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Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



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THE NORTHWOODS CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



North Woods Notes

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: The Kirtland's Warbler Initiative being managed by the Gaylord-based Huron Pines organization continues apace. While the tiny songbird is wintering 1,500 miles away in the Bahamas, the Huron Pines staff has logged nearly that many miles getting ready to hold its first meeting of stakeholders. Abigail Ertel, the Kirtland's Warbler Coordinator at Huron Pines, highlighted the initiative during the 2013 Stewardship Network Conference in Lansing in a presentation to local, state and nationally affiliated natural resources practitioners.

FREE FISHING: Michigan's Winter Free Fishing Weekend will be held Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16-17. For that weekend only, residents and non-residents alike can fish without a license, though all other fishing regulations apply. Organized activities are being planned in communities across the state. The free fishing event has been held each year since 1994 as a way to promote awareness of the state's vast aquatic resources and many fishing opportunities.

BETSIE RIVER ACCESS: The public will have an opportunity to make suggestions on a proposed access site on the Betsie River, located off Kurick and Dziubanek roads in Manistee County. Comments may be made during an open house that will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, in Room 206 of the Benzie County Governmental Center, 448 Court Place in Beulah, Michigan. Proposed access site improvement may include barrier-free enhancements, design of the parking area and future site improvements. Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff will be on hand during the open house to field questions and comments.

RED CEDAR FISHING: Anglers will be allowed to fish from the shore of the Red Cedar River on the campus of Michigan State University (MSU) for the first time in nearly 50 years. MSU trustees approved an ordinance change in December, permitting hook-and-line fishing on the north bank of the river between the western edge of Brody Complex and the Sparty bridge. Previously, the river was off-limits to shore fishing because the entire MSU campus is considered a preserve. Hunting, fishing and gathering were not allowed. There were also safety concerns due to the amount of pedestrian traffic in the area.

WINTER FEST: The 20th annual Winter Festival will be held Feb. 16 at Bay City State Recreation Area. The event—from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.—is hosted by the Department of Natural Resources on the Saturday of Michigan's free fishing weekend (see above). It is sponsored by the Saginaw Valley Walleye Club and Frank's Great Outdoors of Linwood. There will be a youth ice fishing clinic, an ice fishing derby, bird hikes, a bird-feeding workshop, a "snowball" tournament, a live wildlife presentation, an ice crystal treasure dig, snowshoe hikes and an evening owl-calling hike. Participants will be eligible for many prizes and trophies throughout the day. For a complete schedule, see michigan.gov/saginawbayvc.

DUCK HUNTERS: The Michigan Duck Hunters Association has received a Partners in Conservation Award from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Among other things, the organization has administered the state's Waterfowl Stamp Program since 1998, hosted numerous youth hunting events, assisted in habitat and infrastructure improvement at state-managed waterfowl areas and participated in the Citizen Waterfowl Advisory Committee.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS: Ten summer fellowship opportunities are being offered by The Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research at the University of Michigan. The program exposes students to a broad range of fields and provides an exciting opportunity to conduct research in the Great Lakes Region under the mentorship of a researcher or working professional. For details, see ciler.snre.umich.edu/education/great-lakes-summer-student-fellowships.

NOAA GRANTS: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced grants aimed at helping K-12 students and the public better understand and respond to changes in the global environment. Applications are being accepted through March 12 for projects to enhance the ability of educators to use scientific data, visualizations, access technologies, information products and other assets available through NOAA and other sources. The grants will go to collaborative teams of two or more U.S. institutions. To read the full funding announcement, visit www.grants.gov.

Comments sought on invasive species

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public comment on proposed aquatic nuisance species (ANS) controls that can be used to prevent the transfer of algae, crustaceans, fish and plants between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems via rivers and other aquatic pathways.

The Corps is preparing a feasibility study and environmental impact statement in consultation with other federal agencies, Native American tribes, state agencies, local governments and non-governmental units. The public comment period will run through February 21, 2013.

More than 90 options and technologies for controlling invasive species have been identified so far, including hydrologic separation of the basins, modification of water quality or flow within a waterway,

chemical applications, collection and removal of nuisance species and other controls currently in research and development.

The Corps of Engineers will formulate plans using one or more of these controls based on four criteria—completeness, effectiveness, efficiency and acceptability.

Comments may be submitted online at www.glmris.anl.gov, or by writing to GLMRIS ANS Control Screening, 111 N. Canal, Suite 600, Chicago, Illinois 60606. They may also be hand-delivered to the Chicago office.

Asian carp, zebra mussels and a host of other undesirable species are prolific invaders, costing the United States billions of dollars each year. Among other damaging impacts, they clog water pipes, threaten ecosystems, harm fisheries and compete with native

species.

Biologists predict the number of unwanted organisms moving on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal from the Mississippi River basin and into Lake Michigan will only grow until the waterway is somehow plugged.

It is much more than a Great Lakes problem because biological pollution travels in both directions on what has been called the "invasive species superhighway."

Not only do Asian carp threaten Lake Michigan's multi-billion dollar fishery, but organisms like zebra and quagga mussels have ridden canal waters out of the Great Lakes and into the Mississippi basin. From there, they have hitched rides on recreational boats towed over the Rocky Mountains and now plague irrigation and

(Continued on Page 2)



The mercury registered minus five degrees the morning of Jan. 17 at the Pt. Iroquois Lighthouse on Whitefish Bay in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Portions of the U.P. are among the snowiest locations east of the Rocky Mountains.

A perspective on lake-effect snowfall totals

In addition to frigid temperatures, significant amounts of lake-effect snowfall fell on Michigan and other areas in the Great Lakes region during the latter half of January.

A few places in northern Lower Michigan, for example, saw 10 inches of snow in a 48-hour period ending January 22, according to the Weather Underground website (wunderground.com). Western New York State saw even greater totals with more than 24 inches falling in some areas during the same period.

Additional accumulations followed.

The Great Lakes—the largest fresh-water bodies in the world—are unique in producing extraordinary snowfalls of this nature, officials say. Except for Lake Superior, they remain mostly ice-free all winter and can produce such storms at any time, although the greatest accumulations often occur in November and December, because the waters are still relatively warm and able to provide more vapor to the atmosphere.

Erie, Pennsylvania, picked up 16.3 inches of snow on January 21 alone, making it the snowiest January calendar day on record and the snowiest day in any

month for Erie since Nov. 29, 1979.

Other world-record snowfalls from the Great Lakes region include 12 inches in one hour at Copenhagen, New York, on Dec. 2, 1966; 17.5 inches in two hours at Oswego, New York, on Jan. 26, 1972; 22 inches in three hours at Valparaiso, Indiana, on Dec. 18, 1981; 51 inches in 16 hours at Benett's Bridge, New York, on January 17-18, 1959; and 77 inches in 24 hours reported in Montague Township on the Tug Hill Plateau of New York on Jan. 11-12, 1997, according to Weather Underground.

Closer to home, Petoskey, Michigan, reportedly received a state-record 85 inches of lake-effect snow between December 23 and 29, 2001.

Michigan's Upper Peninsula routinely hosts the snowiest places east of the Rocky Mountains (except for the summit of 6,288-foot Mt. Washington in the White Mountains of New Hampshire), thanks to persistent snow squalls blowing off Lake Superior and dropping precipitation over the Keweenaw Peninsula and the Huron Mountains west of Marquette, according to the Weather Underground website.



Big Wheels Rollin’

Log-hauling big wheels such as these on display at Hartwick Pines State Park were indispensable pieces of equipment at lumber camps throughout northern Michigan during the heyday of logging operations. They weren’t easy to manage, though, and required strong men and even stronger horses to maneuver through the woods. (See story at right from *The North Woods Call* archives).

Comments sought on invasive species

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hydroelectric systems across the west.
“This is not about Asian carp,” Peter Annin, a Great Lakes author who is managing director of the University of Notre Dame’s Environmental Change Initiative, told the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* in December. “This is about two artificially connected watersheds that many people argue never should have been connected.”
Fixing the problem, according to *The Journal-Sentinel*, would require a massive public works project that would cost at least \$4 billion and take years to complete. It would also require dramatic sewage treatment upgrades for the Chicago region, the *Journal-Sen-*

tinel said.
Still, supporters of the project say it could be done.
Some conservationists have wondered aloud why the Obama Administration doesn’t issue one of its controversial executive orders directing the canal in Chicago be shut down. They speculate it is because the president’s political allies in the Windy City are against taking such an action. Politics, pure and simple.
The Army Corps of Engineers has been under growing pressure to complete its study of the canal by the end of 2013. The Corps has said that it will provide a range of options by then, but will not likely have a full plan of action in place.
Lawmakers, such as U.S. Rep.

Dave Camp of Michigan, say that isn’t good enough.
Pressure is also coming from the region’s mayors and the Great Lakes Commission, which is appointed by the region’s governors and state legislatures.
“Nobody really trusts the Corps,” Noah Hall—a Wayne State University law professor who helped draft the Great Lakes Compact that prohibits water diversions out of the Great Lakes basin—said in the aforementioned *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* story. “But the Corps can’t really solve the big problem on its own, anyway. It will only happen if (and) when Congress appropriates several billion dollars to do it.”

Process for Michigan wolf season outlined

A process that could result in recommendations for a potential wolf hunting season was outlined at the January meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.
The recommendations are expected to be revealed by early summer.
The update, which was requested by NRC Chair J.R. Richardson, covered the history of wolves in Michigan and the forthcoming process for determining how a public hunting and trapping opportunity could be structured.
According to the presentation by the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Adam Bump, there has been a correlation between wolf density and livestock depredation events in the Upper Peninsula, warranting consideration of a hunting season.

In January, the DNR was to begin a wolf abundance survey and meet with tribal biologists per the 1836 Consent Decree. Tribal consultation will continue throughout the process, DNR officials said.
In February, there will be a wolf forum meeting, followed by public engagement through a series of meetings in March and another wolf forum meeting in April. The season structure could be proposed as early as May or June.
“We commend the (Department of Natural Resources) for acting swiftly to outline a transparent and scientific process for moving forward with a wolf season, said Erin McDonough, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

—Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Pure Michigan Hunt Winners

The 2013 Pure Michigan Hunt winners have been announced.
Jason Webb of Westland, Jim Bosscher of McBain and Dave Gittins of Kawkawlin were randomly selected from applications to receive all the available limited hunting licenses for 2013, plus a prize package containing a cross-bow, guns and assorted other hunting-related items.

For updates, t-shirts & caps visit our website at:
www.mynorthwoodscall.com



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Our 60th Year: Looking Back to Feb. 3, 1954

— From the pages of *The North Woods Call* —

The big wheels of lumber camps needed strong men

The big wheels were killers.

It was a brave and a cautious man who walked beside the long tongue ahead of the wheels. It swung wickedly as the big wheels hit a stump—like an evil snake hitting out at a man’s ribs, ready to knock him to the ground for the big wheels to crush.

To Clarence Bergey of Bagley Township, the big wheels remain vividly alive. “Sure, I drove the big wheels,” he said. “They could kill a man. Did kill my uncle Warren over near Boyne Falls. Quite a few guys got killed by them.”

It had been a long time since he’d seen big wheels, he admitted. “Not many around anyplace anymore,” he said. “They was big—about eight feet high and eight feet between the wheels. Guys skid bunches—ten or twelve logs—with a chain around them. We’d unhitch the team and put the pole up in the air. The guys would chain the bunches on and we’d pull the pole down until it raised them logs off the ground. The hind ends would drag. Going down hill with the big wheels, we’d tie a big log on the back to cut the speed. The load was heavy.”

And the teams were made up of big horses, he said. “Most teams were 3,000 to 3,600 pounds. They had to be to pull those big wheels.”

The spokes and axels were oak, Bergey said, but if one broke the blacksmiths repaired them with maple or elm. “They had about six-inch tires,” he said, “and blacksmiths had to be good to fix them—to tighten them when they got dry, or fix the spokes.”

* * *

In the 30 years that he worked in the woods, “I guess I done about everything—drove skidding teams, sawed and even helped in the cook shanty,” Bergey said.

It was west of Wolverine that he drove the big wheels. “No other way to get lumber out during the summer,” he said. “In the winter, we had the sleighs.”

* * *

“I remember wading in the snow when it was really deep,” he said. “I was sawin’ one year. You couldn’t tell where you dropped a tree—couldn’t see the top (because) the snow was so deep.

“Cutting all that timber stopped the snow around here, too. The miles of big timber gave moisture to the air. In a big woods, the air was always moist. Trees give out moisture. Take the trees away and you don’t get the snows and rains of the old days.

“I remember walking a mile to school in the winter. We didn’t have snow plows, but a roller would come along, pulled by eight or ten teams. The big roller would pack the snow down, so folks could get through.

“By spring, the big banks on either side would be melted away and the rolled road would be standing up four feet high,” he said.

* * *

“Every camp had music. There was always a couple of mouth organs—sometimes a fiddler. Best one I remember was an old Frenchman from across the Straits. And there was a saw guy who could really make songs. It was in the camp over near Johannesburg.”

Lame Ducks

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters “Lame Duck Environmental Scorecard” is available for download on the MLCV website.

See how your legislator voted on issues concerning the state’s land, air and water at:
www.michiganlcv.org

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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A Conservation Conversation: Josh Greenberg

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 **Josh Greenberg of Gates Au Sable Lodge**, located on the banks of the mainstream Au Sable River at 471 Stephan Bridge Road east of Grayling, Michigan. Josh is a member of Anglers of the Au Sable, a premier Michigan conservation organization.

Centrally located in a river system that features more than 100 miles of prime trout water, the Gates Lodge is a major fly-fishing destination—featuring cozy accommodations, hearty food and a complete line of outdoor fly-fishing gear.

The river—with its gentle currents and shallow gravel bottom—is “heaven” to fly fishers, who call it “The Holy Water.”

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

My father has been involved in conservation and environmental issues for as long as I can remember. Being an angler since a young age, naturally an interest develops in preserving the experience you're having on the water.

How has that interest shaped your life's work?

When I moved to Michigan, I was thrust into a more proactive role working for Rusty Gates—who was a conservationist through and through. But my real involvement began when he became ill (he passed away in 2009) and I switched from a fishing guide to the front desk of Gates Lodge. Being involved in conservation comes with the job. In fact, they're almost inseparable. I can't

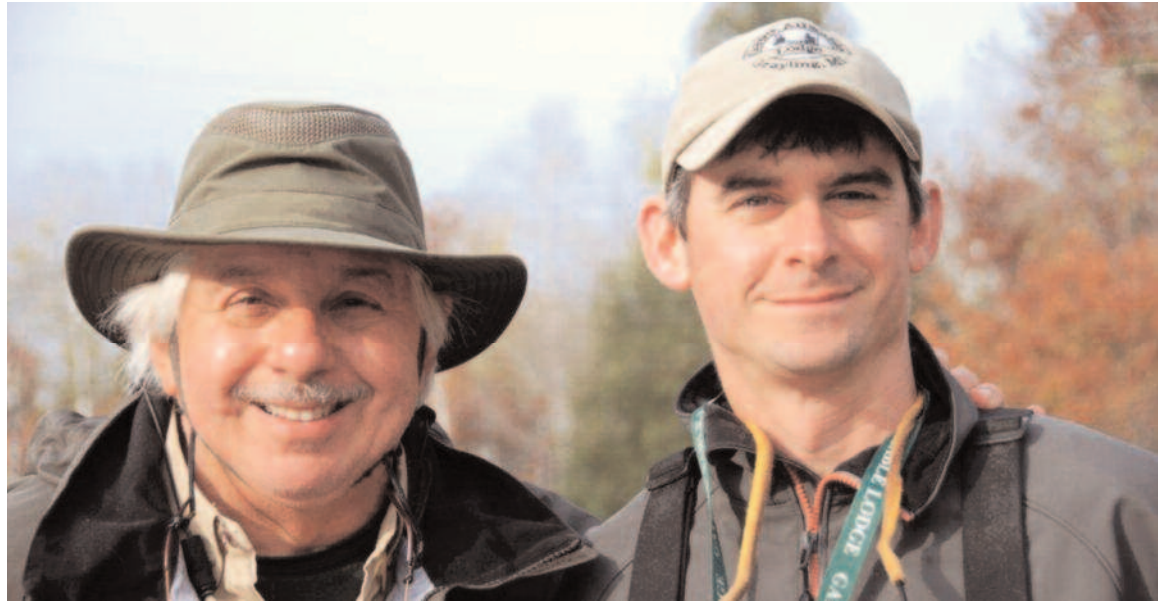
do what he did, but I try my best.

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

Water, water, and water: hydrofracturing, existing pipelines, and smaller point-source threats due to weak regulations by state and federal agencies. These would include excessive withdrawals, pollution of ground and surface water, and abandoned wells.

How would you recommend that we deal with each?

Don't trade the long-term health of our water for short-term benefits. We are dealing with energy interests that are very wealthy and are used to getting their way. The current use of hydrofracturing techniques to extract natural gas has not been adequately vetted. The entire practice—from beginning to end



Josh Greenberg (right) with his father and inspiration, Adolph Greenberg, on the North Branch of the Au Sable River.

—is potentially harmful to our resources. If it were a prescription drug, it would either be banned, or not yet approved.

Anglers of the Au Sable is currently involved in a huge project monitoring water levels, temperatures and the chemical composition of the water to establish baseline data as a safeguard against fracking operations and other potential threats to our rivers.

The existing pipelines that vein the state are a concern. Anglers of the Au Sable has taken a proactive role in dealing with companies such as Enbridge to ensure that more acceptable safety measures are in place. But the nature of the

riddle will take a concerted effort by conservation groups—as well as from the energy companies—to avoid an incident similar to that which befell the Kalamazoo River. If not, it'll happen again ... and again.

What are the barriers to solving these problems?

The rivers are too often abused by liberal regulations placed upon private companies by state and federal agencies. From energy companies wanting to pump treated water into the river—as in the Kolke Creek case—to the private dam on the Pigeon that failed, there are a wealth of “small” threats that, cumulatively, could destroy the water quality in our state.

I'd also add to this the devel-

opment of pristine forest lands and river corridors in the name of oil and gas development. Unfortunately, it takes volunteer dollars and donated money to safeguard as much of our watersheds as possible. Lots of both, in fact. For many, it's a second job—for others, an unofficial tax. These folks have made the state of Michigan what it is today, and tomorrow.

Who are your personal Michigan conservation heroes and why?

Too many to name. But they have all acted with the wisdom to think outside the sphere of their own life, and toward the lives of the future. It's an incredibly selfless way to be. It is precisely opposite of how those that threaten the resources act.

May 18, 1933—December 29, 2012

Mary Louise Sheppard

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The late-January edition of The North Woods Call went to press before the following information was received. Although a related story ran previously, here is the official obituary notice.*

Mary Lou Sheppard, longtime Charlevoix resident and owner, with husband Glen, of *The North Woods Call*, passed away at home, December 29, surrounded by family and friends.

Mary Lou, daughter of Leon and Juanita (Hardy) Ouvry—was born May 18, 1933, in De-

troit, and grew up in Traverse City and Mancelona. She later lived in Bellaire, before moving to Charlevoix in 1960 with her first husband, James Alspaugh.

Mary Lou's passion in life was her garden of flowers and vegetables, which she shared with friends and strangers alike. Her yearly report of the numbers of quarts of raspberries picked tickled her pink, as did all the new friends she made through letting them come dig bulbs in her garden.

Through *The North Woods Call*, she thoroughly enjoyed her

involvement in conservation issues in northern Michigan and she contributed greatly to the quality of life “Up North” that we all share.

Mary Lou led a full life, attending concerts, visiting friends, sisters and children, and walking with her precious dog, Bitzy. Her only regret was not being able to travel for the next 10 years. Of dying from cancer, she said “This is not what I had planned!”

Mary Lou was preceded in death by husband Glen. She is survived by her daughters, Cyndi Gardner of Oakley, California; Pamela Alspaugh, with Mary's dog Bitzy, of Bellevue, Washington; Sherry Marshall of Midland, Michigan; and Jacalyn (Sass) Anderson of Elk Rapids, Michigan; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Mary Lou wished to thank her many friends and family for their company and assistance during her illness. Her family and friends will have a celebration of her life later in May.

Please share your thoughts, antidotes, stories and photos with Mary Lou's family on their online guest book at: www.winchesterfuneralhome.com/Guest-Books.

For a more lasting memorial, the family asks that Mary Lou be remembered through memorial contributions to Hospice of Michigan, Traverse City Branch.



Mary Lou Sheppard

Please encourage others to join the North Woods Call community today!

Marginal lands a fuel source

Marginal lands—those unsuited for food crops—can serve as prime real estate for meeting the nation's alternative energy production goals, according to Michigan State University (MSU) researchers.

In the current issue of *Nature*, a team of researchers led by MSU shows that marginal lands represent a huge untapped resource to grow mixed species cellulosic biomass—plants grown specifically for fuel production—which could annually produce up to 5.5 billion gallons of ethanol in the Midwest alone.

“Understanding the environmental impact of widespread biofuel production is a major unanswered question both in the U.S. and worldwide,” said Ilya Gelfand, lead author and MSU postdoctoral researcher. “We estimate that using marginal lands for growing cellulosic biomass crops could provide up to 215 gallons of ethanol per acre with substantial greenhouse gas mitigation.”

The notion of making better use of marginal land has been around for nearly 15 years. However, this is the first study to provide an estimate for the greenhouse gas benefits, as well as an assessment of the total potential for these lands to produce significant amounts of biomass, he added.

Focusing on 10 Midwest states, Great Lakes Bioenergy researchers from MSU and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory used 20 years of data from MSU's Kellogg Biological Station to characterize the comparative productivity and greenhouse gas impacts of different crops, including corn, poplar, alfalfa and old field vegetation.

They then used a supercomputer to identify and model biomass production that could grow enough feedstock to support a local biorefinery with a capacity of at least 24 million gallons per year. The final tally of 5.5 billion gallons of ethanol represents about 25 percent of Congress' 2022 cellulosic biofuels target, said Phil Robertson, co-author and MSU professor of crop, soil and microbial sciences.

“The value of marginal land for energy production has been long-suspected and often discounted,” he said. “This study shows that these lands could make a major contribution to transportation energy needs while providing substantial climate and—if managed properly—conservation benefits.”

This is the first study to show that grasses and other non-woody plants that grow naturally on unmanaged lands are sufficiently productive to make ethanol production worthwhile.

—Michigan State University

Opinion Page

Conservation Quote

“Every single damn thing that we are, or ever will be, is dependent on six inches of topsoil and the fact that the rain comes when it is needed, and does not come when it is not needed.”

— Gary Paulsen

The ravages of road salt

It seems insane sometimes to pay \$20,000 or more for a vehicle and then drive it during Michigan winters.

Road salt has long been the bane of cars and trucks—not to mention the outdoors in general—and we’ve often cursed the use of it to melt snow and keep roads “safe.”

It happens almost everywhere in cold climates around the United States, whenever the season of harsh weather and snowstorms arrives. Approximately 10 million tons of road salt is dropped on roads throughout the country each winter.

Although this practice succeeds in helping keep roads clear of hazardous snow and ice, some critics are concerned that it is harming the environment, and killing plants and wildlife.

The most commonly used road salt—sodium chloride—is inexpensive and easy to produce in large amounts, but it is also the worst kind of salt for the environment.

Road salt can kill plants and even wildlife that ingest the salt. It can get into their food supply through contaminated groundwater and soil. There also have been studies showing that road salt may contain carcinogens, which can cause cancer in people who are frequently in contact with it.

And it does a lot of structural damage to highways and roadways—putting large potholes in the pavement, and breaking down concrete and asphalt over time, which ruins road surfaces, bridges and parking lots. Not to mention what it does to vehicles.

This combined damage to vehicles, roads and highway infrastructures has been estimated at around \$7 billion each year.

With county road trucks often spreading salt at even the slightest hint of inclement weather, it is well worth looking into possible solutions for this dilemma.

Is there a way, for example, to cut down on the use of sodium chloride on roads during the winter months and refrain from using salt unless absolutely necessary? Or is it possible to develop a more porous type of asphalt that could absorb the salts and chemicals, and keep them from running off into groundwater or soil?

At this point, it seems like anything would help.

The Second Amendment & you

We’re not sure what the average *North Woods Call* reader thinks about the current debate over “gun control,” which is occurring at the federal, state and local levels.

The president is threatening more executive action and comments by our elected and appointed representatives are all over the map—depending on whether they’re up for re-election soon.

We’d like to hear from some of you on this matter.

On the surface, “gun control” is a misnomer, because guns themselves don’t need to be controlled. It’s the people who use them. That’s probably why the discussion has shifted to “preventing gun violence”—reframed more for political purposes than anything else—but that is also a convenient misnomer.

It seems to us that the debate ought to focus more on the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Is “the bearing of arms” a right granted to us for merely hunting and target shooting, or is it there because the founders thought citizens should be equipped to defend themselves and their families against the actions of tyrannical governments?

That’s a broad question, but we believe the intent was more the latter than the former.

Now, if enough citizens of the nation believe that the Second Amendment is unnecessary or outdated—or if agenda-driven politicians want to circumvent it for their own purposes—there is a well-defined process for changing the Constitution.

And if our representative republic is to be governed by the rule of law, which was clearly the intention, then we need to follow the law when it comes to the Bill of Rights—none of which are supposed to be abridged, especially without following the necessary procedures that are required if changes are to be made.

This debate should be of concern to all citizens—not just sportsmen and sportswomen—because if one of our guaranteed rights can be watered down or eliminated by congressional edict or executive action, any of them can.

Interestingly, we recently read a column that appeared in *Pravda*, the state-run Russian newspaper. The writer, Stanislav Mishin, advised Americans to keep their guns.

One of the first things the communists did when they took power in Russia, he said, was to disarm the population, which opened the door to numerous other abuses. The Second Amendment, Mishin said, is “a rare light in an ever-darkening room” and should be honored and defended.

The ghosts of Deward: A study in mismanagement

Ongoing debates over open pit mining and hydraulic fracturing in drilling operations have made me think of earlier times when Michigan’s resources were under assault—particularly during the late 19th and early 20th century logging of the Deward tract in the state’s upper Lower Peninsula.

I first visited the site near the intersection of Antrim, Kalkaska, Crawford and Otsego counties in 1978 with the late Ford Kellum, a retired Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist and somewhat of a legend among Michigan’s conservationists.

Kellum was irritated at developers and oil companies that day, which he said were continuing the abusive practices that turned the fragile land surrounding Deward into a case study of mismanagement.

As one of the last remaining stands of virgin white pine near the end of Michigan’s fabled lumbering era, the majestic forest offered tremendous potential for a hungry industry. By the late 1970s, however, it could only be described as God-forsaken brush country, punctured by oil & gas wells and scarred by various other development activities.

What we saw that day was a virtual wasteland of weathered and decaying stumps on soil so delicate that bruises left by horse-drawn wagon wheels more than 60 years earlier could still be seen.

We walked through the old town site, over long-abandoned railroad grades and past the huge concrete foundations of a sawmill that once ran without stopping day and night, producing as many as 52 million board feet of lumber in a single year.

The town began to die, of course, as soon as the last giant pine completed its run through the mill. In March 1912, as suddenly as the town was created, the mill

Book Review

“We Still Hold These Truths” by Matthew Spalding

ISI Books
Wilmington, Delaware
2009
ISBN 1-935191-92-6

Recently, we dropped by a used literature sale at a library near our home and discovered this book in the boxes of discards.

Some would say it has little to do with conservation of natural resources, but maybe it has something to do with the conservation of the United States—particularly in light of the ongoing debate over the Second Amendment.

Longtime *North Woods Call* publisher Glen Sheppard often said, “There is only one side in any issue involving natural resources—NATURE’S!” In fact, this sentiment was inscribed for many years on the publication’s editorial page.

In a way, the founders of this nation felt the same way, asserting in the Declaration of Independence that certain truths are “self evident, according to the laws of nature and nature’s God.”

At a time when our country seems to be in the midst of an identity crisis—divided, confused

was dismantled and moved away. The local population gradually diminished until the last resident deserted the site in August 1932.

Deward had become the last of Michigan’s lumbering ghost towns, leaving behind a prairie-type land mass marked only by the huge white pine stumps.

Repeated fires and soil too poor to bring the forests back kept much of the land from recovering.

During the 1920s and 1930s, huge flocks of prairie chickens could be flushed from almost anywhere on the tract, but—due to the fires, natural growth and development—they eventually disappeared. Sharp-tailed grouse were introduced south of Deward in 1933 and did well for a short time until they, too, became the victims of growth and development to the point where—at the time of our visit—there were only a few remaining in the area.

For more than a generation, there was little activity on the Deward tract. Then a pipeline construction crew moved through the area, uprooting stumps and leaving a large scar on the land. Later, a large development firm took over 12 square miles of the tract surrounding Lake Harold in Antrim County. Roads were cut and paved, recreational facilities and an airport were built, and lots were surveyed and sold.

Elsewhere on the tract, drilling operations continue today.

Several years ago, I returned to Deward with my then nine-year-old son and a former college roommate. We camped for two days at the old town site, hiked along the Manistee River and searched for memorabilia.

and adrift—the author argues that America’s founding principles form a consistent, meaningful and universally true understanding of human liberty.

Spalding reminds us that constitutional government gets its legitimacy from the consent of the governed and exists to secure the natural rights with which we are endowed by our creator. He explains how the principle of human equality is expressed in the constitutional rule of law, and in the forms and institutions of limited constitutional government.

We Hold These Truths argues that the way forward is not to be found in rejecting the very idea of self-evident truths and enduring principles. Instead, the author says we must transcend the partisan ideologies and special interests that divide us, and re-create a lasting national consensus built upon unchanging principles that unite all Americans in a common purpose.

In 1952, when dedicating the new National Archives building in Washington, D.C.—which houses both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution—

North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



Natural growth and a 25-year-old pine plantation were beginning to reclaim some of the land, although large areas remained sparsely covered—sporting nothing more than a few scrub trees and a thin layer of soil and grass.

The nights were dark and relatively quiet, save for the occasional yip of a coyote and the rhythmic pounding of nearby oil wells.

On our last morning in camp, while we were packing tents and preparing oatmeal for breakfast, a large explosion shattered the Sunday morning calm. Each of us jumped a bit—startled by the loud boom and resulting percussion that we felt forcing its way through the trees.

Then the quiet returned, with only the lingering odor of natural gas to remind us of the disturbing noise we had heard. We saw no smoke or flames and heard no emergency vehicles responding to whatever had caused the blast—only a gentle breeze rustling through the leaves.

Just another day in Deward.

We finished breaking camp a short time later and drove away, never having figured out what had exploded, or how far away it was. Not much to get excited about, I guess, because we never heard or read anything about it after that.

I returned home haunted by the strange experience and by memories of my first visit to Deward many years earlier with Ford Kellum—who was a tireless advocate for better resource management right up until his death in October 1991.

It seems like there is so much that he left unfinished.

The North Woods Call

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Since 1953

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Giant White Pines

A turn-of-the-century virgin white pine stand on the Deward tract within Antrim County's modern-day Lake of the North development. (For more information, see "The Ghosts of Deward"— on Page 4).



Stump Preserve

Former Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Ford Kellum was instrumental in getting a 55-acre pine stump preserve designated in 1958 on the Deward tract. "The (Conservation Commission) couldn't believe there were stumps worth saving," Kellum said in 1978. "I was ridiculed to no end, but they okayed it. Now what we've got is a stump preserve completely surrounded by oil fields."



Deward Sawmill

This huge sawmill—a wonder of its time valued at \$80,000—was built at Deward and ran without stopping day and night, producing as many as 52 million board feet of lumber in a single year. (See "The Ghosts of Deward" on Page 4).

Volunteers needed for winter projects in SE state parks

Volunteers are needed during February to cut invasive shrubs and restore unique natural areas in southeastern Michigan state parks.

Work days will be held from Feb. 2 through Feb. 24 at Island Lake, Bald Mountain, Highland,

Pinckney, Brighton and Waterloo recreation areas, as well as Algonac State Park.

Visit www.michigan.gov/dnr volunteers and click on "Calendar of Volunteer Stewardship Workdays" for details.

Outdoor Rhythms

By Doug Freeman



Winter canvas: Deep snow, bear tracks and vinyl potato chips

Cool weather camping in Michigan is a cinch.

Barring excessive rain or snow, early April and late October are just about perfect. Few bugs, no crowds, and a late-night campfire to ward off the chill. Add a beer or two and some thoughtful conversation.

Not bad.

Winter camping, however, is a totally different animal, especially if you're eccentric enough to try it in a tent. Years ago, a friend and I had some free time during a bitterly cold January weekend. Seeking a challenge, we loaded all our gear into the trunk of my small car and headed for the Edmore Game Area.

Snow was still falling when we reached our destination, with the temperature hovering around five degrees. A shovel was required to open a parking space beside the county road, and later to clear a patch of ground for our campsite. The snow was at least a foot deep.

We set up our antique-but-roomy canvas pup tent in one of the more remote spots in the game area, a good quarter mile from the road.

We managed to stay warm by keeping busy, first with the tent, then by collecting dead wood for a fire. Both of us were warmly dressed, though my buddy declined to wear a hat of any type, for reasons unknown. I'm still not sure how he retained his ears.

We rugged men filled up on trail mix, chocolate, and canned goods heated over an open fire. Darkness fell quickly, followed by clearing skies and a brilliant half-moon.

Since most of our food supply was already depleted, and it was too early to contemplate sleep, we came up with the creative idea of going for a hike into the winter woods.

As we set off, the insides of our nostrils were already crinkling in the cold. Our beards and moustaches gathered snotty chunks of ice, which had to be removed frequently. We skirted numerous snowdrifts and thickets while wandering, stirring up an occasional cottontail. Not much else was moving amidst the illuminated trees, ridges and hollows—just us and the bunnies.

We walked by an isolated cow pasture where a Hereford bull had once caused me to leap to safety over a four-foot-high stock fence. No doubt the herd was tucked snugly in their distant barn with ample hay and water to last the long winter night. I briefly considered joining them so as to get out of the cold, but my friend insisted we go on, even though our eyebrows were going numb.

Coming to the edge of a small bog known for its grouse population, a line of tracks in the moon-lit snow caught our attention. The prints were large.

"Bear," we whispered in unison. Acting on instinct, we decided to track the creature. Backwards. Opposite the direction of travel. No need to aggravate a big animal equipped with sharp teeth, claws and an unpredictable disposition, we concluded.

Not having snowshoes, our strength eventually began to wear down. Luckily we came upon a road near a landmark we recognized. We started the two-mile trek back to camp with renewed energy.

Despite the fact that my air mattress had deflated due to the intense cold, and broke into vinyl potato chips as I handled it, the mummy bag alone was enough to provide for a fairly comfortable night's sleep. I've endured worse.

Morning dawned crisp and sunny. The inside tent walls were stiff with frost, causing a mini-snowstorm as we moved about. Having left nothing available for breakfast, we soon hauled our gear (and our stiff, shivering bodies) back to the car to begin our trip home.

A newsman on the radio reported a low temperature that night of 25 below.

I'm not sure, but I think we both decided at that point not to apply for any upcoming Arctic expeditions.

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

A note to letter writers

All letters must be signed. Please include your name and mailing address (e-mail address, too, if you don't mind).

We won't publish addresses or phone numbers, but we must have them to verify that letters are authentic. No unsigned letters will be used. It's OK for your signature to be electronic.

Calling all store owners

If you own a store and want to stock *The North Woods Call*, please contact us. Let us know who you are, where your store is located and how much commission you would want from sales. We may be able to accommodate you if we can find a cost-effective way to deliver the product to you.

editor@mynorthwoodscall.com

More Opinion

The Wild Nearby

By Tom Springer



Four ways to tell if it's winter in a Michigan farmhouse

Try as we might, there are corners of our 19th century farmhouse where it still feels like 1860. There's a certain wilderness within, a primal indwelling that will not be tamed no matter how much we caulk and insulate

You feel it when the hawkish wind keens around the eaves and rattles the 12-pane windows. You see it personified in the tree-trunk floor posts, their bark still on, that stand like petrified sentinels in the cobble stone Michigan basement.

When I was younger, stronger and dumber I figured to have it all modernized in three, maybe four years, tops. Now I know it's a battle I'll never win—and perhaps am not meant to

As long as I'm here, I've decided to leave some regions of the house forever wild. Which is to say cold, dark, dirt-floored, unpainted and congenial to over-wintering rodents. From December to late March, that means the outdoors will often be as close as the next room. Even without a calendar, here's how we know that winter has arrived:

You can see your breath in the back living room: Ironically, the back living room was once called a summer kitchen. Meals were cooked there in hot weather, so that the kitchen's wood stove wouldn't overheat the house.

The room itself was built above a dirt-floored crawl space. I went down there once to insulate and got briefly wedged between the hand-hewn timber beams and bare earth. It struck me then as the kind of dark, forgotten cavity where a serial killer would hide dismembered body parts. We've since added a wood-burning fireplace that can raise the temperature to near 70. With no fire, though, temps hover in the upper 20s. The bright side? There's virtually no wind chill.

The Mouse Drawer has full occupancy: To keep rodents out of a 19th century farm house, you'd have to encase it in concrete blast walls like those around the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Absent that, and because my indolent cats could care less, I've become the resident mouser.

It's a typical case of asymmetrical warfare. I come equipped with my human hubris and conventional American weaponry—i.e. traps baited with peanut butter (crunchy works better than creamy). The mice, like armed peasants everywhere, know and own the local terrain. I'm just another invading infidel.

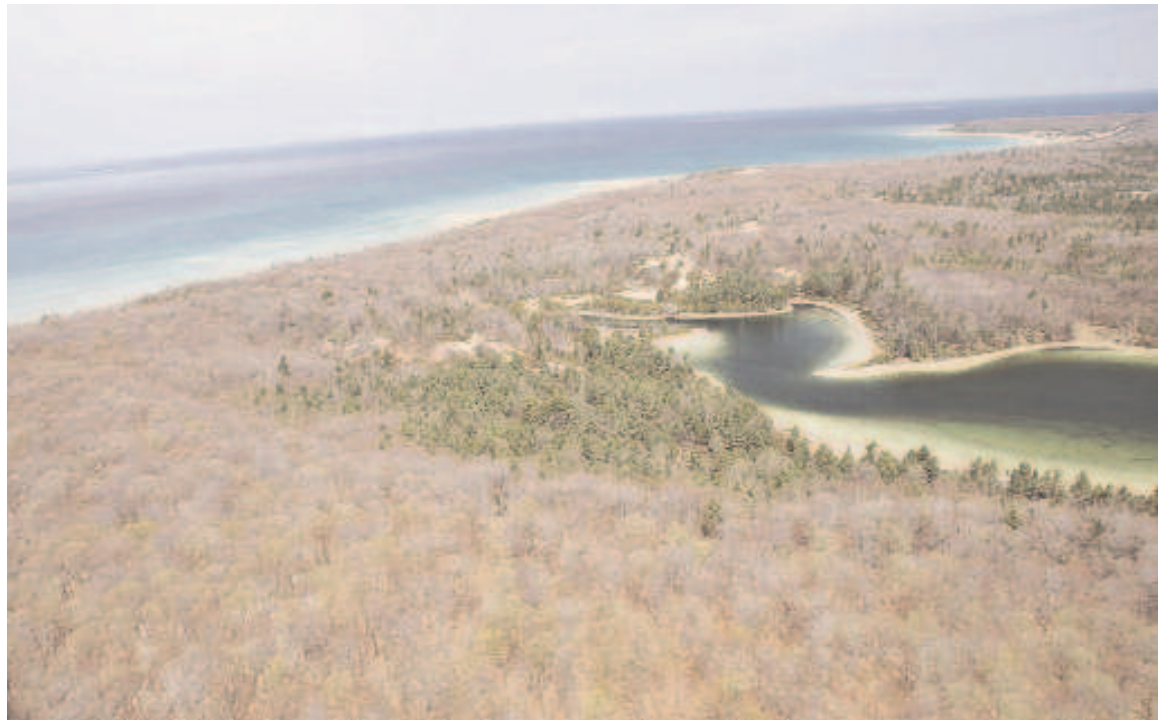
Once the cold drives them indoors in the fall, I usually trap six or seven mice under the kitchen sink. After those early victories, a defiant few retreat to the dreaded Mouse Drawer. It's a narrow rectangle of impregnable high ground just left of the stove, a Khyber Pass where all my incursions meet with futility. We do keep some cooking utensils there, but my wife considers them accursed and unclean. Trust me: no measure of disinfection could render them touchable. The icy phrase, "That came from ... the Mouse Drawer?" ends all discussion about the topic.

The storeroom doubles as a refrigerator: Need more room to cool a few six packs of beer? Got a kettle of soup that's still too hot for the refrigerator? Want to store apples, baskets of summer squash, bundles of sweet onions and clumps of dried dill? Then let the cold work for you. Turn your store room/mud room into a hillbilly walk-in cooler.

Yes, you've got to overcome the prudish, bourgeoisie notion that it's unseemly to store edibles beside a rusty tool box. But what's the difference between 35 degrees in a refrigerator and 35 degrees in a mudroom? You think the food cares? Besides, we've had no problems out there with mice. They'd rather stay in the main house where it's warm.

The reign and ruin of the icicle kingdom: Old houses leak heat the way press secretaries leak scurrilous news tips. On a steel roof in January, that escaped heat melts the snow to make icicles. Under the right conditions I've seen them grow six-foot long and as big around as a girl's waist.

There they hang with homicidal intent, stalactites perched on the cliffs of doom. Until, at around 1 a.m. on some foggy night, they crash and boom to earth like calving icebergs in a Norwegian fjord. Startling in the extreme, but not altogether unwelcome. It's simply the Lord's own water music, come to tell the old house that winter has loosened its icy grip once more.



Barney's Lake Nature Preserve

(Photo courtesy of the Little Traverse Conservancy)

The Little Traverse Conservancy added a 173-acre parcel to the Barney's Lake Nature Preserve on Beaver Island during 2012. The new preserve, shown above, includes more than a half-mile of Lake Michigan frontage. It was one of the most successful land protection years in the organization's 40-year history. More than 5,200 acres of land and 5.75 miles of shoreline were set aside at various locations in the Conservancy's five-county service area. Land protection highlights also included 3,810 acres with nearly two miles of Lake Superior shoreline that was purchased and set aside in partnership with the State of Michigan; and a nearly 100-acre addition to the Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve on Marquette Island in the Les Cheneaux. The Conservancy also took possession of the following donated land: the 120-acre James V. Foster Nature Preserve in eastern Chippewa County—including the 25-acre Hartley Lake—near De Tour Village; the 110-acre Reed's Pigeon River Nature Preserve along a mile of Pigeon River shoreline; and the 148-acre Hymas Woods Nature Preserve in Emmet County. More than a dozen work days were also held at various preserves, in addition to other land stewardship efforts. Finally, more than 4,300 students or children participated in Conservancy led environmental education outings and programs. The 4,100-member Little Traverse Conservancy is the oldest regional, nonprofit land trust in Michigan.

Bleak report on the impacts of climate change

In somewhat of a doomsday scenario, three University of Michigan researchers say that "climate change" will lead to more frequent and intense Midwest heat waves during coming decades, while degrading air and water quality and threatening public health.

Intense rainstorms and floods will also become more common, they predict, and existing risks to the Great Lakes will be exacerbated.

Aquatic ecologist Donald Scavia, Dan Brown of the School of Natural Resources and Environment (NSNRE) and Rosina Bierbaum of the SNRE and the School of Public Health were lead convening authors of chapters in that 1,100-page National Climate Assessment, which was written by a team of more than 240 scientists. Missy Stults, a doctoral student and research assistant with Bierbaum, was a contributing author to the "adaptation chapter."

"Climate change impacts in the Midwest are expected to be as diverse as the landscape itself," Scavia said. "Impacts are already being felt in the forests, in agriculture, in the Great Lakes and in our urban centers."

In the Midwest, extreme rainfall events and floods have become more common over the last century, the report says, and those trends are expected to continue, causing erosion, declining water quality and negative impacts on transportation, agriculture, human health and infrastructure.

The authors also warn that climate change will likely worsen a host of existing problems in the Great Lakes, including changes in the range and distribution of important commercial and recreational fish species, increases in invasive species, declining beach health, and more frequent harmful algae blooms. However, declines in ice cover on the Great Lakes may lengthen the commercial shipping season.

In agriculture, longer growing seasons and rising carbon dioxide levels are likely to increase the yields

of some Midwest crops over the next few decades, according to the report, though those gains will be increasingly offset by the more frequent occurrence of heat waves, droughts and floods. In the long term, combined stresses associated with climate change are expected to decrease agricultural productivity in the Midwest.

The composition of the region's forests is expected to change as rising temperatures drive habitats for many tree species northward. Many iconic tree species such as paper birch, quaking aspen, balsam fir and black spruce are projected to shift out of the United States into Canada.

The rate of warming in the Midwest has accelerated over the past few decades, the report says. Between 1900 and 2010, the average Midwest air temperature increased by more than 1 degree Fahrenheit. However, between 1950 and 2010, the average temperature increased twice as quickly, and between 1980 and 2010 it increased three times as quickly.

According to the researchers, the warming has been more rapid at night and during the winter. The trends are consistent with the projected effects of increased concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide released by the burning of fossil fuels.

Projections for regionally averaged temperature increases by the middle of the century, relative to 1979-2000, are approximately 3.8 degrees Fahrenheit for a scenario with substantial emissions reductions and 4.9 degrees for the current high-emissions scenario. Projections for the end of the century in the Midwest are about 5.6 degrees for the low-emissions scenario and 8.5 degrees for the high-emissions scenario, the report says.

The draft National Climate Assessment report is available at <http://ncadac.globalchange.gov>.

—The University of Michigan

Technology aids thirsty crops during drought

While many of the nation's crops withered under last year's punishing drought, Michigan State University (MSU) researchers dramatically increased corn and vegetable production on test farms using revolutionary new water-saving membranes.

The subsurface water retention technology process was developed by Alvin Smucker, MSU professor of soil biophysics and ag-bio research scientist. His invention uses contoured, engineered films, strategically placed at various depths below a plant's root zone to

retain soil water. Proper spacing also permits internal drainage during excess rainfall and provides space for root growth.

"This technology has the potential to change lives and regional landscapes domestically and internationally where highly permeable, sandy soils have prohibited the sustainable production of food," Smucker said. "Water retention membranes reduce quantities of supplemental irrigation, protect potable groundwater supplies, and enable more efficient use and control of fertilizers and pesticides."

The prototype can be used on a broad range of agricultural crops, as well as growing cellulosic biomass feedstock, plants grown specifically for fuel production, on marginal lands. Technologically improved irrigated sands produced 145 percent more cucumbers than did the control fields without water-saving membranes. Researchers also dramatically improved irrigated corn production, increasing yields 174 percent.

—Michigan State University

Conservation Officer Logs (12/24/12 through 1/6/13)**Tip-ups and fishing tournament bring violations galore for several folks****DISTRICT 1**

COs **Jason Wicklund** and **Dave Painter** checked a local lake for tip-up activity after dark, and found tip-ups spread all over the lake. After walking the lake and not finding any activity, the COs tracked the owners of the tip-ups to a cabin on the far end of the lake. Many violations were addressed, including an over-limit of lines, unregistered ORV and unattended lines.

COs **Doug Hermanson** and **Jason Wicklund** worked an annual fishing tournament in Baraga County and addressed several violations, including unregistered snowmobiles, fishing with too many lines, unattended lines, open intoxicants in/upon motor vehicles, no helmets on ORV/snowmobiles, and riding ORVs with passengers that were not designed for such.

COs **Dave Painter** and **Jason Wicklund** worked several Iron County lakes for fishing activity. The COs found a number of violations, including one group of anglers who were fishing with unattended lines and were ticketed for the fourth time in the past five years.

DISTRICT 2

While on patrol in the Garden Plains area, CO **Mike Evink** contacted two subjects in a vehicle. Once contacted, the driver asked, "Hey, do you remember me?" CO Evink advised that, yes, he did. The subject was written a ticket a few months before for open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. CO Evink then asked if the gun on the seat was unloaded. The driver said that it was and handed it to the officer. After finding the gun loaded in the chamber, CO Evink asked him about it. The driver explained that even though it was his gun, his partner was planning to shoot a deer. A ticket was issued for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO **Mike Hammill** responded to a complaint in which he found an overwhelming illegal amount of deer bait, and an eight point buck tagged with someone else's tag which was illegally taken with a crossbow. The subject tried to implicate a friend from downstate in the Bay/Saginaw area. CO Hammill contacted CO Chad Forester who works the Bay/Saginaw area to conduct an interview with the new possible suspect. Upon contact CO Forester took a statement that explained how the original subject had called him and asked him to be his alibi for an illegal deer. The man was able to prove that he had not been in the UP for some time. After the wild goose chase, the first subject was charged with the illegal deer and bait. Reimbursement for the deer is being sought and the crossbow and the deer were seized.

A NOTE TO READERS:

These are brief excerpts from the CO's bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded the more routine activities in favor of what we think are the most unusual and interesting.

If you want a more complete log than we are able to provide, you can find an archive of them under the Law Enforcement tab on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website.

DISTRICT 3

CO **Duane Budreau** contacted a subject coming out of the woods in a truck who stated he had lost a dog in the area. He then contacted two bow hunters in the area, just heading out in to the woods and checked their licenses. A short time later, CO Budreau received a complaint from central dispatch that the bow hunters he had talked to just reported their pop-up deer blind stolen, with fresh tracks leading to where the subject "looking for the lost dog" truck was parked. After a few days' investigation the suspect was identified and contacted, and was learned he had been recently sentenced to serve time in prison for other larcenies. The deer blind was recovered and returned to the owner.

CO **Matt Theunick** received a complaint that a mink had been in a leg-hold trap for several days. The trapper was identified and received his second ticket within a few weeks for failure to check traps within a 24 hour time period.

CO **Nick Torsky** and **Sgt. Joe Molnar** contacted an individual who had sealed a bobcat and stated he'd shot it with his bow. The COs interviewed the suspect and he admitted that his brother had shot the bobcat in December while deer hunting and he put it in the freezer until he could have it mounted. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office for taking a bobcat during the closed season

DISTRICT 4

While on patrol, CO **Holly Pennoni** traveled down a road in her patrol truck and nearly hit a horse standing on the road. CO Pennoni followed the horse to a nearby residence and searched for the owner. The CO observed a barn door open and went to see if the resident was inside. From the open doorway of the barn, CO Pennoni observed an untagged deer that was hanging. A few minutes later, the homeowner returned and the horse was safely secured. When asked about the untagged deer, the homeowner stated that he had tagged the deer but it was on parts he had already buried out back. A record check revealed that the subject had not purchased a deer hunting license. After being presented with this information, the subject admitted to taking the deer without a license. The deer was seized and a ticket was issued for the illegal taking of a deer.

CO **Brian Lebel** was on patrol in Mecosta County when he located a group of hunters exiting the woods dragging an animal. At first CO Lebel thought they were coyote hunting, but it was determined that the subjects had just harvested a feral swine. CO Lebel then noticed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed toward their location. Upon making contact with the occupants, who were also part of the hog hunting party, a loaded uncased firearm was observed in the front seat near the driver. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO **Mark Papineau** received a complaint regarding a large plume of black smoke coming from behind a residence. CO Papineau responded to the area and was able to see the smoke from several miles away. When the CO pulled into the driveway, several subjects quickly jumped into vehicles and fled. The remaining subject was standing over a large hole in the ground containing the remains of approximately 30 burned tires. CO Papineau also observed approximately 100 additional tires ready to be tossed into the blaze. Enforcement action was taken.

CO **Jon Warner** stopped a large group of ORVs being operated without helmets and with expired licenses. The spokesman for the group stated they didn't have to wear helmets because the motorcycle helmet law was repealed. CO Warner educated the group and issued tickets for no helmets.

DISTRICT 6

In late December, CO **Quincy Gowenlock** was checking campsites while patrolling the Gratiot/Saginaw State Game Area (SGA). The CO observed three campers which had been in the same spot since October, the beginning of the archery season. It was obvious to the CO that the owners just left the campers there to claim a spot while they went back to their actual residence. The CO issued tickets to the owners for camping in the same location for over 15 days and leaving their campsite unattended for more than 24 hours.

CO **Joel Lundberg** received a call from a subject who wanted a bobcat sealed on the last day of the season. After talking with the trapper, the CO became suspicious. The CO asked the hunter to take him to the location the bobcat was taken. Upon arrival and checking the area the CO became even more suspicious. At this time the trapper said he did not want to talk any more. The CO then obtained a search war-

rant for the trapper's residence. A computer at the residence was checked and found to contain photos and dates the bobcat was taken. The bobcat was taken out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO **Phil Hudson** observed a subject chasing a turkey in a field so he decided to sit back and watch for a while. The turkey chased the subject back to his residence and then the turkey ran back to CO Hudson's location. The CO observed blood coming from the turkey's head so the CO dispatched the turkey and discovered it had a small BB hole in its head. CO Hudson went to the residence where the turkey chased the subject and questioned the homeowner as to why he and the turkey were chasing each other. Upon further investigation, CO Hudson received a confession and located a 12 gauge shotgun the subject used to shoot the turkey. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO **Chuck Towns** reported that while interviewing subjects involved in a poaching complaint, a distraught subject approached the CO and wanted to know what was going to happen to one of his friends. When asked to leave the scene by deputies assisting CO Towns, the subject became hostile and refused to leave. The subject smelled of intoxicants and when asked for identification, tried to drive off and was apprehended by CO Towns and the deputies. Investigation revealed the subject's blood alcohol content was over the legal limit and he was in possession of a loaded, unregistered, 9mm handgun that was sitting next to him in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO **Pete Purdy** contacted two deer hunters on private property. When asked if they had their deer kill tags, they first advised they don't carry their tags afield in fear that they would lose them. Then they advised the CO that they had too many holes in their hunting clothes and were afraid they would fall out. They then advised that they didn't think carrying tags when deer hunting applied to private property. Finally they stated they normally don't tag their deer until they get their deer home and field dress their deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO **Todd Thorn** responded to a complaint of a possible sick fox near a residence. CO Thorn arrived on scene and observed the animal as it ran off when ap-

proached. The fox appeared to be healthy except for its apparent lack of fear of humans. Hours after leaving the scene, another complaint was received that a fox had been shot in that same area. CO Thorn returned and located the dead fox and the shooter. The shooter did not have a license and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO **Linda Scheidler** received a complaint of a subject who was in possession of a raccoon from the wild. The CO responded and as she approached the front door of the suspect's house, she observed a cage on the front porch with a raccoon and two cats in it. No one answered the door so CO Scheidler removed the cats and placed them in another cage and seized the raccoon. The CO left her business card and a note for the subject to call her. After not hearing from the subject, CO Scheidler stopped by the subject's residence. The subject stated the raccoon was hanging out and was friendly when he moved in so he caged it. He was informed he needed a wildlife rehabilitator's license to possess a raccoon. Enforcement action was taken.

COs **Todd Szyska** and **Kris Kiel** report that the subject who they caught taking a large sturgeon out of season took a plea bargain. The defendant pled guilty to taking a lake sturgeon during the closed season. He was sentenced \$600 fines and costs, \$1,500 restitution for the sturgeon, one year fishing license revocation, \$10 conservation fee, and his fishing poles were condemned. The 90 days jail time was suspended pending he pay all of the owed monies by mid February 2013.

CO **Lacelle Rabon** was on patrol when he observed several youths riding on a sled, being pulled by another youth operating an ORV. At one point the youths being pulled on the sled almost bounced off after hitting a mound of snow. There was no guardian or adult supervising the youths. CO Rabon made contact and asked where they lived. The young female operating the ORV was under 16 and did not have a helmet or eye protection on. The operator went into the residence and had her father come out of the house. CO Rabon advised him of the law regarding youths operating an ORV. The subject became argumentative. The subject was asked to produce his identification and enforcement action was taken.

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Please join our efforts to keep readers fully informed about conservation and outdoor issues by providing us with news tips and/or photographs.

Send your tips, ideas and photos to: editor@mynorthwoodscall.com.

Marketplace of the North**Classified Ads**

VIDEO & BOOK—*Buck Lake Ranch: Nashville of the North*. A 78-minute documentary and 133-page softcover book about a historic music park near Angola, Indiana. \$19.95 each; \$35 for both, plus shipping & handling. For more information, see the Newshound Productions page at mynorthwoodscall.com.

Final Shot



January Skies

Dark clouds envelop the Straits of Mackinac on this windswept day in mid-January 2013. Temperatures were sub-zero in many parts of Michigan—particularly the northern Lower & Upper peninsulas—which resulted in cold fingers and stinging faces for *The North Woods Call* photography team.

Readin,' writin,' and raisin' salmon

Learning the ins-and-outs of fish-raising is the aim of students and teachers who participate in the "Salmon in the Classroom" program.

The year-long education program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) allows teachers to receive fertilized salmon eggs from a state fish hatchery in the fall, hatch them, feed and raise the fry through spring and then release the young salmon into a local river.

And there's an entire curriculum to guide participants throughout the year.

"Salmon in the Classroom teaches students about everything—from the life history of fish to the importance of the Great Lakes and fishing to Michigan's traditions and way of life," said Natalie Elkins, a DNR education specialist who oversees the program. "Even better, it is a great place-based education effort that ties right back to the kids' communities. Students get invested in and excited about their local rivers and streams, knowing that the smolts they released will return to the very same spot in two to three years to spawn. That connection

encourages a long-standing appreciation for Michigan's natural resources and ecosystem health."

The program has been in Michigan schools for more than a decade, with 180 schools currently raising salmon through the 2012-13 school year.

It requires a commitment from both educators and their schools. Educators must commit to teaching their students about the Great Lakes ecosystem and fisheries management by raising salmon for almost the entire school year. And schools must purchase the necessary equipment, including a tank, chiller and other supplies, according to Elkins.

The cost—about \$1,200—can be a significant hurdle for many schools, but Elkins said there are many generous sportsmen's organizations and private donors willing to support schools with the needed funding. Many of these sponsors also get involved in helping teachers and students with the program.

For information, visit www.michigan.gov/sic, contact Elkins at (517) 373-6919, or e-mail her at elkinsn@michigan.gov.



After raising salmon all school year, students delight in releasing them into the natural world.

(DNR Story & Photo)

"C" rating overall

Conservation voters give a report card to the governor

After two years in office, Gov. Rick Snyder has received an average performance grade from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV).

"At this point in his time in office, the governor is receiving a passing—though not impressive—grade of 'C,'" said MLCV Executive Director Lisa Wozniak and President Elizabeth Welch Lykins in their "midterm report card" published recently.

"We have held Governor Snyder accountable for each action he's taken that has impacted our land, air and water."

The governor was scored in a variety of important categories, including the Great Lakes and Michigan waters (C+), land conservation (C-), clean air and energy (D), transportation (A), agriculture (B), toxics and hazardous chemicals (F), budget issues (C+), and appointments & administrative decisions (C+).

"When MCLV endorsed Governor Snyder in the 2010 primary election, we had high hopes that his intention to 'move Michigan forward' would carry over into the environmental arena," the report says. "What we've seen, however, is steady improvement in certain areas—such as Great Lakes protection—and backwards movement in regard to subjects like air

quality.

"In too many instances, Governor Snyder let the anti-conservation Legislature lead on environmental issues, regardless of significant public opposition."

The governor did take a critical stand to protect Michigan's natural resources when he vetoed House Bill 4326—a bill that would have prevented his office from putting in place protections for the Great lakes that are stricter than those at the federal level, according to the report.

"We loudly commended him for this decision, the report says, which both illustrated a strong desire to protect our resources and the kind of leadership we wish we had seen more often.

"The governor and MCLV agree: We need 'relentless positive action' in order to 'move Michigan forward.' At times we agreed with his means by which to do so, but more often than not we found ourselves forced to assign him negative marks for his passivity in the face of devastating legislation. His energy and environment address in November 2012 gave him a last-minute boost to his overall grade. We hope it is just the beginning of a renewed effort to take more proactive leadership."

The full report card can be reviewed at www.michiganlcv.org.

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