HARBOR DREDGING: Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has called for spending $21.5 million or more this year to dredge Michigan harbors in danger of losing their connections to open water because of low Great Lakes levels. The proposal was included in the governor’s 2013-14 budget and is part of a broader initiative being developed by state agencies to help water-starved harbors, as the federal government cuts back spending $21.5 million or more this year to dredge Michigan harbors in danger of losing their connections to open water because of low Great Lakes levels.

LICENSE SALE INTERRUPTION: An upgrade to a state computer system will interrupt the sale of hunting, fishing, snowmobile, off-road vehicle and assorted other licenses from 11:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, through 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21. Online license sales, as well as retail store sales, will be affected.

NRC MEETINGS: The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will hold its next meeting March 14 at the Saginaw Field and Stream Conservation Club, 1296 North Ginger Road in Saginaw. On April 11, commissioners will gather at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 415 Beaumont Road in Lansing. On May 9, the NRC meeting will move north again to the Ralph A MacMilan Conference Center on Higgins Lake, 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon. Agendas and minutes can be found on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website.

SLEEPING BEAR LEGISLATION: The U.S. Senate in late December passed legislation preserving nearly half of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as wilderness. The bill, which as of this writing had yet to pass the U.S. House of Representatives, designates about 32,557 acres of the 71,199-acre lakeshore as wilderness under the National Wilderness Preservation System.

MUSKEGON CLEANUP: The Marathon Petroleum Company has agreed to begin cleanup of oil byproducts at the long-closed Old Dutch/Aurora refinery site in Muskegon Township, Michigan. The toxic pollution under the 100-acre site near Laketon Avenue and Walker Road has contaminated downstream groundwater, as well as a county drain the empties into the Mona Lake Watershed. The method, timetable and thoroughness of the proposed cleanup had not yet been revealed at the time of this writing.

LAKES LEVELS: The level of Lake Superior dropped two inches in January, a month when Gitchie Gumee usually drops about three inches, according to the International Lake Superior Board of Control.

SS BADGER AWAITS PERMIT: The coal-fired SS Badger leaves the harbor at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, enroute to Ludington, Michigan, last June. The 410-foot car ferry’s federal permit to discharge coal ash into Lake Michigan expired December 19 and Lake Michigan Car Ferry Inc.—owner of the Badger—was still waiting in early February for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to renew the permit. The company wants the permit extended for at least another five years while it explores alternative fuels. The permit renewal is being challenged by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) and others who say the company has already had plenty of time to move the Badger away from coal and toward greener energy. The EPA said it would likely propose a decision on the permit application by March 1 and planned to seek public comment before making a final decision. Lake Michigan Car Ferry officials said they hope to start their 2013 sailing season in May.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS: Michigan Sea Grant is soliciting research proposals for funding of projects focused on the following issues: 1) keeping the highways of the sea open, 2) habitat enhancement and the Grand River, 3) Great Lakes education, 4) sustaining small harbors, 5) muck in Saginaw Bay, and 6) bird die-offs and botulism. Pre-proposals are due Feb. 22 and selected invitations for full proposals will be sent March 18. For details, visit misagrant.umich.edu. (Continued on Page 2)

In late December, The North Woods Call reported on a formal evaluation being conducted by University of Michigan researchers on the controversial gas-drilling practice of "hydraulic fracturing." While the two-year study is not yet complete, additional information has become available.

The purpose of the research is to provide the public with "a well-reasoned, objective explanation of what the technology can do and what it cannot," said Gov. Rick Snyder. The detailed examination of potential environmental and societal impacts of "fracking," as the process is commonly known, began in December and will culminate in a report and recommendation sometime in 2014, officials said.

Researchers are working with government regulators, oil and gas industry representatives, environmental groups and others to explore seven critical areas related to the use of hydraulic fracturing—human health, the environment and ecology, economics, technology, public perception, law and policy, and geology and "hydrodynamics." "While there have been numerous scientific studies about hydraulic fracturing in the United States, none have been conducted with a focus on Michigan," said John Callewaert, director of integrated assessment at the University of Michigan’s Graham Sustainability Institute, which is overseeing the study. Of particular interest is drilling done horizontally to expose the drill bore to more shale rock formation. In those cases where shale fracturing is required, water with added chemicals is injected into the reservoir rock at high pressure to cause the rock to fracture and open up for gas extraction.

"Hydraulic fracturing has been around for decades, but with horizontal drilling now coming into play, people are increasingly questioning and scrutinizing the risks involved," said Andrew Maynard, professor of environmental health sciences and (Continued on Page 2)
Forest plan biodiversity comments encouraged

(Continued from Page 1)
of functioning natural communities, and the restora-
tion of native plants and wildlife are concepts that
date back more than one hundred years in Michigan.

Clift said the DNR is “right and justified” in de-
ploying the best scientific and professional expertise
at its disposal to ensure the continued existence
and normal functioning of native species and com-
unities in Michigan.

“Protecting, enhancing and restoring Michigan’s
biodiversity is a completely logical and sci-
entifically sound management tool,” he said. “It pro-
tects the natural communities and native plants
and animals of Michigan, and ensures a healthy and
robust natural system for this and future genera-
tions.”

Last October, when contacted by The North Woods
Call, state Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) —
sponsor of the bill — said the legislation is aimed in
part to protecting access to public land for all users.

Casperson said that he held public hearings on
the issue and most people at the hearings opposed the
DNR’s biodiversity management initiatives.

That notion can be tested, conservationists say, if
more people comment during the plan review period.
For details about the review — and availability of the
regional plans online — see “North Woods Notes” in
this edition of The Call (Page 2). Management for biodi-
versity is reported to be key part of the plans.

“This bill is one of the worst we’ve seen in a
while,” Garmon said, “in terms of just throwing out
the respect for the DNR and the trained experts in
ecology, forestry and otherwise.”

“I don’t think we’ve seen that many of these
longer-term ones, and pretty
much saying, ‘We don’t trust them to do a good job
anymore and we the politicians are going to tell you how
to manage our forests.’”

“Biological diversity is a fundamental part of
a mission that lies at the foundation of Michigan’s long
tradition of strong and responsible public land man-
agement,” added Clift. “Managing lands for biodi-
versity, ecosystem health and genetic resilience en-
sures that our forests can survive new invasive spec-
ies ... and our fisheries can withstand diseases.”

Multi-disciplinary “fracking” study under way

(Continued from Page 1)
director of the U of M’s Risk Sci-
cence Center.

Potential concern include perceived
lack of transparency, po-
tential chemical contamination,
water availability, wastewater dis-posal, and impacts on ecosystems
and human health.

“What concerns us is the ap-
pearance of potential hydraulic
fracturing,” said Genetta
Thomassy of the Tip of-the-Mitt
WateredCouncil and a member
of the external advisory commit-
tee. “We are very glad to be ... taking
a proactive, multidisciplinary look
at the impacts and implications of this practice... .” she said.

Researchers are using a collabora-
tive methodology called “inte-
grated assessment,” Callewaert
said, which is well-suited for “ad-
dressing complex sustainability
challenges. Fortunately,” Calle-
waert said, “we have been able to
draw together experts in a wide
range of areas and approach the
issue in a multidisciplinary manner.”

“Our goal is to understand the
impacts of hydraulic fracturing, but
doing this will require cooperation
between all of the mitte states and
Canada.”

“Biological diversity is a fundamental part
of a mission that lies at the foundation of Michigan’s long
tradition of strong and responsible public land man-
agement,” added Clift. “Managing lands for biodi-
versity, ecosystem health and genetic resilience en-
sures that our forests can survive new invasive spec-
ies ... and our fisheries can withstand diseases.”

WOLF ADVISORY COUNCIL: Michigan’s Wolf Management
Advisory Council will meet Feb. 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Little Bear
Arena, 275 Marquette Street in St. Ignace. The Council includes mem-
bers from a diverse group of organizations with an interest in wolves
and wolf management, and will gather input from members regarding
future wolf management activities. The public will be able to provide
written comments at the meeting. The DNR will also host a series of
public meetings around the state in March to receive public input.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR: Brian Frawley, a 14-year
veteran wildlife biologist and survey specialist at the DNR, has been
touted 2012 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year by the Na-
tional Wildlife Federation. Frawley was cited for his hunter survey con-
tributions, which are crucial to managing wild turkeys in Michigan.

CIVIL PENALTY INFLATION: The U.S. Army Corps of En-
genius has released a new draft environmental impact statement for
Clean Water Act and the National Fishing Enhancement Act to ac-
to inflation. The civil penalties remain at $11,000 per violation, but
the maximum penalty will increase to $32,500. The rule is effective
March 29, 2013, without further notice. New language is in italics.

MASTER ANGLER CHANGES: Multiple changes have been
made to the Michigan Master Angler program, which since 1973 has
recognized large fish caught by recreational anglers. Entry weight and
length were updated for several species—including Atlantic salmon,
brook trout, brown trout, buellhead, channel catfish, Chum salmon,
coho salmon, freshwater trout, herring, lake trout, muskie, northern
two-rock bass and smallmouth bass. The changes are based on the num-
ber of entries received for individual species from the last five years, as
well as increased fish growth in Michigan waters over several decades.

Michigan’s 2012 fishing sea-
son saw only one fatality in the 15
incidents reported, Department of
Natural Resources (DNR) offi-
cials said.

That makes it the safest season in
the last five years, they said.

By comparison, there were 12
incidents with two fatalities dur-
ing the 2011 season, 14 inci-
dents with three fatalities in 2010, 18
incidents with two fatalities in
2009, 22 incidents with two fatalities in 2008 and 32 incidents with
two fatalities in 2007.

DNR Law Enforcement Divi-
sion chief Gary Hagler says,
Michigan’s hunter education pro-
gram for the low rate of incidents over the years.

“There is no question that
eradar detection saves lives and
reduces injuries,” he said. “It is
incumbent that anyone consid-
ering hunting as a recreational pur-
suit completes a hunter education
course with one of our highly dedi-
cated volunteer instructors.”

The 2012 incident involving a fatality occurred Sept. 20 in St.
Clair County, when a coyote hunter reportedly shot and killed
another hunter in and apparent ac-
cident.

“We continue to emphasize the
importance of the hunter orange
law, knowing your target and safe
firearm handling, and how they are
all key factors in having a safe
season. We also continue to en-
force the law,” Hagler said. “We
work closely with youth hunters to
teach them safe firearm handling
skills.”

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

North Woods Notes

Our 60th Year: Looking Back to Feb. 24, 1954

—Excerpts from The North Woods Call

School bell rings for Danny

Danny is going to school.

Everybody around Johannesburg knows Danny. They know his
pleasing grin, his little jokes, his interest in what they are doing and
where they have been.

He’s usually sitting in the “burg’s” restaurant waiting for school
to let out so he may visit with the boys.

School is something that has been unknown to Danny. Once, many
years ago, he went for a brief period of time to a special school in
Detroit, but it was for a very brief time and he could hardly remem-
ber what it was like.

Now he’s in school again and life has taken on a richer meaning.

Danny is the 23-year-old son of Mrs. Harriet Dreffs, hostess at
Ed’s Village Inn, which she and her husband operate. And Danny is
a victim of cerebral palsy resulting from a birth injury.

Little four-corner north woods towns don’t have the wonderful,
modern facilities the big cities have for handicapped boys and girls,
but Johannesburg found a way to help.

When it became known that Mrs. Dreffs wanted a tutor to help
Danny with his reading — so his narrow world could be widened —
the burg’s school supplied the need.

Mrs. Mary Kasky, who teaches the little folks, said she thought
Danny should be right in her classroom. There he could receive more
individual attention than in the higher grades and he wouldn’t feel
that he was being pushed in a competitive way that might be pretty
hard on him.

Comes the hour when Danny is to have his reading lessons, School
Superintendent Charles Hamilton sends some of the big boys over to
teh him. They carefully carry Danny and his special wheelchair to the
school, where the class is over, then return him home.

Abre the big words, he will find the hours won’t pass so
delayly while he waits for the boys after school to play caats with him.

And the TV set also helps bring the bigger world to him now.

He saw the pigeons darken the sun

“I’ve seen the sky filled with pigeons — so many pigeons that you
couldn’t see the sun,” said Delos E. Michael, said. “You could take a fish
pole and knock them down when they flew low over the house.

This week, he looks back to those days around 1865 when the sky
over Dennison, west of Grand Rapids, was filled with the beeping
winds of thousands of the pigeons. They may have been the last of the great pas-

ersen pigeons that nested in those years at Petoskey.

Now extinct, few men are alive today who can recall witnessing those
tremendous flights.

“There were millions of them,” the old man said.

On March 1, Michael will celebrate his 94th birthday. Sitting in
Mae’s Variety Store, operated by his granddaughter in Johannesburg,
he was abbreviating his memories of days of old and mornings and goings in the
store with blue eyes alert and sparkling.

He is quick with a joke, an avid reader of western fiction, and a
“dyed-in-the wool” baseball fan.

“I made my own living since I was nine,” he said.

When it became known that Mrs. Dreffs wanted a tutor to help
Danny with his reading...
Ford Kellum: Beating the drums on sprawl

Ford Kellum had a lifelong passion for protecting natural resources against all manner of assault. And the late Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife biologist remained in the trenches right up until the day he died in October 1991.

When current North Woods Call Editor Mike Vanburen first met him in 1978, Kellum had already retired from his DNR position, but was continuing to collect information and photographs on the history of the Deward area—a tract of land near the intersection of Antrim, Kalkaska, Crawford and Otsego counties that had been heavily logged during the early 20th century, becoming a barren wasteland of weathered and decaying white pine stumps.

By studying the area, Kellum hoped to demonstrate the need for sound land management in Michigan. He believed that land use was the most important outdoor issue in the state and that he had been speaking out about it for several decades.

In 1958, Kellum was able to get a 55-acre stump preserve dedicated on the Deward tract—land so delicate that bruises left by horse-drawn wagon wheels more than 60 years earlier could still be seen. Repeated fires and soil too poor to bring the great forests back kept much of the land from recovering. Later, oil production and other development activities put additional pressure on the resource.

While relatively few people paid attention to Kellum’s pleas for sensible land use, his wisdom is evident today in the outcomes against “sprawl”—which is actually the lack of land-use planning and controls.

Stationed in Traverse City, his influence helped shape that DNR office into one of the better run in Michigan. When the Traverse City office was switched to Cadillac, Kellum elected to transfer to Gaylord on the outskirts of the Pigeon River Country.

Already skilled in the management of moose in the Upper Peninsula at Cassin, along with deer throughout the state, he quickly found himself as a champion for the threatened elk herd in the Pigeon River State Forest.

That involvement was not well received by Kellum’s Lansing bosses and they did everything possible to stop him. He finally took early retirement to push for the protection of the Pigeon River Country. Eventually it was declared off-limits to oil and gas drilling (at least temporarily).

While that effort was successful, other efforts to gain similar protection failed. The Lake of the North development threatened Lake Hak seon’s stump preserve designated as a state park. The department of Natural Resources (DNR) was expected to buy all the land for public use.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was expected to buy all the land for public use. But opposition groups—including the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the Michigan’s recently enacted Wolf Management Law. Opponents are challenging the legislation and are seeking a statewide referendum on the matter.

Wolf-hunting battle is not over

Not everyone supports recent legislation that opened the door for wolf hunting in Michigan. And the late Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife biologist was a champion to help gather the signatures.

At least 161,300 valid signatures are needed to put the issue on the November 2014 election ballot, the DNR has begun to gather information on the Deward tract—land on what was once a time-honored dancing grounds for prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse.

Various groups—including the Humane Society of the United States and some Native American tribes—are campaigning for a referendum on the new law. If the group enough petition signatures to get the issue on the November 2014 election ballot, the legislation—and hence any potential hunting season—would likely be put on hold until after the vote. At least 161, 300 valid signatures are needed to be placed on the referendum on the ballot.

"We make wildlife management decisions based on sound science," said Tony Hansen, chief information officer of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MCCC). "The Humane Society of the United States is just another out-of-state interest group trying to put Michigan’s wolf population to its radical animal rights agenda."

If voters reject the wolf-hunting decision, it wouldn’t be the first time conservationists have prevailed over land management. In 1990, voters said 2-to-1 that they did not want to allow hunting of mourning doves.

Supporters of the referendum are currently planning a series of meetings across the state to recruit people to help gather the signatures.

By the mid-20th century, wolves had been shot, trapped and poisoned to the brink of extinction in the lower 48 states, but they bounced back after being given legal protection in the 1960 and 1970s. Natural migration from neighboring states and provinces to and from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine, and Ontario gave Michigan’s wolf population a renewed lease around 1990 and their numbers have grown steadily since then—as well as complaints about them attacking farm and domestic animals.

Although a 2008 law allows owners to kill wolves attacking livestock or pets, it hasn’t always been easy catching them in the act. Some farmers—particularly in the western Upper Peninsula—say they need hunting and trapping to keep wolf numbers in check.

The animal rights groups claim that there simply isn’t enough data or science available to determine whether wolves can sustain a hunting season in Michigan. “The animal rights groups claim that there simply isn’t enough data or science available to determine whether wolves can sustain a hunting season,” said Erin McDonough, the MCCC’s executive director.

“‘That’s precisely what the Wolf Management Law provides,’” said Erin McDonough, the MCCC’s executive director.

Wolf-hunting battle is not over

Higher taxes on sportsmen & fuel

Higher gasoline taxes and vehicle fees, along with double-digit hikes for hunting and fishing licenses, will be coming your way if Gov. Rick Snyder has his way.

The governor, who proposed the increases in his $50.9 billion budget for 2013-14, said the revenue is needed to fix bad roads, expand the state police force, hire more conservation officers and improve habitat for fish and game—among other things. Snyder also wants to spend $21.5 million or more dredging harbors around the Great Lakes, $6.5 million of that coming from the state general fund and the rest coming from a supplemental appropriation for the 2013 fiscal year.

The budget plan, which would require a $2 million increase in new revenue for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), would increase the annual amount raised from sale of hunting and fishing licenses by 38 percent—from $48.2 million to $66.6 million—with the impact of the increases totaling $33 million. The annual license fee of $10 for Michigan residents and $150 for non-residents would cover small game like squirrels and rabbits, as well as migratory birds and walleye, but hunters wanting licenses for deer, elk, turkey, moose and other game would have to pay substantially more.

The cost of a deer tag would increase from $15 to $20 for residents and non-residents alike, according to the DNR. The proposed hunting fee for wolves goes forward in the face of challenges to the recently approved law, residents would pay $100 for a license and non-residents would pay $500, they said.

Fishing licenses would be simplified under the plan by moving away from a system based on fish species to a single price license for all species. A one-day fishing license would increase from $7 to $15, but a season-long fishing license for all species would drop from $28 to $25 for residents, while increasing from $42 to $75 for non-residents. Higher taxes on sportsmen & fuel? The governor has his way.

Fishing licenses would be simplified under the plan by moving away from a system based on fish species to a single price license for all species. A one-day fishing license would increase from $7 to $15, but a season-long fishing license for all species would drop from $28 to $25 for residents, while increasing from $42 to $75 for non-residents.

Fishing licenses would be simplified under the plan by moving away from a system based on fish species to a single price license for all species. A one-day fishing license would increase from $7 to $15, but a season-long fishing license for all species would drop from $28 to $25 for residents, while increasing from $42 to $75 for non-residents. Higher taxes on sportsmen & fuel? The governor has his way.
When Herbert Gleason Mingo was born on February 22, 1851, Millard Fillmore was president of the United States and Abraham Lincoln was still a practicing lawyer.

It was the year that Yosemite Valley was discovered in California, Herman Melville published his classic novel “Moby Dick,” and abolitionist Sojourner Truth addressed the first Black Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.

By the time Mingo died on February 25, 1957—at the envi- able age of 106—automobiles and airplanes were in widespread use. America was rushing headlong into the space age, and the mighty Mackinac Bridge would soon make Michigan’s Upper Penin- sula more easily accessible to hunters, fishermen and tourists.

Better known as Big Elk, Mingo was a Native American medicine man—a skilled herbal- istic whose extensive knowledge was based in years of hands-on experi- ence. This was the first time Big Elk apologized, according to the Sierra Club, which expressed concern over the lack of public involvement in the process.

As a young man, he was a courier from Fort Simcoe, Wash- ington, traveling to Wanatchee, the Powder River basin, Okan- gan in British Columbia, and Pen- derilla—a route of about 700 miles. It was a six-week trip that he usually made on horseback over Indian trails through wild and hostile country, requiring sig- nificant physical strength, endur- ance and courage.

There is little else I know about Big Elk—or his life and times—except that his house still sits at the dead-end of 177th Avenue between Morley and Stanwood, along with what is now the White Pine Trail Linear State Park. Another family lives there now and I won- der whether they are aware of the rich legacy of herbal medicine that his family represents.

It’s a fine history of a memo- rable man—connected in a small way to my own family’s story. I think there’s still much to be learned from Herbert Mingo, as we journey through life and seek to heal our own bodies and souls.

Grading Michigan lawmakers

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder recently received an overall performance grade of “C” from the Michigan League of Conserva- tion Voters due to the environmental impacts—or lack thereof—of his actions. And the Sierra Club has called the 2011-2012 class of state lawmakers “by far the most anti-environmental legisla- ture ever seen in Michigan’s history.”

While the Republicans currently control every branch of state government and can rightly be hammered for many of the deci- sions they have made, Democrats and independents are not with- out fault when it comes to evaluating and providing solutions to today’s numerous environmental challenges.

Far too much legislation and too many bureaucratic initiatives are conceived, argued and sometimes implemented based on er- ratic logic. There is little evidence that public servants, ideas, or issues are held to a standard of accountability. Instead, we tend to elect and appointed representa- tives of the people. We all seem to fall prey to the twisted prop- aganda and general misinformation from time-to-time.

Some are conceived, argued and sometimes implemented based on er- ratic logic. There is little evidence that public servants, ideas, or issues are held to a standard of accountability. Instead, we tend to elect and appointed representa- tives of the people. We all seem to fall prey to the twisted prop- aganda and general misinformation from time-to-time.

We urge all who care about protecting our natural resources— politicians, bureaucrats, nonprofits and citizens alike—to start grading ourselves and respond accordingly.

Conservation is too important for so many people to be failing the course.

Givin’ ‘em hell

In the five months we have published The North Woods Call, various readers and potential subscribers have asked the same question: “What did you mean by help Big Elk? Did you mean by help Big Elk? Did you mean to help Big Elk?”

It’s not exactly clear who they want the hell administered to, but we like to think that we will call things as we see them and won’t balk at criticizing if we feel such an approach is needed.

It’s not exactly clear who they want the hell administered to, but we like to think that we will call things as we see them and won’t balk at criticizing if we feel such an approach is needed.

In the five months we have published The North Woods Call, various readers and potential subscribers have asked the same question: “What did you mean by help Big Elk? Did you mean to help Big Elk?”

We may not learn anything new, but it could be an interesting exercise.

Conservation is too important for so many people to be failing the course.

Scoring the work of Rio Tinto

It is interesting to note that the world’s second-largest mining company has created a scorecard that reportedly gauges how well it is meeting its goals in the eyes of community residents in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Rio Tinto is going after nicks and copper in the Eagle Mine near Big Bay and Marquette and is expecting to start pulling out ore this year.

In early January, the company released results of its “com- munity scorecard,” which features aggregate data from five ini- tial community forums held last fall in Big Bay, Michigamme, Champion, Marquette and L’Anse, as well as subsequent se- lected group sessions held in Ishpeming and Marquette. Every six months, the company plans to record additional votes with the same groups.

Perhaps not surprisingly for a company sponsored survey, re- ported responses indicate that Rio Tinto is meeting or exceeding expectations in all survey areas—1) environmental protection, 2) local hires, 3) safety, 4) transparency and communication, and 5) leaving the area better than when the company arrived.

While we hope the company is indeed going about its work in a safe, economically sound and environmentally positive way, it’s important to recognize that their home represents.

It’s a fine history of a memo- rable man—connected in a small way to my own family’s story. I think there’s still much to be learned from Herbert Mingo, as we journey through life and seek to heal our own bodies and souls.
In defense of Michigan’s best idea

By Drew Youngdye

If you want to know why national parks are “America’s Best Idea,” as posited by documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, then the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) might be Michigan’s Best Idea. When oil wells were proposed in the Upper Peninsula, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said no, and the NRTF withstood the test of time. Thankfully, most have not. The purpose of the fund is to acquire, develop and protect of public recreation land.

Since 1980, when the NRTF reached its $500 million lion cap (royalties have gone into the Trust Fund Board. The Michigan Constitution prohibits purchases in state land ownership. (The version of SB 248 that was signed into law included a temporary statewide cap and a removable northern Michigan cap, contingent on legislative approval of a five-year acquisition plan. With a terrible bill, tough opposition from conservation groups helped force the DNR to do a little better.) The state land category is bills to buy public land that will be off-limits to motorized pathways in the trail system. Since 2010, though, when the NRTF reached its $500 million lion cap (royalties have gone into the NRTF Trust Fund category are bills to use NRTF dollars to build logging roads, which the NRTF money is vulnerable to state transportation funding. Some of the bills are a little more brash about diverting NRTF money. HB 4473, sponsored by Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), and SB 1273, introduced by Sen. Casperson, who owns a log trucking business, also introduced bills SB 822 and SJR Q to amend the Michigan Constitution to use NRTF dollars to build logging roads, which the NRTF money is vulnerable to state transportation funding.

The bills protégé, P.S. Lovejoy—conservationists who are child of Aldo Leopold protégé, MV.
Defending Michigan’s best idea

(Continued from Page 5)

Outdoor Rhythms
By Doug Freeman

Refuge from the storm

Every Michigan winter brings with it some serious weather, no matter where you live.

Here in the northwest corner of Muskegon county, we regularly deal with 30 mile-an-hour winds, sleet, driving snow, and temperatures dipping toward zero. Shelter becomes an absolute necessity for animals and people alike.

Deer and birds tend to hunker down in the thickest cover they can find. Woodchucks, skunks, possums, and other small mammals make their dens underground, in hollow trees, or in hidden spots inside buildings where there’s access and minimal human activity. Livestock move into their barns and sheds, and can’t be easily coaxed out until conditions moderate.

Our barn is a pretty good place to get out of those fierce Lake Michigan winds. Long and low, cobbled together, it’s not perfect. Worse yet, I’m no carpenter. That being said, I’ve managed to fill in most of the open wall spaces with used windows, paneling, and a portion of which can be removed again come spring.

Snow blows in through the numerous small holes and cracks, but the interior feels surprisingly comfortable, especially when you’ve just slammed the door on a roaring blizzard.

The building has electricity for lights and power tools, along with nearly arranged hay bins, feed drums, bales of straw, bags of cedar shavings and a heated water basin used mostly by our crew of barn cats.

If that’s not enough, my lovely wife and I haul buckets of warm water from the house every twelve hours or so, a walk of about eighty yards. Not a bad deal for a nice warm drink.

When the drifts are waist-deep, a short-handled aluminum shovel cuts a nice path. Great exercise, but tiring if you have to clear the same route more than twice a day.

Then there’s the after-storm shoveling. Clearing snow away from doors and opening up the barnyard is a requirement. Goats are fuzzy animals, I’ve learned, and don’t like to fight their way through the white stuff. Horses and ponies are much more willing to venture out to the winter wonderland, and will push along even when the snow is up to their forelegs—provided there’s some place they want to go.

Whatever nibbles are left over from outdoor feedings don’t go to waste. Birds of many species flock in to grab the loose oats, corn, and seeds. At night, rabbits and deer slip silently into the yard to nibble on nourishing snacks of alfalfa and grain, while enjoying a break from the wind on the barn’s lee side.

On nights that aren’t so cold, possums come out to snack at cat food, waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—

A little gray fox pokes in and out of the barn from time to time. I’m not sure what he or she is up to, since our cats keep the rodent population under control.

In another couple of months, the snow will melt away. Skunks and raccoons will emerge cautiously from their burrows beneath the winter wonderland, and will push along even when the snow is up to their forelegs—provided there’s some place they want to go.

Woodchucks, skunks, possums, and other small mammals make their dens underground, in hollow trees, or in hidden spots inside buildings where there’s access and minimal human activity. Livestock move into their barns and sheds, and can’t be easily coaxed out until conditions moderate.

*Viewpoint:*

A Winter’s Catch

A young angler shows off a bluegill while ice fishing recently in Michigan. Winter can be a great time to enjoy the outdoors, as many of the state’s 11,000 lakes offer cold-weather fun and world-class fishing.

Another proposed raid on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) has sparked outcries from conservationists who say the fund should only be used for special activities that preserve the beauty of Michigan for future generations.

Some politicians now want to dip into the fund to pay for harbor dredging at various locations. But that is an inappropriate use of the money, opponents say.

Despite deep support for this constitutionally enshrined fund, legislators have consistently looked to it as a short-term solution to budget challenges in recent years. Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV).

The levels are reportedly dipping toward zero. Shelter becomes an absolute necessity for animals and people alike. Deers and birds tend to hunker down in the thickest cover they can find. Woodchucks, skunks, possums, and other small mammals make their dens underground, in hollow trees, or in hidden spots inside buildings where there’s access and minimal human activity. Livestock move into their barns and sheds, and can’t be easily coaxed out until conditions moderate. Our barn is a pretty good place to get out of those fierce Lake Michigan winds. Long and low, cobbled together, it’s not perfect. Worse yet, I’m no carpenter. That being said, I’ve managed to fill in most of the open wall spaces with used windows, paneling, and a portion of which can be removed again come spring.

Snow blows in through the numerous small holes and cracks, but the interior feels surprisingly comfortable, especially when you’ve just slammed the door on a roaring blizzard. Then there’s the after-storm shoveling. Clearing snow away from doors and opening up the barnyard is a requirement. Goats are fuzzy animals, I’ve learned, and don’t like to fight their way through the white stuff. Horses and ponies are much more willing to venture out to the winter wonderland, and will push along even when the snow is up to their forelegs—provided there’s some place they want to go.

Whatever nibbles are left over from outdoor feedings don’t go to waste. Birds of many species flock in to grab the loose oats, corn, and seeds. At night, rabbits and deer slip silently into the yard to nibble on nourishing snacks of alfalfa and grain, while enjoying a break from the wind on the barn’s lee side.

On nights that aren’t so cold, possums come out to snack at cat food, waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—the larger one waiting patiently until the felines have eaten their fill. Two of those unflappable marsupials are currently residing in our barn—

It’s a time to which we all look forward.

*Anglers review fisheries plan*

The Grayling-based Anglers of the Au Sable organization has reviewed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) draft Fisheries Division Strategic Plan and members are “generally pleased with the overall direction” of the document.

The majority of objectives in the plan are in agreement with those of the Anglers, the group said in comments submitted to DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter.

Both the group’s Au Sable Resource Agency Committee and its Habitat Restoration and Environment Committee said they “hear the call for partnership” and offered volunteers to help execute the plan. They asked for more specifics around several goals, however, and concurred that additional revenue will be needed to bring the plan to fruition. More dialogue is needed around resource investment strategies, they said, and the Anglers would like to remain part of those discussions.

The comment period for the plan—which may still be available on the DNR website—ended Feb. 10.

More than 10,000 people provided input into the plan—which will guide future management activities—via online surveys and phone interviews, the DNR said.
Snowmobile dunked in Lake Gogebic; poaching along the Wisconsin line

DISTRICT 1

CO Grant Emery responded to the scene of a snowmobile that sank into the lake. A wide pressure cap opened up and one snowmobile was lost in 12 feet of water. The snowmobile was recovered the next day.

CO Dave Painter is assisting the local Wisconsin wardens with an investigation involving a poaching ring along the Wisconsin border. Multiple deer and suspect have been uncovered and the investigation is ongoing.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kyle Pubskis was at a local restaurant when he observed a nice 10-point buck. While admiring the 10-point, he noticed that the deer was shot on the 27th.

Further investigation revealed that the tag was purchased after legal hours on the same day that it was shot. The CO began an investigation into the suspicious deer deaths and was able to get a full confession that the deer was being hunted without a license and only buys a kill tag if a deer is harvested before legal hours. The suspect and arrest warrants have been sought and approved. Restitution for the deer is being sought in the case.

CO Kyle Pubskis responded to a complaint of illegal traps being set on private property. Upon arrival, the CO found an illegal Comibear 330 trap and illegally set gauges. After several days, a suspect was identified and ticket was issued for the illegal traps.

CO Robert creek checked an island lake where there were several anglers using tips-ups as well as juggling rods. At one point, a suspect was seen with a Creek Creek tip-up watching from shore and quickly reeled up his line and dropped the rod on the ice. CO Creek then moved his position to take the tip-up and returned to where the anglers’ vehicles were parked. He watched and listened from nearby. The CO saw the pole drop the stated to a friend that he was surprised the CO didn’t see him with his fishing line. Just before the group was about to leave the parking area, CO Creek contacted the suspect and was able to get the angler to bring up the part about trying to hide his fishing line. The reason for that was not purchased a fishing license. A ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 3

An investigation into an unlicensed taxidermist led CO Mark Depew and five other District 3 officers to serve a search warrant on a residence. Officers found evidence of the unlicensed taxidermy business along with other illegally harvested animals. Law enforcement officers are following up.

Become a North Woods Call partner

Please join us in 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.

NOTE TO READERS: These are brief excerpts from the CO’s monthly field reports. To conserve space, not all reports are included. We’ve left out some activities in favor of what we think are the most unusual and interesting.

If you want a more complete log that 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.

CO Kelly Ross received a confession from a hunter who was a 12-point buck and had his wife buy a tag so he could continue hunting.

CO Jon Skiba and Bill Webster received a complaint of a deer that had gotten stuck in the slush ice in Lake Huron. The COs pat on their wards and went into the frigid waist-deep water. They were able to circle around the deer and move in the right direction, and ultimately had to drag the deer onto the shore.

CO Andrea Erratt and Andra Albert patrolled the Jordan Valley snowmobile trails and encountered several snowmobilers who failed to purchase trail permits. Two rental sleds didn’t have a trail permit and the rental agency/owner was ticketed for the violation.

CO Jon Skiba took down names and addresses of ice shanties on Grand Lake during the Grammar January last week, which proved to be very beneficial, as two shanties went through the ice later in the week. The owners have been contacted and given some time to get the shanties out.

DISTRICT 4

CO Holly Pennoni responded to a complaint of subjects catching and keeping undersized northern pike on a Wexford County lake. CO Pennoni contacted the suspects and located two undersized pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway was patrolling in rural Lake County when she observed two men stopped in the roadway. Upon contacting the occupants, she learned that they were coyote hunting with hounds. Further investigation revealed that the two occupants possessed two partially uncased drums in the vehicle, one of which was loaded. Tickets were issued for the safety violations.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn was patrolling state land and found a snare set and fresh deer tracks leading to a house. Officers found evidence of the unlicensed taxidermy business along with other illegally harvested animals, and officers are following up.

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

CO Jeff Robinette obtained a four-count warrant for a subject who was accused of poaching a lawful hunter during the firearm deer season. At one point during the investigation of the complaint, CO Robinette accompanied the hunter to his stand and observed the suspect trespass onto the property and harass the hunter. Three counts of interfering with the chase and one count of criminal trespass were authorized by the prosecutor.

CO Mike McGregor was on patrol when he noted a large cloud of black smoke in the distance. CO McGregor followed the smoke to three men who were burning a fiberglass boat. CO McGregor issued the subject who was burning the boat a ticket for the illegal burning.

CO Mike Mihar contacted two juveniles who were trapping with untagged traps. They contacted the subjects and issued them other laws and met with their grand- mother to advise her of the rules as well. A positive learning experience was had by all.

DISTRICT 6

CO Quincy Gowanlock had a bench trial with a defendant who shot an eight-point buck from a vehicle last November while using a tip up, while the subject and the two hunters were using tip up. The defendant admitted to the courthouse, he had a change of heart and pled guilty. The prosecutor did not checking his traps on a daily basis. The subject took down seven additional charges and let the defendant plea to a single fish. When the sentencing the judge gave him 10 days in jail and a $500 fine. The subject then stated he was planning on the ice out of the state. The judge then suspended his jail sen- tence and gave him 45 days to leave the state of Michigan and to show proof of moving. If he failed to show proof he would. He was type the same.

Sgt. Ron Kimmeryer was checking wallie anglers as they were pulling their boats off the ice ledge on the Saginaw River. The sergeant was able to catch one of the anglers and asked if he caught any fish. The angler said not a single fish. The sergeant advised him if he was going to fish the boat, the angler then stated he caught one, and reached into the boat for his fish. The sergeant then checked on an undersized wallie. The angler said when he measured it he thought it was 15 inches. The sergeant then asked if there were any more walleye in the boat. The angler again said no. The sergeant again said he was going to check the boat. The boat then ran into the live well and said, “Well, there is one more fish in there. It’s the same size as the other one.” The sergeant then saw the boat and no addi- tional wallie were found. When asked for his fishing license, the angler couldn’t find it, but swore that he bought one. After checking on the ice, multiple residents pointed out to him and said the two are there twice each day.

CO Todd Thor and an Ing- ham County animal control offi- cer responded to a RAP complaint after a deer that he hung in a yard since the middle of Novem- ber. When they arrived at the residence, they discovered the deer was found laying on the ground under a tree beside a house. The man living at the res- idence, as well as his son, were questioned. They admitted to having shot the deer on Novem- ber, and left the deer laying there without ever putting a tag on it. The deer was gutted, but the meat was wasted. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

COS Ben Shively, Kris Kid, and Mike Drexler conducted an inspection on a taxidermy shop in Oakland County. The inspection led to an illegal take of antlered deer, a subject taking an over-limit of antlered deer, an otter that had been taken during the closed sea- son, and committing other violations.

CO Ben Shively contacted a man and woman who had just set up six tips near an access site in the Thumb. When asked for their fishing licenses the woman stated that she was not fishing and the man stated that his license must be in his other wallet. CO Shively asked if all of the tip ups had his name and address on them. He stated that three did and the others did not because he just bought them. A check of the license system showed that the man did not have a license. Enforcement action was taken.

The subject was ticketed for fishing without a license and fined. More than three lines, the subject was given a ticket for fishing without a license. The subject was ticketed for fishing without a license and fined. More than three lines, the subject was given a ticket for fishing without a license. The subject was ticketed for fishing without a license and fined. More than three lines, the subject was given a ticket for fishing without a license.
**Final Shot**

There’s an old bluegrass song that contains the line, “I found her little footprints in the snow.” The song is talking about a young child, but—with a stretch of the imagination—the lyrics might just as well apply to wild animals. If you’re feeling cooped up this winter, try taking a walk outside and become what Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials and outdoor educators call “a nature detective.”

Looking for signs of animal activity—such as footprints—can be fun all year-round, but it is especially rewarding in the winter. All you have to do is bundle up, head outside and look for animal tracks, then follow them to see where they lead.

You might learn where an animal is spending the winter months, or perhaps the trail will take you for a long, scenic walk through forests and fields. Deer, rabbits, squirrels and fox are just a few of the critters whose tracks you may come across if you venture out in the snow. You can learn a lot about wildlife in your own backyard, or favorite hiking spot, DNR officials said.

Before you go out, however, you might want to gather some useful supplies—such as a field guide, notebook, pencil, ruler and camera—which will help you identify the tracks you see.

“The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has tried to facilitate such interactions with a series of Valentine ‘Mitten Mixers’ at state parks and recreation areas. The events—scheduled for Feb. 14-17 at various locations—have been geared to help singles make connections with like-minded individuals. ‘Whether you want to meet new people, or simply enjoy a different kind of ‘date night,’ our Mitten Mixer lineup has something for just about everyone,’” said Maia Stephens, recreation programmer in the DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division.

From snowshoeing at Cadillac’s Mitchell State Park to stargazing at Emmet County’s Wilderness State Park to ice-skating at Muskegon State Park, several fun and healthy activities are being offered. Even if you’ve missed these opportunities, the DNR plans a number of family and couple-friendly events each winter, Stephens said.

“For just eleven dollars, you can get the Michigan Recreation Passport, which gives you access to every state park and recreation area in Michigan,” she said. “With the passport, your outdoor playground just got a whole lot bigger.”

Stephens said love of the great outdoors can bring people together and provide common ground for them to establish and nurture relationships—family or otherwise.

“Try something different, meet new people and surprise yourself,” she said. “It’s time to learn or rediscover just how much fun a Michigan winter can be.”

For more details about Mitten Mixers on Valentine’s weekend and beyond—as well as other outdoor recreation programs—visit www.michigan.gov/stateparks.

—Michigan Department of Natural Resources

**Finding footprints in the snow**

Brrr...

*Thick ice covers a frozen water fountain near Shepler’s ferry dock in downtown Mackinaw City during a cold, cloudy and windy day in mid-January.*

**“Mitten Mixers” offer outdoor social networking**

You may enjoy huddling around a bright computer screen, but colder temperatures and snowy days are no reason to stay indoors this winter.

Especially if you’re looking for social networking opportunities, new relationships and friendships can be found outside—along with improved physical health, mental well-being and a stronger kinship with the natural world.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has tried to facilitate such interactions with a series of Valentine “Mitten Mixers” at state parks and recreation areas.

The events—scheduled for Feb. 14-17 at various locations—have been geared to help singles make connections with like-minded individuals.

“Whether you want to meet new people, or simply enjoy a different kind of ‘date night,’ our Mitten Mixer lineup has something for just about everyone,” said Maia Stephens, recreation programmer in the DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division.

From snowshoeing at Cadillac’s Mitchell State Park to stargazing at Emmet County’s Wilderness State Park to ice-skating at Muskegon State Park, several fun and healthy activities are being offered.

Even if you’ve missed these opportunities, the DNR plans a number of family and couple-friendly events each winter, Stephens said.

“For just eleven dollars, you can get the Michigan Recreation Passport, which gives you access to every state park and recreation area in Michigan,” she said. “With the passport, your outdoor playground just got a whole lot bigger.”

Stephens said love of the great outdoors can bring people together and provide common ground for them to establish and nurture relationships—family or otherwise.

“Try something different, meet new people and surprise yourself,” she said. “It’s time to learn or rediscover just how much fun a Michigan winter can be.”

For more details about Mitten Mixers on Valentine’s weekend and beyond—as well as other outdoor recreation programs—visit www.michigan.gov/stateparks.

—Michigan Department of Natural Resources

**Electronics subscriptions:**

$35 per year, or $60 for two years

**Print subscriptions:**

$55 per year, or $85 for two years

Details at www.mynorthwoodscall.com

**Caps & T-Shirts**

$15 each, plus $3 shipping

Order online and view sizes/colors at: www.mynorthwoodscall.com

Or send a check or money order to:
The North Woods Call, 5411 East DE Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004

**Order online and view sizes/colors at:**

www.mynorthwoodscall.com