“The newspaper for people who love the north”

Looking for a Christmas gift idea for the outdoor lover?
Why not give The North Woods Call?
(See Page 8)

www.mynorthwoodscall.com
HELLO, MARY LOU: Mary Lou Sheppard, widow of former North Woods Call publisher Glen Sheppard, has been fighting some kind of cancer for the past several months. At this writing, she was out of the hospital, but told us recently that the disease had been “getting the best of me.” We don’t have any further details, but you might want to send your thoughts and prayers to her.

WOODY BOUDEMAN: Richland-area resident Sherwood “Woody” Boudeman has been honored by Ducks Unlimited (DU) for his long-time support of wetlands conservation. Boudeman is one of many individuals featured in the organization’s November/December magazine saluting to “supporters through the decades.” An ardent DU supporter for 38 years, Boudeman said he doesn’t just manage his property to take ducks. “My land provides productive wetlands for ducks and other wildlife,” he said. Boudeman also mentors young people who will become future conservationists.

GREAT GRAYS: Gray wolves in the Great Lakes region were recently removed from the endangered species list. Today, there are about 700 wolves in Michigan, compared to just under 300 a decade ago. Now, some state lawmakers—most notably Rep. Matt Huink (R-At- lantic Mine) and Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba)—are considering legislation to make gray wolves a game species, which could bring about a useful hunting and trapping season for wolves. The Department of Natural Resources is reportedly supportive of this idea. The Humane Society and other opponents, meanwhile, are gearing up to fight the proposal.

PLATTE RIVER FISHING: To protect steelhead reproduction, a portion of northwest Michigan’s Platte River will be closed to fishing from January 1 to March 31, 2013. The closure will apply to the river from the Platte River State Fish Hatchery down to Platte Lake, Michigan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials said. Also, no fishing will be allowed within 300 feet of the upper hatchery weir whenever the weir is in place, which was from August 15 to September 30.

PLOTS OF MUSH: Opening day of firearm deer season is fast approaching. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources suggests that you plan in advance for the annual November 15-30 event. Famil- iarize yourself with regulations, they say, by visiting their website at www.michigan.gov/deer, or Michigan State University’s White-Tailed Deer website. You’ll find deer-check locations and other important information.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: Just a reminder that a Recreation Passport is required to enter Michigan state parks and recreation areas. Visit www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport for specific details.

MILLION CAMP MILESTONE: Algonac State Park recently hosted Elizabeth and George Angerer of Roseville, Michigan, who received a Pure Michigan prize for being the one millionth campsite registered. Passport is required to enter Michigan state parks and recreation areas. You’ll find deer-check locations and other important information.

The North Woods Call marks its 60th year in print.

HASTINGS, Mich.—A non-profit citizens group is suing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in hopes of nullifying the recent actions of min- eral rights within Barry and Allegan State Game Areas, as well as in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area.

Michigan Land Air Water Defense (MLAWD) filed the lawsuit October 24 in Barry County Circ- uit Court. The group is seeking a declaratory ruling to nullify lease auctions conducted by the DNR on May 9 and October 24, 2012. “We hope our case sets a prece- dent,” said Steve Losher, presi- dent of MLAWD. “We feel that all state parks, recreation and game areas, and other specially designated areas should be off limits to the (drilling) technique of horizontal hydraulic fracturing.”

The group sued following the DNR’s October 22 denial of their request to remove the right to “un- conventionally” develop oil and gas on the contested lands. “They need to have made three such previ- ous requests—all of which were denied,” Losher said. “My clients appreciate the cour- tesy of the meeting with DNR of- ficials,” said Jim Olson, an environmental law attorney in Traverse City, “but the process brought no immediate relief to my clients or their mem- bers, be they individuals or busi- nesses.”

DNR officials disagree that the auction of the oil and gas leases was unlawful. According to Ed Golder, public in- formation officer at the DNR. “The department considered the comments and legal arguments raised by the plaintiffs before they filed suit,” Golder said. “We be- lieve the lease sale is proper and will—through legal counsel—de- fend that position in court.”

The legislation, Casperson said, was aimed in part at protecting ac- cess to public land for all users. Several citizens were quite upset when the DNR began implement- ing its land-use plan for the Pi- geron River area, he said, and to properly manage the DNR’s management activities with eco- nomic values. “We didn’t sell the land,” Casperson said, “we are in mind at protecting ac- cess to public land for all users. Several citizens were quite upset when the DNR began implement- ing its land-use plan for the Pi- geron River area, he said, and discovered that it limited access to certain recreational uses. “We are the ones who got the phone calls—not the department,” he said. “It doesn’t mean that the plan is bad, or good. That’s not the point. But when they submit a plan and the public complains, they ignore it. That’s not right.”

The DNR, he said, should play

Some Michigan conservation- ists have accused state Senator Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) of “unlawful assault” on the Depart- ment of Natural Resources (DNR). But Casperson says he is merely trying to represent the in- terests of his constituents.

There’s a role for the (DNR) to come out publicly with their plans,” Casperson told The North Woods Call during a recent tele- phone interview, “and there’s a role for the Legislature to play. In my district, some of their deci- sions have not been well-received by the public.”

Casperson said the agency makes a lot of recommendations related to land use and that these decisions need to be vetted.

DNR officials say that they have a good relationship with the senator and value him as an im- portant partner in shaping public policy on critical natural resources questions.

“He has been a good partner with the senator and value him as an im- portant partner in shaping public policy on critical natural resources questions.”

“Senator Casperson has been an active and passionate voice when it comes to natural re- sources issues,” said Ed Golder, public information officer at the DNR. “We have supported some of his bills and opposed others.”

Casperson, likewise, said that new DNR Director Keith Creagh has been good to work with.

There is still pressure from environ- mentalist groups, Casperson said, whenever the direction they want the DNR to go is questioned and “I wouldn’t be doing my job if I didn’t get involved in it,” he said.

Casperson has received a sig- nificant amount of criticism over his sponsorship of Senate Bill 1276, which—among other things—would prohibit the DNR from designating land for biolog- ical diversity. It would also delete the conservation of biological di- versity from the agency’s duties and would force the DNR to balance its management activities with eco- nomic values.

“Looking back,” Casperson said, “I feel that the DNR has shown to the point. But when they submit a plan and the public complains, they ignore it. That’s not right.”

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Sen. Tom Casperson discusses the DNR

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Sen. Tom Casperson

“I think he wants to change di- rection and make the department more responsive to the public,” Casperson said. “They need to stop on the path of preserving things—except certain spots that need protection. Either way, it shouldn’t be all or nothing.”

Casperson said that the DNR is under a lot of pressure from envi- ronmental groups. “In the past, he said, it wasn’t just that pressure was being applied. They were working together hand-in-hand.”

People have asked for a new approach by the DNR, he said, and “we are starting to see some active changes. When I go on the street and talk to people now, I get a totally different perspective.”

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Could establish a precedent

Citizens group sues the Michigan DNR to overturn downstate oil and gas lease sales

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There is still pressure from en-
Protesters arrested at state oil & gas lease auctions

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) decision to proceed with its October 24 auction of oil and gas leases brought more protests and resulted in the arrests of seven people.

“The auction was moved to the Lansing area to accommodate a larger number of people we knew would be interested,” said Ed Golder, public information officer at the DNR. “We allowed people who were in the audience and concerned about the proceedings to hold up signs and to quietly observe.”

The arrests came after a few individuals interfered with the proceedings, according to Golder. Those seven people were charged with misdemeanor counts of disrupting a public meeting, obstructing a police officer, or both. Golder said there have been protests and arrests at the last two oil and gas lease auctions.

“We have been conducting these auctions for a number of years,” he said. “I don’t know what the election has been doing during that entire time span, but the most recent auctions mark the first time in recent years we have seen these kinds of protests.”

Protesters are particularly concerned about well-drilling in environmentally sensitive areas in the “public trust,” as well as with the industry practice of hydraulic fracturing. Complaints have also been registered at Michigan Natural Resources Commission meetings.

Resource managers need to be responsive to the people, Sen. Casperson says

(Continued From Page 1)

an active role in managing resources, but they shouldn’t ignore what people are telling them. “The idea that the Legislature shouldn’t be involved—I couldn’t disagree with that more,” Casperson corrected.

The senator said he doesn’t have a particular agenda for dialing the DNR back. “So far, it’s working fine. But there are 9.5 million people and, as a state representative, I have to acknowledge, but at the same time the Michigan Senate ‘has a responsibility to the people who elected us.’”

When he ran for office, according to Casperson, he said the same things about natural resource management as he is saying now and was elected in a historically Democratic district.

“If those were my issues then—and they were—I should have been thrown out on my ear, but I wasn’t. I was elected (in a district with a ‘significant amount of state-owned land’).”

Pigeon River Country dam removal

GAYLORD—The Grayling-based Huron Pines organization is launching a small-dam removal project on the Black River east of here.

Saunders Dam will be dismantled to restore natural stream functions. Currently, the dam is being blamed for increasing water temperature and limiting fish passage to the upper reaches of the Black River and Saunders Creek.

In 2011, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources purchased 517 acres of land in this area of Osage County to expand the Pigeon River Country State Forest. The land is part of the Black River Watershed, a productive brook trout fishery with an increasing fish population. A survey of the site permitting will be completed during the fall and winter months. Dam drawdown will begin during spring and summer of 2013.

For more information, contact Sam Peterson, project manager, at (989) 448-2293, Ext. 17. He can also be reached at email at sam@huronpines.org.
Renewable Energy Mandate Rejected

Michigan voters soundly defeated the so-called 25X25 renewable energy question when they went to the polls Nov 6. Ballot Proposal 3 would have enshrined a renewable energy mandate in the state Constitution, requiring that Michigan utilities get at least 25 percent of their annual electric retail sales from clean renewable energy sources—including wind, solar, biomass and hydropower—by the year 2025. It also called for electric providers to limit rate increases to one percent per year to cover costs associated with meeting the standard.

In the end, voters weren’t convinced that it was a good idea to leverage the Constitution for this purpose and apparently believed that the state’s existing energy policy is working just fine.

Current law already mandates that ten percent of Michigan’s energy be derived from renewable resources by the year 2025. This sets a less-aggressive goal than some other states with similar standards, however, but contrived that it would cost $12 billion and be skeptical of the promised one percent cap on price increases. Higher energy costs, they said, would actually lead to a net decrease in jobs.

The measure had support from renewable energy firms, as well as several unions and government leaders, including former Michigan Governor William G. Milliken and former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

State AG still investigating bid-fixing charge

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is continuing his investigation into allegations that two of North America’s largest natural gas companies colluded in an effort to fix bids in the state’s oil and gas market.

The two companies—Encana and Chesapeake Energy—came under scrutiny after Reuters News Service intercepted at least a dozen e-mail messages that suggested top company officials discussed a plan to divide up Michigan counties that were auctioning prime oil and gas acreage in order to avoid a costly bidding competition.

The investigation was launched at the urging of two state representatives—Dan Snau (D-Canton) and Charles Smiley (D-Burton). The two representatives did not respond to earlier requests for comments.

When contacted recently by The North Woods Call, the attorney general’s office would say only that the investigation—which began in late September—was “ongoing.”

“We do not comment on the details of ongoing investigations,” said Jay Yeary, acting director of communications for the attorney general.

Previously, Yeary confirmed that an investigation had been opened regarding the anti-trust allegations raised in media reports. At the time, she said the attorney general had “requested information from the companies.”

In June, Reuters reported that the two business rivals plotted during 2010 to avoid bidding against each other in a state auction and in at least nine prospective deals with private land owners.

Both companies have denied the allegations, although they reportedly admitted to talking about some kind of joint venture in Michigan.

“The North Woods Call is continuing to track the investigation.”

Conservation officer remembered; CO memorial is planned

1920s-era Michigan conservation officer Theron A. Craw was recently remembered on the 84th anniversary of his death in the line of duty. Craw died November 5, 1928, after being accidentally shot a few days earlier by his partner, as the two were working along Acme Creek in Grand Traverse County.

“Danger is inherent in conservation law enforcement, said DNR Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagner. “This hero’s life cut short reflects that danger. We will always remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.”

This year marks the 125th anniversary of conservation law enforcement in Michigan. Craw is one of 12 fallen conservation officers feted during the dedication of a memorial site outside the DNR’s conference center at Higgins Lake.

For more information, or to contribute to the construction of a memorial, visit the Michigan Conservation Officer Association site at www.mcco-online.net.

Photographer has long connection to The North Woods Call

Past subscribers to The North Woods Call will recognize the many wonderful nature and wildlife images contributed over the years by Michigan photographer Rick Baetsen.

A former publisher Glen Sheppard relied heavily on the photographs, but it was a simple twist of fate and the courtship dance of sharp-tail grous that connected Baetsen to the publication.

A former fisheries biologist for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Baetsen was working at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery near Alba in 1978 when he saw an article from the local Antrim County News that caught his attention.

The article was written by current North Woods Call publisher Mike VanBuren—then a staff writer at the Antrim County News.

“Bob Strong, the district wildlife biologist at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery near Alba in 1978 when he saw an article from the local Antrim County News that caught his attention,” Baetsen said.

Baetsen had a longstanding passion for photography, and usually carried his camera along when his work took him out of the office and into the field. Determined to find some sharp-tails closer to home that he could observe and photograph, Baetsen contacted Bob Strong, the district wildlife biologist at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources office in Gaylord.

“Bob suggested that I contact Bud Jones of Alba, who had a similar interest and knew where the birds danced (at eastern Antrim County’s Lake of the Clouds area years earlier),” Baetsen said.

Baetsen’s images have been published in books, magazines, calendars, and other newspapers, as well as on public and commercial television and a number of Internet websites.

Baetsen’s award-winning photos reflect his love of the wilderness and Michigan’s natural areas. His favorite subjects include wildlife, birds, butterflies and landscapes.

He now has more than 80,000 images in his stock collection—including more than 40,000 of ruffed grouse that he has taken since 1976. He hopes to someday produce a coffee table book about ruffed grouse and its behavior through the four seasons.

An active member of several conservation organizations, Baetsen also leads nature tours, and gives slide presentations on his travels and various natural history topics.

For more information, or to order photographs, visit his website at www.rickbaetsen.com.
The flames of fellowship: A Lifetime of Campfires

By Mike VanBuren

There are two goods reasons to purchase this book—it’s a great read and you’ll be supporting the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve.

*Pine Whispers* contains the biography and writings of Ms. Gahagan, founder in 1953 of The North Woods Call. Dedicated to the memory of Ms. Gahagan—‘writer, conservationist, and lover of nature’—the book tells her personal story from her birth in Grand Rapids to her sainthood as a romantic novelist and as an award-winning Detroit journalist.

We learned many things as we turned the pages. The 53-page life story contained in the book is fascinating in and of itself. It was enlightening to learn more about Gahagan’s various activities, although we found ourselves wishing for greater detail about this unique woman’s personality, motivations and passions. The 4th page second section of the book—*News From the North Woods*—is equally engaging. It features some of Marguerite’s own writings about the north country, as well as musings about nature and the many challenges of running a weekly newspaper by herself.

Such challenges are becoming ever more familiar to us, so it was helpful to better understand how Margarette managed her work and the challenges that she faced. The offending words chosen for the headline of our inaugural editorial about former publishers notwithstanding, we discovered (Page 48) that Marguerite did not like being referred to as “Maggie.”

We also learned that the noisy sound of a plowed woodpecker helped her identify a site for her Roscommon cabin (Page 50). The 86-page third section of the book—“Poetry of the Pines”—takes us through Gahagan’s popular “Pine Whispers” and her exploration of the evergreens.

Many years have included singing to the fire again every time a child is born. Firelight was even an integral part of the celebration of Independence Day ritual for families. The roasting campfires shared with friends and family in various locations throughout northern and southern Michigan.

We're told that an anonymous letter delivered to the Fibon Kurs Preserve described a plan for a mineral extraction company to open a 5,000-plus acre mine.

The exact location of the potential mine is not known, but some expect it could include land between the Fibon Quarry and Hwy 28.

The letter suggested that test drilling had already begun, although there have apparently been no reported signs of this. Contact us with any details.

The North Woods Call

Michigan’s Conservation Sentinel Since 1933

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A Newshound Publication
Editor: In September we received a courtesy letter from Rapid River Township (Kalkaska County), notifying us that they had issued a permit for a gravel pit on the property abutting ours to the south.

We—as adjacent property owners—had NO say in the permitting process.

A little research turned up the information that a judge had issued an opinion that gravel was a mineral and could be mined on any property anywhere in the state. The only regulations that could apply would be those established by the local municipal— and those were limited to air quality, noise, driveways, dust, and hours of operation. They could also not be so restrictive that the property owner would be prohibited from establishing a pit. (And the conditions were strictly voluntary—a municipality was not required to issue any regulations).

Further inquiries to the township assured us that there would be no dust on our property, as the prevailing wind was always from the northwest. The county road commission would issue any permits for driveways. Except for the hours, the township is assuming no responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of the unfortunate residents directly affected by this judge-permitted land use.

The end result of the original excavation (which now covers at least 40 acres) is that there are rumbling noises both in my house and in the yard, vibration in my house and sand on my furniture. Items have fallen from my shelves and my laundry has disappeared and how much commission you would want from sales. No unsigned letters will be published. We won’t publish addresses or phone numbers, but we must have them to verify that letters are authentic. Signs and blacked out phone numbers will not be published. This statement is under the authority of the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879, Section 40, and of P.L. 89-774, Title I, Section 403.

A Sand County Almanac: “I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in…” By Aldo Leopold

Fracking has not been deterred and Phyllis Senske Rapid City

Phyllis, You might want to connect with the folks in Barry & Allegan counties who are fighting those fracking operations and recently filed suit against the DNR over related lease sales (see article in this edition of The North Woods Call)

MV

Letters of interest will likely be interested in the Quiet Water Symposium to be held at the sands of Forest Highway 13, Michigan State University in East Lansing. The 18th annual event will celebrate the silent outdoor sports. It will feature presentations, demonstrations and exhibits promoting non-motorized outdoor recreation, as well as the conservation of natural resources. Admission is $10 for adults; $5 for students with identification. Children under 12 are free. For information, or to volunteer, visit www.QuietWaterSymposium.org.
Northern deer hunts poised for comeback?

The thrill of loading the car and heading for deer camp in northern Michigan may be regaining its popularity, say Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials.

For the past decade or so, more hunters spent their time—and killed more deer—in southern lower Michigan than in the northern Lower and Upper peninsulas, they said. But now the trend may be starting to reverse itself.

“We haven’t necessarily seen increased license sales, or more hunter numbers in northern Michigan, but what we are seeing is that the hunters who are out there are more successful and that’s a good thing,” said Ashley Autenrieth, DNR deer program biologist.

Autenrieth, who is stationed in Gaylord, said more hunters have been calling, looking to buy property adjacent to public land to establish deer camps in the northern Lower Peninsula.

Possible reasons for this renewed interest: new license regulations and three consecutive years of mild winters, she said.

“The last three mild winters have really helped,” Autenrieth said. “People are seeing more game. Our deer herd has been on a nice, steady increase for the last three years, which is what we want. When we’re getting reports of good trail camera pictures and people say they’re seeing some very nice quality bucks,” Autenrieth said.

The change in Upper Peninsula back regulations—where hunters who opt for a combination license are limited to a buck with at least three antler points on one side and four on one side (statewide) with the second tag—may have resulted in some older (and bigger) animals, DNR officials said.

In addition, more antlerless permits are available in new areas in northern Michigan.

A “number of areas in both the U.P. and northern Lower Peninsula have been opened for the first time in a number of years,” Autenrieth said. “I think we’ll see an increase in hunter success throughout much of northern Michigan again this year.”

Nevertheless, DNR officials believe the bulk of the deer harvest will occur in southern Michigan for the foreseeable future.

Yet northern deer hunting seems poised for a comeback soon, they said, although nobody is predicting the kind of traffic jams on northbound I-75 that used to be common in years past.

—Michigan DNR report

Sportsmen: Donations sought to help the hungry

Michigan hunters are being encouraged to re-member their hungry neighbors when they take to the woods and fields this season.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials urge all hunters to consider a donation to the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) organization when purchasing hunting licenses.

Financial donations will be used to support the processing of venison by participating processors, according to the DNR. Venison may also be donated to the cause.

Last year, venison given to local food banks and food kitchens throughout Michigan supplied enough meat to provide more than 100,000 meals with a source of nutritious protein, officials said.

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“Today, we have the opportunity to continue a tradition started by hunters before us, who hunted to provide for food early settlements in Michigan,” said Ray Rustem, DNR liaison to MSAH. Donations of money or venison can help those who are still experiencing hard times in our state."

When renewing fishing or hunting licenses, tell the license vendor of your intent to make a monetary donation to the program. Donations can be made in the amounts of $1, $5, $10, or $20. The vendor will add the donation amount to the overall purchase price of the license and it will appear as an additional item on the license.

Those who want to donate a deer should visit the MSAH website at www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org.

“Hundreds of people continue to struggle in this economy,” Rustem said. “Donating to this important effort is a simple way to help.”

—Michigan DNR

DNR emergency order limits antlerless deer licenses in the wake of EHD

With epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) at historic levels this year in Michigan’s deer herd, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is trying to balance hunting opportunities with herd health.

DNR Director Keith Creagh signed an emergency order that decreases antlerless license purchase limits for deer management units where CWD-related die-offs have occurred.

Effective immediately, the purchase limit for Unit 466 (a multi-county area in the southern Lower Peninsula) is five private land antlerless deer licenses per hunter. The public antlerless license purchase limit for antlerless deer licenses per hunter is two for each of the units in the following counties: Branch, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola and Van Buren. Those who purchased antlerless licenses prior to the emergency order are not required to return licenses. It only applies to those licenses purchased on or after November 8.

“We’re encouraging hunters to use their best judgment,” said Brent Rudolph, the DNR’s deer and elk program leader. “If a hunter is in an area of an outbreak, backing off—or not taking an antlerless deer at all—is an appropriate thing to do. It is not known how many deer have died from the disease, but more than 13,000 dead animals were reported by us of this writing. Deer have been found mostly in the southern third of the state, officials said, though the disease has also been documented in Clare and Oceola counties, and is suspected as far north as Presque Isle and Benzie counties.

Often thought to be “blue tongue”—a similar but different disease—EHD is a viral affliction that causes deer to die from internal bleeding. It is transmitted by the bite of a tiny fly, called a midge that typically breeds in mud flats. This year’s drought has expanded areas where the midges may reproduce, because in most years those mud flats would be under water.

The disease does not affect humans, according to the DNR, so it is safe to hunt and eat the venison. Though widespread or long-term impacts to deer populations are not expected, local effects can be significant and last a few years.

A weekly EHD map has been compiled, which may help hunters make harvest decisions. The map and other EHD-related information can be found online under the DNR’s “Current Issues” heading at www.michigan.gov/wildlifedis ease.
**Conservation Officer Logs (10/15/12 through 10/28/12)**

**District 1**  
CO Dave Painter worked the grousedecay in an area known for road hunting. A truck pulled up with a man and a gun who stuck the gun out the window to try to shoot the grouse decoy. The hunter stared aross the highway and asked CO Painter to excuse his gun as he was having a heart attack. The CO arrived and administered first aid until paramedics arrived on scene. As the paramedics were tending to the victim, the CO observed a large marihuana growing in a garage in a bedroom of the house. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marvin Gerlach contacted two sujects who had parked off a rural county road. The father and son explained that their dog had been temporarily tied to an inside the cab of the truck and they were trying to clean it up. They did not, however, have a good explanation for the two loaded, unsecured shots guns they had in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

**District 2**  
While driving down an unpaved county road, a CO observed a large marigreen growing in a yard. The CO then discovered there to have been a small fire in the yard. The CO then had to servive being hit by an oncoming truck. CO CPR turned the victim and initiated a termi- stop. Prior to pulling over, the subject was observed to lean over towards the passenger seat of the vehicle. Upon contact with the driver, it was discovered that there was an unsecured firearm in the vehicle. The subject was ticketed for the firearm violation and warned for the careless driving.

CO Robert Crisp received a complaint of a deer being illegally shot with a firearm during the bow season. The CO proceeded to the subject’s residence and was able to make contact. Upon answering the door, the suspect was covered in fresh blood and smelled like alcohol. When asked what he was painting at such a time of the night, he didn’t have an answer. He then showed the officer a deer hanging in the garage that he claimed he shot with a bow. A closer inspection determined that the kill was clearly from a bullet hole. After being caught in several more unsuitable places, the subject admitted to shooting the deer with his rifle from a blind. The deer and gun were seized and a ticket was issued for the illegal deer.

CO Kyle Puliti received a call of an individual who was bragging about shooting a nice ten-point buck during the closed season. When the CO arrived, the subject explained the whole thing on his girlfriend’s behalf. He tried to explain how she used his gun and his friend dressed the deer and hung it in his garage without any of his assistance. CO Puliti was not impressed with the story and neither was the girlfriend. The subject had been arrested in the past for poaching deer and various fishing offenses. The gun and deer were seized and warrants were issued for the girlfriend in this case.

**District 3**  
CO Michael Feagan was in his patrol truck watching anglers at the Cheboygan River dam, when two anglers had just caught a big bass and were trying to get it set up. CO Feagan moved his patrol truck, and then watched the bass snap and keep several fish. Both were ticketed and later stated, “We must be the dumbest fisherman on earth”.

CO Matt Thenum contacted a bear hunter who failed to see bear after a bear’s movements were required 72 hours after the kill. In fact, it was two weeks after he shot the bear. The subject stated he had not made a noise for four days during his vaca- tion after shooting the bear, and it wasn’t just enough time. Enforcement action was taken.

While en route to a night shin - ing patrol, CO Michael Feagan and Sgt. Kreg Drogozicki stopped to assist an elderly lady walking down the highway in her pajamas. The COs learned that she had been assaulted by her hus- band, and sustained injuries. The local police agency was contacted and COs assisted in contacting and eventually arresting the hus- band for domestic violence.

CO Bill Walzak responded to a complaint of people snagging salmon at the Ninth Street dam in Alpena. When the CO arrived, the suspect had already left. CO Walzak stayed the area for the next 2 hours and eventually found it. CO Walzak then contacted three subjects who admitted to keeping fish upstream and were not. The suspect was ticketed for operating an unlicensed vessel. The driver was ticketed for fishing without a license. The ticket was issued for operating an unlicensed vessel.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of an illegal camp on state park property. CO Wells walked into the illegal camp and observed a large amount of litter spread about due to the evening’s partying activity. CO Wells had to take the multiple subjects and then had them pick up the litter and come out of the woods. The driver was ticketed for putting out the fire. Enforcement action was taken to address the trespass and other violations.

**District 5**  
CO Bobbi Lively and a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) en-forcement officer contacted a sub- ject driving from deer camp where his hunting privileges were re- voked. The driver was also driv- ing on a suspended driver’s license. The subject told CO Lively he was not hunting but his wife had been and they had not placed any bait at their hunting loca- tion. CO Lively quickly checked a nearby hunting site with an ile- gal stand that was baited and found what he was looking for.

CO Kelly Ross and Sgt. Joe Molnar assisted local deputies and the Michigan State Police with a subject in the woods with numerous firearms. The subject had been arrested earlier in the day for shoplifting and he would not be able to return alive. He was apprehended without incident.

**District 4**  
CO Angela Greenway re- ceived a complaint of a oil- like substance flowing into the Little Munister River near the Vil- lage of Lutgens. Greenway’s investigation revealed that some- one had removed boards from a drain, and the oil had stocked up the river. CO Greenway returned the next day with personnel from the Depart- ment of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and located a person who had removed the boards without a permit. The incident has been turned over to DEQ per- sonnel for disposition.

COs Jeff Green and Mike Wells have been investigating illegal charters on the Muskegon River. The COs observed a large group of people taking passengers for hire on an uninsured boat and ticketed the captain for operating an unlicensed vessel. Both clients were ticketed for fishing without a license. The captain was ticketed for operating an unlicensed vessel.

CO Mike Feagan was working late night in Bay County for shining activity when he had a ve- hicle go head-on with him, nearly run him off the road. The CO was able to turn around on the ve- hicle and catch up to it where he found it stopped by the side of the road. The CO Feagan activated his blue lights signaling the vehicle to pull over, the suspect vehicle took off at a high rate of speed. The CO pursued the vehi- cle for a short distance before it came to a stop and began running. Upon con- tacting the driver, the driver stated he did not see the blue lights, only “really bright lights” before hearing the siren and stopping. When asked why he crossed the center line, he said that he was not paying atten- tion and did not do anything. At that time, CO Feagan explained that the DEQ and located a person who had removed the boards without a permit. The incident has been turned over to DEQ personnel for disposition.

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**District 6**  
CO Seth Rhodes contacted two subjects late at night who were dragging two deer out of the woods. Upon asking the suspect if both deer were tagged, the subjects replied that they had had their deer tagged in the previous year. They said they had just trying to get out as fast as they could so they did not have time to tag the deer the previous week. Tickets were issued for illegally hunting and not depositing the deer back. The driver was ticketed for operating an unlicensed vehicle.

CO Brad Brewer was on foot checking on some tree stand is- sues at Leidy Lake State Game Area and was walking back to his truck. Shots rang out and bullets were fired from a vehicle through the brush within 20 feet of CO Brewer. CO Brewer took cover and could see the individual to the right of his truck at the brush at the other end of the field. CO Brewer yelled at the subjects, who was made and the subject refused the subjects for littering and issued the adult a ticket for reckless dis- charge of a firearm. The two ve- hicles were towed and an arrest was made and the suspected of littering.

**District 7**  
CO Dan Bigger responded to a hunter harassment complaint where a subject was turning on a bond and refusal to let the prosecutor’s office while still on the scene and the loud music could be heard over the phone. CO Bigg- er requested to meet the prosecu- tor with a report and two hours later a warrant was issued for the subject for interfering with the lawful hunt of another.

**District 9**  
COs Mike Drexler and Dan Walzak assisted the Special In- vestigation Unit with a buy/bust operation at a subject’s residence. COs Drexler and Walzak reported back to the prosecutor’s office while still on the scene and the loud music could be heard over the phone. CO Bigg- er requested to meet the prosecu- tor with a report and two hours later a warrant was issued for the subject for interfering with the lawful hunt of another.

**Looking for Hickories:**  
The Forgotten Wildness  
A 78-minute documentary and 133-page softcover book about Michigan’s natural heritage. For both, contact us at thewildnearby@gmail.com. To conserve space, we have excluded the more routine activities in this edition of The Newshound. To view an archive of them under the Law Enforcement tab on mynorthwoodscall.com for more information.

**Become a North Woods Call Partner**  
Please join our efforts to keep readers fully informed about cons- servation and outdoor issues by providing us with news tips and or pho- tographs.

Send your tips, ideas and photos to: editor@mynorthwoodscall.com.
Lake Superior & Whitefish Bay
The sand and stone beach surrounding Whitefish Point in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula is a great place to walk, or simply sit and watch the Great Lakes freighters pass by. It is also an excellent location to spot numerous species of migratory birds that travel the route each spring and fall. If man-made attractions are more to your liking, there’s the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, lighthouse station and gift shop to visit. Unfortunately, it’s much more congested than it used to be prior to the tourist developments, but it’s still a fine place to enjoy the outdoors and feel the strong wind in your face.

Discover the outdoors—in Detroit?
It’s a long way from the north woods, but the city of Detroit will soon have its own “Outdoor Adventure & Discovery Center.” To be located at 1900 Atwater Street along the Detroit Riverfront—site of the former Globe Trading Company—the facility will provide residents and visitors of all ages with an innovative destination offering hands-on, interactive experiences in outdoor recreation.

The $12.8 million, 42,000-square-foot building will house a ropes challenge course, an archery range, and simulated experiences like kayaking, fishing and skeet shooting, as well as instructional areas where visitors can learn important outdoor skills.

Depending on your interests, you will be able to learn about pitching a tent, building a campfire and a range of similar things. Other activities will focus on natural resources management.

Michigan educators, meanwhile, will find “extended classroom opportunities” that will complement learning plans with integrated natural resources, biology and environmental lessons.

This is just one step in a multi-phase project to redevelop downtown Detroit. Renovation of the building was to begin this fall.

Great Lakes “backslide”
Water quality agreement slammed
The recent renewal of a 40-year-old agreement between Canada and the United States to restore and maintain the quality of water in the Great Lakes has been slammed by two observers.

James Bruce, former director of the Canadian Center for Inland Waters, and Chris Wood, author of Dry Spring: The Coming Water Crisis of North America, said the agreement “sets eloquent objectives and worthy principles,” but neglects “hard number goals and actions to reach them.”

In an opinion piece published recently in the Toronto Star, the critics said there are some improvements to the document, but it “puts off for further negotiation the setting of any clear targets or indicators” aimed at a “healthy habitat” for humans and wildlife.

The program of research the agreement sets out is somewhat “superfluous,” they said, when it comes to the effects of what some believe is widespread climate change as a result of human activity.

As a result, the same threats that prompted the original Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972 are back—“dead zones” in Lake Erie and blooming algal that “may release deadly liver and other toxins,” they said.

Human health issues are not prominent in the renewed agreement, according to Bruce and Wood. Nor does it contain any remedial measures to adapt to these conditions, they said.

In the original agreement, each country committed to several pollution-control measures to achieve specific objectives. This time, these are left up to the two countries to work out over the next five years.

And there is reportedly no commitment to continue working toward ann or ongoing commitments from earlier versions.

There are other problems, as well, according to Bruce and Wood—some perhaps inconsequential and others more revealing.

For example, the “unsolved issue of persistent toxic chemicals has been discreetly renamed ‘chemicals of mutual concern,’” they said.

“Meanwhile, the water in the Great Lakes continues to backslide.”