Academically, my experience there was lacking,” he said. “I spent most of my time skiing, hiking and about everything else except academics. The transfer to Central Michigan University was maturing and the academics increased three-fold.”

Still, it was wonderful to live in the Upper Peninsula for a year while he attended Michigan Tech. “Some dormitory friends and I tried winter camping one night and that hooked me,” he said.

Alaska and Michigan's Upper Peninsula are alike in many ways,

he said, especially in the winter. “Both have extremes in climate and vast areas that are uninhabited.”

Bogart particularly enjoys the “human vs. nature” aspect of the outdoors. “It's challenging and fun,” he said, “as long as you remember that nature ultimately will be the victor. If you play WITH her and not AGAINST her, you generally have a rewarding and educational outcome.”

After graduating from Central Michigan University with a degree in teaching and spending some time in Colorado, Bogart traveled to the far north in 1977 “to see what my grandfather saw.” He took up residence in rural Alaska — a state that writer Edward Abbey once referred to as “the last pork chop” — thus realizing a lifetime dream that Bogart had nurtured since he was a boy reading the outdoor journals his grandfather had written in the 1920s and 1930s.

Howard J. Cooper, Bogart's maternal grandfather, was probably as well known for his reputation as a big-game hunter as for his many years as a Kalamazoo automobile dealer. During his action-packed lifetime, Cooper went on hunting and fishing expeditions throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico, as well as into the Brazilian jungle. One of his frequent traveling partners was well-known Michigan outdoor writer Ben East.

“I think (Alaska) was probably just another stop on H.J. Cooper's journeys,” Bogart told *The Kalamazoo Gazette* in 1983. “I'm settling at (the site of) one of his many adventures.”

Cooper's extensive collection of wildlife specimens was for many years an added attraction in his downtown Kalamazoo automobile showroom. Some longtime local residents may remember Muggs the lion, one of many wild animals that became Cooper's pets.

Cooper was also an aviation buff who owned and piloted his



Dave Bogart's Cessna 180 on Ruth Glacier near Mt. McKinley.

own plane. He actually owned three different airplanes during his lifetime — a TravelAire 6000, a Stinson Reliant and finally at Fleetwing Amphibian, which he crashed while taking off on Houghton Lake in the late 1940s.

The plane was a total loss and the passengers were “banged up a bit,” according to Bogart. Cooper's wife suffered a broken leg in the mishap and used that injury to politely talk Cooper out of flying again.

Although Bogart never met his grandfather, who died in 1953, he credits Cooper as being a top influence in his life and one of the most interesting people about whom he has learned. “After reading his journals, magazine articles (in *Outdoor Life*, etc.), and other stories relayed from my grandmother, mother and uncles, he became the basis for my own adventurous spirit,” Bogart said.

Bogart's own Michigan outdoor experiences also helped lay the foundation for the exciting life that he has since lived in Alaska.

“The north just has an unexplainable draw for me,” said Bogart, who still returns to the Great Lakes State each year for turkey hunts with friends. “The toughest thing about living (in Alaska) is what I love the most — its remoteness. Being far from family and friends who live ‘outside’ means that it's not cheap or quick to visit.”

Still, it's well worth the inconvenience, he said. “You can go a thousand miles and not run into a fence, probably not a person and definitely not a road,” Bogart told *The Kalamazoo Gazette* in the aforementioned 1983 interview. “You can go from tundra to mountains to lakes to ocean to fresh water — all within an hour. It's an area for people who love the out-of-doors.”

It was a teaching job in Bethel, Alaska, that became Bogart's ticket to the far north. He taught

in the small Eskimo village for a year and used the job as a “financial tool” to get established in the state. After that, he took whatever job would best allow him to explore and have fun.

His interest in flying began to take shape in 1977 when he was still in Colorado and began to study for a private pilot's license. He continued learning to fly private airplanes when he got to Alaska — figuring that it would be a handy skill to have — and completed the training in 1981.

“I took the long way to get my private license,” he said, and flying as a career never occurred to him until later.

By the time he received the private pilot's license, however, Bogart had logged more than 110 hours of flying time at various locations and with various instructors — which put him about half-way to the number of hours required for a commercial license.

Collecting the additional hours, along with an instrument rating, gave him the credentials needed to be a professional pilot. So he decided to make a career of it.

Bogart's first two years as a professional were among his most enjoyable — as an air taxi pilot with Yute Air Alaska. “I got to fly many different aircraft,” he said, “including taildraggers like the Cessna 185, and others like the Cessna 207 and Piper Cherokee 6. Toward the end I was flying the Britain Norman BN-2 ‘Islander’ — a fixed-gear, high wing piston

twin.”

He flew a scheduled mail route Monday through Saturday from Dillingham to the villages of Koliganek, New Stuyahok and Ekwok. After the mail was delivered, he transported whatever was being shipped to rural communities — people, dogs, cats, fish eggs, butchered reindeer, freshly caught salmon and even the occasional human body — “anything and everything you can get into an airplane.”

These earlier days were before LORAN and GPS navigation systems were being used. “It was all Day VFR — visual flight rules — flying,” he said. “Some refer to it as seat-of-the-pants, or bush flying, the latter being more correct.”

Complete and total knowledge of the area in which you were flying was key to survival. “Most places looked totally different when the visibility was less than three miles and the cloud ceiling wanted to hug the ground,” he said. “It cheated you out of the more distant orienting landmarks, so local knowledge is a must for safe flying.”

Bogart left the Dillingham-based Yute Air in May of 1985 and moved to Anchorage. There he began flying for Alaska Aeronautical Industries (AAI) as a co-pilot in the DeHavilland DHC 6 “Twin Otter,” the Embraer EMB-110 “Bandeirante,” and the Piper PA-31 “Navajo Chieftain” — all classified as twin-engine aircraft.

Within one month, Bogart upgraded to the position of captain and flew for AAI until September of 1985 when he left to join MarkAir and fly the Lockheed L-382 “Hercules,” a four-engine cargo plane.

“It's the civilian version of the C-130, but a little longer in length,” he said. “We flew it in Alaska, to the lower 48 states and on some charter trips to Europe. I was a flight engineer for six months and a co-pilot for 18 months.”

Continued on Page 7



Kalamazoo businessman H.J. Cooper loved adventure and influenced his grandson.



Bogart leaving for Alaska in 1977 (left) and in 2008 on Meadow Lake near Wasilla.



Conservation Conversation: Tom Dale of the Gahagan Nature Preserve

Continued from Page 5

be, but I sure don't want to give up my cars.

What are the barriers to solving these problems?

It's all about politics, religion and greed, and I don't have a solution for any of them.

We need more regulations and the current political trend is for less regulation. We need open-minded approaches to all our problems and the thrust of the great religions of the world is closed minds.

But it mostly boils down to individual, institutional and corporate greed, and I am as guilty as the next guy.

Who are your personal Michigan conservation heroes and why?

Marguerite Gahagan. In 1953 she gave up a successful

newspaper career in Detroit and moved to tiny Douglas Lake just East of Johannesburg, and on her own established *The North Woods Call* newspaper. She was a champion of conservation issues affecting Michigan. When she retired and sold the paper in 1969, circulation was at nearly 10,000 copies weekly. She bequeathed her property to all of us to form a nature preserve. (www.gahagannature.org)

Bertha Daubendiek and friends banded together in 1951 to bird watch. That little organization went on to become the Michigan Nature Association. What started as a small bird study group transformed into a statewide land conservation organization that has protected thousands of acres all over the state. (www.michigannature.org)

Joe Rogers helped found the Wildlife Recovery Association in 1979 to provide services for and about wildlife, and promote a better understanding of their needs. The associa-

tion provides quality educational outreach programs with live birds of prey, participates in research and management programs to support rare and endangered species, and provides care for orphaned and injured raptors. Joe is an inspiration. (www.wildliferecovery.org)

Rusty Gates was one of the founders of Anglers of the AuSable — an organization of considerable clout that engages with anyone who would do harm to the AuSable River. He was a fighter and it was the good fights in which he chose to engage — catch and release on the “Holy Waters,” National Guard noise pollution on the North Branch, oil wells on the South Branch and toxic chemicals on the Big Water. His legacy is all of us still watching over the mighty AuSable River. (www.ausableanglers.org)

Alaska pilot & Michigan native enjoys the north woods

Continued from Page 6

After two years with MarkAir, Bogart joined Flying Tiger Line Cargo, initially as a flight engineer on the Douglas DC-8. Later, he became flight engineer on the Boeing B-747. At first he was based in New York City and then in Los Angeles, but continued to make his home in Alaska.

Federal Express purchased the Flying Tiger line in 1989 and Bogart transitioned to the co-pilot's seat in March 1992. He upgraded to his current position of captain in 1999 and has flown nearly 10,000 hours in the McDonnell Douglas MD-11, a three-engine cargo jet. His total time in all the aircraft he has flown exceeds 15,000 hours, not including his time as a flight engineer.

As captain, Bogart is the boss — the decision maker — but that always includes collective input from other crew, with the ultimate goal being a safe and uneventful flight. He undergoes simulator training every six months, flight physicals twice each year and — for the over-40 pilots — an annual electrocardiogram (EKG) test.

He is now based in Anchorage and regularly flies around the world both east and west to Japan, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Hawaii, Malaysia, Singapore, Guam, Australia, Kazakhstan, Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Dubai and various other places.

"I really love the European flying," he said, but it's harder on the body clock to recover from transiting the numerous time zones."

Still, Bogart said it is always good when he returns to Alaska, where he has had many memorable adventures, including some in his own private planes. He owned a two-seat Piper Super Cub until it was destroyed by vandals in 1994. He now owns a four-seat Cessna 180.

"I would have to say that the part that pulls on me the most when I'm away from Alaska is the vastness and beauty of the land," he said. "Mount McKinley — when all 20,320 feet are visible — is a great welcome home sight."

Over the years, Bogart has hunted, fished, snowmobiled and skied in the wilderness backcountry, had close encounters with bears and flown the Iditarod Sled Dog Trail as a volunteer pilot during the annual

race from Anchorage to Nome.

Through all his years in the cockpit, he has only had one truly harrowing experience — when he was flying from Goodnews Bay to Dillingham in less-than-favorable weather. "I thought a left turn would have put me to the south of a small mountain on the sea coast," he said, "but it turned out that I was flying north of the mountain. It was a very unsettling feeling when I realized where I actually was."

Bogart said that the nine passengers on board at the time were not aware of the situation and he learned a valuable lesson — to never fly in such conditions again in any area with which he is not totally familiar.

After 35 years of Alaska living, Bogart said he has yet to get tired of the adventure. "With my plane (alternately) equipped with floats, hydraulic wheel skis and large tires, it is the perfect vehicle in which to explore the state," he said. "I have been drawn here ever since I can remember."

It is not only the vastness and general beauty of the land that makes it appealing, Bogart said. There are also long summertime days, a varied topography and extremes of weather.

"You can have a one-hundred degree difference in temperature at the same time at sea level," he said. "It might be fifty degrees below at Deadhorse or Anaktuvuk Pass in the northern part of the state and fifty degrees above in Metlakatla in the southeast panhandle."

The chain of Aleutian Islands stretches almost halfway to Japan, he said, and if you live on Little Diomed Island north of Nome "you really CAN see Russia from our house."

A recent newlywed, Bogart's wife, Gwenn, is also a pilot. She loves to fly, explore and do many of the same things he does, so he expects that they will remain in Alaska for some time yet.

"There is still so much of the state that we have not seen," he said. "We would be remiss to leave without checking out as much as we are physically capable of seeing. My guess is that we'll always visit the lower 48 states and — if we did move back there some day — it would have to be a place that has four seasons. Snowbirds we are not."

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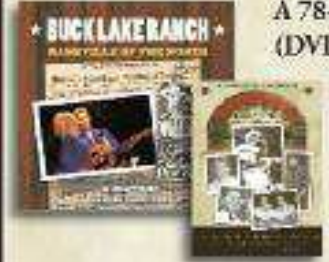
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Sheppard: "A conservation ... legend"

Continued from Page 3

and remarkably carried the Call forward into the conservation and environmental movement of the past (several decades)."

"Under his charge," added Michigan outdoor writer Thomas BeVier, "The Call became more than just a fine newspaper. It be-

came an institution."

"If you do nothing else in your life," Shep once said, "make a difference. It is the best thing you can ever do."

Friends and foe alike can agree that Shep made a difference and that Michigan conservation has benefited from his tenacity.

Foresters harvest ash & beech to stop disease losses

Foresters from the Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Technological University are examining more than 30,000 acres of state forest land for signs of emerald ash borer (EAB) and beech bark disease (BBD).

The process of harvesting ash and beech from identified areas is ongoing in an attempt to recover timber value before the resources are killed by the two exotic forest pests.

Since the discovery of BBD in 2000 and EAB in 2002, millions of beech and ash in the state have been killed. Despite some evident mortality, current surveys show that many forests in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula have not yet been impacted.

Foresters are identifying areas with greater densities of quality beech and ash, targeting them for harvest before infestation, or within a year after.

2012 Readership Survey

Help shape the future of *The North Woods Call* by sharing your thoughts and ideas

Your ideas are important to us as we shape the future direction of *The North Woods Call*.

Please share your personal interests and thoughts about *The Call's* coverage of the issues you care about by answering the questions below.

Please respond by November 1, 2012, so we can start putting your ideas into action. We will share the general results of this survey in *The North Woods Call* after the first

of the New Year.

Giving us your name, street address and e-mail address are optional, of course, but we are asking for this information in case we want to contact you later. We promise not to share this information with anyone else and all individual responses will be kept anonymous.

The most important thing is for us to hear your impressions of *The North Woods Call* — past and present — and

to get a clear idea as to your future content and delivery preferences.

Please note the "required" fields indicated by asterisks.

Send your answers to *The North Woods Call* at 5411 East DE Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004, or fill out the survey form online at: mynorthwoodscall.com.

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| <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Mailing Address: _____</p> <p>* City: _____</p> <p>* State/Province: _____</p> <p>* ZIP/Postal Code: _____</p> <p>* How long have you subscribed to <i>The North Woods Call</i>?</p> <p>___ One to 5 years</p> <p>___ Five to 10 years</p> <p>___ 10 to 20 years</p> <p>___ 20 to 30 years</p> <p>___ 30 years or more</p> <p>___ Never a subscriber</p> <p>Do you intend to remain a subscriber?</p> <p>___ Yes</p> <p>___ No</p> <p>Do you own vacation property?</p> <p>___ Yes</p> <p>___ No</p> | <p>Where is your vacation and/or recreational property located?</p> <p>___ Southern Michigan</p> <p>___ Northern Michigan</p> <p>___ Upper Peninsula</p> <p>___ Canada</p> <p>___ Elsewhere</p> <p>___ I don't own any such property</p> <p>What do you like best about <i>The North Woods Call</i>? (Please check all that apply)</p> <p>___ Size, Shape & Design</p> <p>___ Masthead</p> <p>___ Game Warden Shorts</p> <p>___ Editorials & Opinion</p> <p>___ Columns (ie. Ramblings)</p> <p>___ Reader Comments (Letters to Editor)</p> <p>___ North Woods Notes (News Shorts)</p> <p>___ Display Advertisements</p> <p>___ Marketplace of North (Classifieds)</p> <p>___ Photography</p> <p>___ News Stories</p> <p>___ Human Interest Features</p> <p>___ Kids' Corner</p> <p>___ Other</p> | <p>What do you like least? _____</p> <p>What are your personal interests? (Please check all that apply)</p> <p>___ Hunting</p> <p>___ Fishing</p> <p>___ Wildlife Management</p> <p>___ Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p>___ Sightseeing</p> <p>___ Parks & Recreation</p> <p>___ Michigan Conservation History</p> <p>___ Public Policy</p> <p>___ Energy</p> <p>___ Water Quality</p> <p>___ Air Quality</p> <p>___ Inland Lakes</p> <p>___ Boating</p> <p>___ Rivers & Streams</p> <p>___ Rails to Trails</p> <p>___ Forestry</p> <p>___ The Great Lakes</p> <p>___ Environmental Organizations</p> <p>___ Native American Issues</p> <p>___ Outdoor Media</p> <p>___ Hiking</p> <p>___ Camping</p> <p>___ Canoeing & Kayaking</p> | <p>___ Bicycling</p> <p>___ Bird Watching</p> <p>___ Mushrooming</p> <p>___ Snowshoeing</p> <p>___ Nature Study</p> <p>___ Other</p> <p>How do you prefer to receive <i>The North Woods Call</i>?</p> <p>___ Print & standard mail</p> <p>___ E-mail</p> <p>___ Electronic download</p> <p>___ By visiting a "newspaper," website</p> <p>___ Doesn't matter</p> <p>If you prefer the old print & mail model, are you willing to pay extra for this service?</p> <p>___ Yes</p> <p>___ No</p> <p>How often do you want to receive <i>The North Woods Call</i>? (Check only one)</p> <p>___ Twice a month</p> <p>___ Monthly</p> <p>___ Either is fine with me</p> | <p>What forms of electronic media do you use? (Please check all that apply)</p> <p>___ Blogs</p> <p>___ Facebook</p> <p>___ Twitter</p> <p>___ YouTube</p> <p>___ iPhone</p> <p>___ Kindle</p> <p>___ Home Computer</p> <p>___ Laptop</p> <p>___ Other</p> <p>___ None of the above</p> <p>Are you a potential advertiser?</p> <p>___ Yes</p> <p>___ No</p> <p>If so, where do you prefer to advertise? (Check all that apply)</p> <p>___ Online (Websites, blogs, etc.)</p> <p>___ Print</p> <p>___ Radio</p> <p>___ Television</p> <p>___ Billboards</p> <p>___ Yellow Pages</p> <p>___ Other</p> |
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THE NORTH WOODS CALL

Published periodically by Newshound Productions LLC, 5411 East DE Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004. First-class postage paid at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Electronic subscriptions \$35 per year and \$60 for two years. Print subscriptions \$55 per year and \$95 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The North Woods Call*, 5411 East DE Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004.

Threat by Asian carp documented

A new risk assessment led by Canada's government about the Great Lakes threat of Asian carp heightens the need for a permanent solution—such as hydrological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds—according to the Great Lakes Commission.

Conducted by Canadian and U.S. fishery experts, the report concludes that without prevention and control efforts, Asian carp are very likely to be introduced and will eventually spread to all five Great Lakes.

The leading edge of the carp invasion is 55 miles from downtown Chicago and less than 20 miles from an array of electronic barriers that help prevent the fish from reaching Lake Michigan, officials said.

To see *Restoring the Natural Divide: Separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System*, go to www.glc.org/caaws.

Sweltering summer weather stresses Michigan's fish populations

The intense summer heat resulted in numerous fish kills around the state, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Fisheries Division.

The combination of extremely high water temperatures and drought flow conditions were very stressful for fish and, in many cases, exceeded lethal temperatures.

Additionally, high water temperatures can often result in low oxygen values, particularly where there is a lot of vegetation.

The overall fisheries effects of such events are often very local in

nature and may not have significantly changed overall population numbers. However, population level effects were not immediately known and the DNR was reportedly evaluating the situation.

For more information on fish kills in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/fishing. Anyone who suspects a fish kill is caused by non-natural causes is asked to call the nearest DNR office or Michigan's Pollution Emergency Alert System at 1-800-292-4706.

— Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Final Shot



U.P. fire eats 21,000 acres

The Duck Lake Fire in Luce County was the third-largest wildfire in modern Michigan history, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), consuming 21,060 acres. Only the 25,000-acre Mack Lake Fire in 1980 and the 72,000-acre Seney Fire in 1976 were larger. The fire was started by a lightning strike on May 24 and roared through 136 structures — including one store and one motel — before being contained by 300 DNR personnel, heavy equipment, aircraft and several cooperating agencies. The evacuation order was lifted on Thursday, June 7, and the entire fire area was re-opened to the general public on June 11.

(Rick Baetsen photo)

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Enclosed is \$ _____. Please sign me up for *The North Woods Call*.

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OK, we liked the classic design and layout of the old North Woods Call, too, and would prefer to hold a hard copy in our hands. Unfortunately, the rapidly increasing costs of printing and distribution—along with the public stampede toward all things digital—make this less practical going forward. Given sufficient demand and revenue, however, we will consider a print version. Please fill out our online reader survey to help inform these decisions.

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DNR invites public input on forest plans for Alger, Marquette counties

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host an open house to provide information and receive public comment on proposed forest management treatments for 2014 in the Gwinn management unit, which includes Alger and Marquette counties.

The open house will be held Oct. 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Superior Central High School, E2865 M-94 in Eben Junction.

Proposed treatments, which may include timber harvesting, replanting and other management activities, are designed to ensure the sustainability of all forest resources.

A specific proposal this year in Alger County's Mathias Township involves the closure of a fire-damaged bridge over the east branch of the Whitefish River. The proposal suggests closing the bridge to full-sized vehicles, but keeping it open for off-road vehicles.

Bill O'Neill, chief of the DNR's Forest Resources Division, said the open house is a good way for interested residents, neighbors and stakeholders to learn—well in advance—about the DNR's plans, and to share input toward final decisions on those treatments.

"When it comes to the health and sustainability of our state forests, we're always thinking several years ahead," said O'Neill, who also serves as a state forester. "We like to do the open houses around the state because the public gets an opportunity to talk with foresters and biologists about issues that matter most to them. It turns out to be a valuable exchange of information and ideas."

Maps and information regarding the Mathias Township bridge closure and other proposed treatments will be available at the open house.

The information can also be found at: www.michigan.gov/forestplan under the Forests, Land & Water section.

Comments sought on upper Great Lakes issues

The International Joint Commission (IJC) is inviting public comment on the final report of its International Upper Great Lakes Study Board entitled *Lake Superior Regulation: Addressing Uncertainty in Upper Great Lakes Water Levels*.

The bilingual teleconference will be held at 7 p.m. (EDT) September 19.

The report examines whether the regulation of outflows from Lake Superior through the compensating works and power dams on the St.

Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie might be improved to take into consideration the evolving needs of users on Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan and Erie.

Join the teleconference 877-413-4814, PIN 7297456 (English), or 877-413-4814, PIN 2641187 (French). Participant are encouraged to dial in 10 minutes before the 7:00 p.m. (EDT) start time.

Written comments may also be submitted. The deadline for all comments is Sept.30.