The National Park Service has approved Michigan's new Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, opening the door for federal funding to acquire and develop outdoor recreation resources.

State officials and their local outdoor recreation partners use the plan to guide decisions on outdoor recreation management and policy. The updated version was developed with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with public input—and aims to leverage the state’s diverse and abundant natural resources “to meet relaxation and health needs, as well as the economic development needs of Michigan and local communities,” according to the DNR.

“The plan provides strategic direction about how to make the most of our state’s outdoor recreation opportunities,” said DNR Director Keith Cregagh.

The information helps us understand trends, needs and emerging issues that affect outdoor recreation.”

To be eligible for support from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, states must prepare a State Outdoor Recreation Plan, which must be updated every five years.

The 2013-2017 plan focuses on improving collaboration between outdoor recreation providers, ensuring the maintenance and improvement of outdoor recreation facilities; the enhancement of access to recreation opportunities; the integration of outdoor recreation with the development and marketing of outdoor recreation opportunities; and the protection of both natural and cultural resources.

The final plan can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/dnr.grants.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Public meetings are scheduled across Michigan this spring to discuss new or proposed local and statewide fishing regulations. Local fisheries management and regulation proposals will be covered, as well as modifications to northern pike and muskellunge regulations that were adopted for the 2013 fishing season and take effect April 1. For more information about the meeting times and locations, visit www.michigan.gov/Fishing.

DAM REMOVAL ACTIVITY: In addition to Brown Bridge Dam on the Manistee River (see page 3), a number of other northern Michigan dam projects that have been dam removal activity have already been removed during the past several years in an effort to restore rivers and tributaries to their natural flow. Among thee—on the Manistee River, the Wheelers Dam on the Boardman River, the Hatchery Dam on the Boardman River, the Hatchery Dam on the Boardman River, and the Memorial Dam on the Boardman River—are expected to be completed in the near future.

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION PRIORITIES: The Great Lakes Commission recommends the federal government to include sustaining progress under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, passing comprehensive legislation to strengthen Great Lakes conservation efforts, strengthening protections against Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species, addressing the low-water crisis facing commercial navigation and recreational harbors, helping communities upgrade aging water infrastructure and reauthorizing the Farm Bill with strong conservation provisions.

WOLF MEETINGS: Two more information meetings about wolf management and a possible future wolf hunting season will be held during late March. One will be March 19 at the Wisconsin Street School, 1606 South Wisconsin in Gaylord and the other will be March 21 at the Lansing Center, Room 201, 333 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing. Attendees are invited to participate in a survey about wolf hunting as a management tool in Michigan and the public input will help the DNR’s Wildlife Division to develop its recommendations to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Commission, which is expected to be made no later than June.

Additional meetings on this topic may also be scheduled.

BATTLE GOES TO HOUSE; DNR remains “neutral”

By now, you may have heard that the Republican-controlled Michigan Senate on March 5 passed what has been called “the anti-biodiversity bill” along party lines. The legislation was moved forward despite outcries from several concerned citizens, including conservationists, members of environmental organizations and experts who say the legislation ignores good science and the need for sustainability.

It is now up to the Michigan House of Representatives to halt this push to redefine conservation in the state, and limit the ability of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to protect natural resources and wildlife.

Opponents of the legislation have already begun to reach out to members of the House Natural Resources Committee—where the bill currently resides—and are encouraging citizens to contact their state representatives and the governor to voice their concerns.

If passed by the House and signed into law, the legislation would reportedly prevent DNR from acting under the Endangered Species Act and a variety of other laws to promote and restore biodiversity on public lands.

One northern Michigan conservation organization, Anglers of the AuSable, has called this “a brazen attempt to turn back the clock to a century of unfettered industry use” of state forests.

Jack Schmitt, political director at the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, said the legislation jeopardizes nearly $22 million in federal funding for forest management and puts Michigan’s sustainable forestry certificates on 3.9 million acres at risk.

“It makes it harder to ensure our forests, native plants and wildlife will be here for future generations,” Schmitt wrote in his “Political Week In Review” blog.

According to the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), biodiversity is needed for sound natural resources management. It provides for healthy forests and habitat, and creates unique ecosystems that make Michigan the natural resources envy of the nation, MUCC officials said.

Supporters of the legislation, meanwhile, say that the purpose is not to write biodiversity out of the state law, but simply prevent the implementation of the DNR’s Biodiversity Stewardship Area program, which they claim severely limits, or precludes human activity on the land.

“We are not falling,” said Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba)—a sponsor of the bill—in a recent interview with the Escanaba Daily Press. “(The legislation) ensures that balance is re-establishing between the conservation of biodiversity and the wise use of the natural resources, by preventing bureaucratic-minded people from precluding human activity on hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private land.”

A DNR spokesman, meanwhile, said the agency remains “neutral” on the matter.

“Biodiversity is an important part of ecosystem management, acknowledged Ed Gelder, the DNR’s public information officer, but “we don’t believe the bill as it currently stands prohibits managing state lands for biodiversity. In stead, it prohibits designating particular areas as biodiversity preserves through administrative rule or order.”

“We currently believe we can continue to accomplish the state’s goals within the current boundaries of this legislation,” Goldner said. “We’ll be watching the bill closely as it moves through the legislative process.”

One northern Michigan conservation organization, Anglers of the AuSable, has called this “a brazen attempt to turn back the clock to a century of unfettered industry use” of state forests. Jack Schmitt, political director at the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, said the legislation jeopardizes nearly $22 million in federal funding for forest management and puts Michigan’s sustainable forestry certificates on 3.9 million acres at risk. “It makes it harder to ensure our forests, native plants and wildlife will be here for future generations,” Schmitt wrote in his “Political Week In Review” blog.

According to the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), biodiversity is needed for sound natural resources management. It provides for healthy forests and habitat, and creates unique ecosystems that make Michigan the natural resources envy of the nation, MUCC officials said.

Supporters of the legislation, meanwhile, say that the purpose is not to write biodiversity out of the state law, but simply prevent the implementation of the DNR’s Biodiversity Stewardship Area program, which they claim severely limits, or precludes human activity on the land. “We are not falling,” said Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba)—a sponsor of the bill—in a recent interview with the Escanaba Daily Press. “(The legislation) ensures that balance is re-establishing between the conservation of biodiversity and the wise use of the natural resources, by preventing bureaucratic-minded people from precluding human activity on hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private land.”

A DNR spokesman, meanwhile, said the agency remains “neutral” on the matter. “Biodiversity is an important part of ecosystem management, acknowledged Ed Gelder, the DNR’s public information officer, but “we don’t believe the bill as it currently stands prohibits managing state lands for biodiversity. In stead, it prohibits designating particular areas as biodiversity preserves through administrative rule or order.”

“We currently believe we can continue to accomplish the state’s goals within the current boundaries of this legislation,” Goldner said. “We’ll be watching the bill closely as it moves through the legislative process.”

One northern Michigan conservation organization, Anglers of the AuSable, has called this “a brazen attempt to turn back the clock to a century of unfettered industry use” of state forests. Jack Schmitt, political director at the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, said the legislation jeopardizes nearly $22 million in federal funding for forest management and puts Michigan’s sustainable forestry certificates on 3.9 million acres at risk. “It makes it harder to ensure our forests, native plants and wildlife will be here for future generations,” Schmitt wrote in his “Political Week In Review” blog.

According to the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), biodiversity is needed for sound natural resources management. It provides for healthy forests and habitat, and creates unique ecosystems that make Michigan the natural resources envy of the nation, MUCC officials said.

Supporters of the legislation, meanwhile, say that the purpose is not to write biodiversity out of the state law, but simply prevent the implementation of the DNR’s Biodiversity Stewardship Area program, which they claim severely limits, or precludes human activity on the land. “We are not falling,” said Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba)—a sponsor of the bill—in a recent interview with the Escanaba Daily Press. “(The legislation) ensures that balance is re-establishing between the conservation of biodiversity and the wise use of the natural resources, by preventing bureaucratic-minded people from precluding human activity on hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private land.”

A DNR spokesman, meanwhile, said the agency remains “neutral” on the matter. “Biodiversity is an important part of ecosystem management, acknowledged Ed Gelder, the DNR’s public information officer, but “we don’t believe the bill as it currently stands prohibits managing state lands for biodiversity. In stead, it prohibits designating particular areas as biodiversity preserves through administrative rule or order.”

“We currently believe we can continue to accomplish the state’s goals within the current boundaries of this legislation,” Goldner said. “We’ll be watching the bill closely as it moves through the legislative process.”
(Continued from Page 1)

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: The next Michigan Natural Resources Commission meeting will be held April 11 at Sagi-
naw Field & Stream Conservation Club, 1296 North Gleen Road, Sag-
igan. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. and conclude at 7 p.m. The
Commission will be hearing public testimony on and discuss the
offices of the Michigan Land Use Planning Board and the Michi-
gan Housing Development Finance Authority.

PIGEON & STURGEON RIVERS: Gaylord-based Huron Pines has
launched a campaign to harvest funding from the National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation and other local partners to advance conservation efforts in the Pigeon and Sturgeon rivers. Several watershed efforts on the project-grounds are planned and a partnership network is being developed for long-term wa
tershed protection. The two rivers were heavily logged in the latter part
of the 19th Century, severely scarring the land. Healing has occurred over
time with the help of natural resource management, and the rivers
again boast of their native habitat and cold-water productivity and cold-
rolling land-escapes that need to be protected for future generations.

STREAM MONITORING: The Michigan Clean Water Corps, a
network of volunteer monitoring programs in Michigan, has announced
$35,000 in grants available for local stream monitoring initiatives.
Local units of government and nonprofit organizations are eligible to
receive funding. Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. April 1. For in-
formation, visit www.micorps.net. Questions about the grant application
process should be directed to Dr. Paul Steen at the Huron River Water-
shed Council, (734) 769-5123.

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR HONORED: Maureen Stine, a con-
nective member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural
Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Michigan, has been named
one of five Outstanding Educators by Project Learning Tree, the na-
tional environmental education program of the American Forest Foun-
dation. Stine works at the NRCS Onaway field office.

HUNTER EDUCATION: Michigan residents who need to com-
plete a hunter education course should enroll this spring. All classes
are held year-round, they are more than plentiful in April, May,
August and September, according to the Michigan Department of Natural
Resources. For information about traditional classroom, home study
and online classes, visit www.michigan.gov/huntereduction.

DIVERSITY SOUGHT IN SE MICHIGAN: The NRCS is seeking
to expand the pool of hunter education instructors in southeast Michi-
gan, with a focus on recruiting more women and people of color. If
you’re interested in this opportunity, contact Peggy Ruby at riveris-
dale@nrcrecruiting.com or call her at 405-512-3570.

GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS: A new cross-border organi-
zation is federalizing urgent, state and provincial government authorities
to act immediately to solve the crisis of low water levels in Lakes Michigan
and Huron. The NRCS in Michigan, including the Georgian Bay, Rest Our Water
International Inc. is demanding that governments address the economic and
ecological impacts of record-breaking low-water levels, which the or-
ganization says is caused by a human activity. Restore Our Water is an alliance of
Canadian and American organizations concerned about this problem, said Roger Gauthier, a retired U.S. Army Corps of Engi-
neers hydrologist and chairman of the group.

MICHIGAN FISHING GUIDE: Don’t forget to pick up your
copy of the 2013 Michigan Fishing Guide, now available at any location
where fishing licenses are sold. It includes rules and regulations effec-
tive from April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. This year’s edition appears
in a smaller physical size on higher-quality paper and an easier-
to-read font size.

PURE MICHIGAN HUNT: Hunters may now apply for the 2014
Pure Michigan Hunt drawing. Applications can be purchased in unlimited
quantities for $4 each wherever licenses are sold, or online at
www.mnrd-elicense.com. Prizes vary somewhat from year-to-year, but
the hunting licenses the winners receive stay the same. Past winners have
taken home rifles, shotguns, crossbows, pop-up blinds, full cam-
ouflage clothing packages, guided hunts and much more.

BE A LIGHTKEEPER: Ever wonder what it would be like to be a lighthouse keeper? The LRNC is accepting applications to live out via a
program that allows volunteers to live in the restored keepers house at Tawas Point on Lake Huron for periods of one or two weeks. Openings began in early March
and run into early December. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, agree to live communally. On August 8, the commission will make
decisions about their stay. Oh, and there’s a $225 per person fee each week.

O.B Eustis Award goes to Thomas Buhr of Luzerne

Dr. Thomas Buhr of Luzerne, a member of the Anglers of the Au-
Sable Board of Directors, recently received the 2013 O.B. Eustis Award for his conservation work. The award—one of two pre-
tioned during February at the annual meeting in Gaylord—is given to individuals, organizations, or businesses that display an “exceptional enthusiasm for pro-
defending Michigan’s natural res-

Our 60th Year: Looking Back to March 24, 1954

by Marguerite Gahagan

The rustle of spring in the north woods should not be missed.
Nor should Mother Goose have not used up her feathers for
the season and one can expect flurrys of snow in the north
country for a full month. But a bright sun’s warning rains are melt-
ing snow banks and bringing out large bare spots of earth covered
with blooming partridge berry, wintergreen and the fragrant trailing ar-
butes.
Trost season is coming up and fishermen are awaiting word that
the brown have started moving.
Wisecabin owners are drifting in increasing numbers to check
on the toll winter took on roofs, caves, windows and chimneys—but
not to mention the work frequently chalked up by visiting small woods
chippers. Chipmunks, mice and flying squirrels have been known to
provide distant cabin owners with distinctive welcomes.
The knowing north country enthusiast can almost always find a
good excuse to head for the woods and get needed cabin clean-up,
sit-up, paint work out of the way early enough so that—when the
spots do open—precious weekend time won’t have to be spent
working at repairs.
In the spring visitors come in to test out the first rustles of
spring—maple sugar time in the sugar bush, the first gathering of
noisy crows, the fascinating pleasures of spring bird watching, and
checking on the swelling buds of pussy willows and Juneberry bushes.
In the soft melting snow, the awakening woods creatures leave
their marks as proof that the time for sleep is over and the time for
doing up the place.
Good roads, good cars and better-built cabins make it possible
today for the “down belower”—marking off the calendar days until
spring—to rush the season as he couldn’t a few years ago.
In the spring, turn your eye to the north country cousins in
Michigan and Huron, including the Georgian Bay. Restore Our Water
organization is urging federal, state and provincial government authorities to
act immediately to solve the crisis of low water levels in Lakes Michi-
gen and Sturgeon river watersheds. Several on-the-ground projects are
being planned and implemented by the Michigan DNR, with a focus on recruiting more women and people of color. If
you’re interested in this opportunity, contact Peggy Ruby at riveris-
dale@nrcrecruiting.com or call her at 405-512-3570.

Ribbet, ribbet: Spring frogs and toads

With springtime just around the corner, we’ll soon be hearing the
sounds of Michigan’s 13 distinctive species of frogs and toads.
Each species can be identified by its characteristic call—not only for
the purpose of attracting males, but to warn other males of their presence
and not to enter their territory.
Frogs and toads are a group of amphibians called anu-
rans, which means “without a tail.” Frogs have smoother skin, longer
legs and spend more time in the water than toads. Toads generally take
shorter swims, their frogs may leap several feet in a single jump.
Amphibians are excellent indicators of environmental problems, ac-
cording to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, be-
cause of their direct contact with gases and liquids in the air, water, mud
and soil. Their reactions can be a good measure of what is happening
in their environments.
A worldwide decline of amphibians—including frogs and toads—has
been documented since the 1970s. Although scientists have not dis-
covered a positive reason for the decline, many theories have been of-
ered. These include: the development of pesticides, commercial
pesticide trade and pollution all could be factors contributing to this phenomenon.
Both frogs and toads require water for at least part of their life cycle.
Both male and female, frogs and toads may visit the water to lay their
eggs and toads begin calling for mates from their wetland breeding sites.
In the spring of 1996, the DNR launched a frog and toad monitoring
program—under way soon—to help track population numbers.

Wanted

Display Ad Sales

We’re seeking self-motivated and creative-minded individuals who
want to sell display advertisement for a percentage commission.
Advertises

Reach your target customers with a North Woods Call advertise-
ment. Rates available on request.
Inquire at editor@mynorthwoodscall.com

Help compile The North Woods Call history

If you have stories to share about former publishers
Marguerite Gahagan and Glen Sheppard, or photos
Received information about the newspaper and its role in
Michigan conservation history, please contact us at:
editor@mynorthwoodscall.com

Also follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Blogger

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

THE NORTH WOODS CALL
they say you can’t fight city hall, but don’t believe it.

Grand Haven’s Norm Spring— a local ninth-grade speech teacher and school counselor—stood up and fought hard, to the everlasting benefit of Michigan residents, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, ospreys and other living things.

In the late 1960s when Spring and his family lived across the street from a city park, where elm trees were being sprayed with DDT to fight Dutch elm disease. They witnessed the devastating effects of the long-lasting pesticide when robins that fed upon earthworms began trembling and died before their eyes.

“It was pretty obvious it was lethal,” said Spring, now 80-years-old and still living in Grand Haven.

Nearby Lake Michigan was also being impacted, the family noticed, as small and large fish—as well as the American bald eagle that feeds upon them—began to show the effects of DDT.

Young eagles, peregrine falcons and ospreys didn’t hatch because the pesticide caused their egg shells to break before they could emerge naturally, according to Spring’s wife, Barbara, who at the time was reading Rachel Car- son’s groundbreaking book “Silent Spring” and shared it with her husband.

“His reaction was visceral,” she said. “He had to do some- thing about it.”

“I read the book and it got me excited,” Spring said. “I was concerned about our kids, as well.”

Spring—a Korean War veteran and graduate of Michigan State University (MSU)—marched down to city hall and asked that the DDT program be suspended in the city park. When the program was not immediately halted, he brought experts in to explain to city officials why it should be.

The city council made the decisions with experts witnesses of their own from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and a great debate ensued for the next three years.

But Spring didn’t give up. “I retailed everything they said,” Spring recalled. “It was a con- stant battle.”

Eventually, he convinced the city to switch from DDT to methoxychlor, although he much preferred that they didn’t spray anything. They tried methoxy- chlor for a while, he said, before stopping the spraying altogether.

“No matter what they did, the trees kept dying,” Spring said.

Next, Spring and a contingent of people from nearby Holland carried the battle statewide by forming the Michigan Pesticides Council in early 1968. The group met at Michigan State University with several noted conservation- ists on board including Dr. Ted Black, Dr. George Wallace (of MSU), Dr. Howard Tanner (one- time director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources), Dr. John Keithly (then of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs), Joan Wolfe, Dr. H. Lewis Batts (of the Kalakazoo Nature Center and Michigan Audubon Society).

“Our primary purpose is to in- form the public of environmental contamination and ... encourage action to save and conserve the quality of our natural environ- ment,” Spring said at the time.

Most of the conservation orga- nizations in Michigan were members of the council, accord- ing to Spring. Together, council members steadily gained public support for their efforts to prevent the rapid rate of environmental deterioration, loss of wildlife and danger to human health caused by the mis- use of pesticides.

Within several months after the council was created, then-Gov. William G. Milliken established a pesticide review board and initiat- ed a five-state conference on pesticides.

“We are not opposed to pesti- cides,” Spring said in a letter to the governor congratulating him on the action, “but we are opposed to their misuse, aerial spraying, over-spraying and particularly the use of residual or hard pesticides which have caused our current problems by building up in our envi- ronment...”

By 1969, DDT was banned in Michigan—the first state to do so. And by 1972 it was banned across the United States.

“It took years for DDT to purge from Lake Michigan food chains,” said Barbara Spring, “but today we often see bald eagles along the beaches and the Grand River.”

On January 4, 2003, the Grand Haven Tribune reported 46 bald eagles on the ice and in the trees not far from U.S. 31. About one-third of these were mature ea- gles.

Spring retired from his teach- ing post in 1986. Prior to moving to Grand Haven, he had taught science to ninth graders in Michigan, and was a school counselor in Sebe- waing.

“A founding member of the Michigan Steelheaders Association and past president of the North Ottawa Rod and Gun Club, Spring was involved in several local conservation battles before and after the pesticide fight, and formed a local environmental group on the first Earth Day in 1970.

“Occasionally I still get in- volved, but not like I used to,” he said. “I’ve slowed down as I got older, although I still get around all right, and still hunt and fish.”

Spring and his wife have two daughters—Pam and Robin—and five grandchildren. He has often taken his grandson fishing and hunting, he said, and the boy— now in his first year of college—has a growing interest in conservation.

Barbara Spring said her hus- band’s tenacity in fighting the pes- ticide “is pretty amazing” and that he had written his own book, “The Dynamic Great Lakes,” because she wanted so many people that they have the power to make a difference through the democratic process.

“My wife says you can beat city hall if you’re persistent,” he said. “Somebody has to do it, but you have to put some energy into it—genius energy and concern.”

“She’s a great support system,” said Spring’s daughter Erin Brockovich (a noted envi- ronmental activist), but we were able to accomplish some things.

“There is always somebody who says, ‘They ought to do this or that,’ but the question I ask is, ‘Who’s they?’”

MCCU supports hunting and fishing license fee increases for Michigan

Officials of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MCCU) say that they’re “very much in support” of “a simpler, smarter license struc- ture system” and feel that Gov. Rick Snyder’s recent proposal pro- vides just that—even though it includes some fee hikes.

Sustainable funding for conservation is important, they said in an executive summary of their position that appears on the organization’s website, “as long as the funding is used appropriately and the expendi- tures are presented openly and clearly to the public.”

That reportedly wasn’t the case in 2007 when the Michigan Depart- ment of Natural Resources (DNR) “presented a doomsday scenario that would see massive cuts in programs and staffing in an attempt to in- crease license fees,” the executive summary says. In reality, the DNR had a significant budget surplus.

Was it an accounting error? A public misunderstanding? Or some- thing more cynical?

It probably doesn’t much matter at this point, except the process and end result did tremendous damage to the DNR’s relationship with those who supported a fee increase, as well as with hunting, fishing and trapping community.

“What happened cannot be changed,” the MCCU said. “What hap- pens next can be.”

Some work is still needed on the proposal to create a plan with which the MCCU is completely satisfied, they said, but the governor’s plan is worthy of support.

The MCCU didn’t get a fee increase since 1996 and the expectations of hunters, anglers and trappers have changed, according to the MCCU. More is demanded from the woods and water now than ever before, they said, so it’s “unreasonable to expect more without putting more in.”

State officials have outlined a number of areas where conservation funding would be spent—aimed at specific targeted outcomes. The MCCU has worked with the DNR and stakeholder groups to evaluate those plans and have suggested funding for additional adjustments. There has been good response to these requests, they said.

Perhaps most importantly, according to the MCCU, the governor’s proposal includes a five-year sunset which will allow for future changes if the results are not satisfactory.
Conservation Quote
"The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life."

Theodore Roosevelt

Wolves: The call of the wild

To hear Michigan Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) talk about Senate Bill 78, which would restrict the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from considering “biodiversity” when managing natural resources, it might sound reasonable.

The DNR, he says, makes a lot of recommendations related to SB 78 that would prevent legitimate uses of natural resources, or to keep the public from enjoying land that we collectively own, but simply to make sure the best decisions are made in protecting Michigan’s outdoor assets for this and future generations.

In the same way that we don’t want state officials ignoring public concerns in favor of special interests, we must prevent corporate entities, ATVS, and other often-damaging uses from running roughshod over the land, and threatening wild areas with unwar- ranted development and physical destruction.

We have seen both of these things occur over the years and there is no excuse for it. There will always be competing interests vying for certain limited resources, but we all have to be wise in choosing the path that benefits the most people over the long term.

The DNR is neutral on this bill, but we tend to agree with the organization’s position that it would make these decisions wisely, and doesn’t ignore the practical need for resources, or dismiss the voices of citizens who want to protect our natural heritage.

It seems like Michigan bureaucrats and elected representa- tives lack the management protections with a host of lopsided economic values in mind and we probably don’t need to tip the scales any further in that direction.

Michigan forest health report

If you’re concerned about the health of Michigan’s 19.3 million acres of forest land, you’ll want to look out for the state’s 2012 Forest Health Highights Report, which is the latest impact of pests, diseases, drought, invasives, fire, etc. and the DNR is doing to improve forest resources.

You can read a report reflecting a lot of good work.

Unfortunately, what isn’t discussed are the impacts of hydraulic fracturing, strip mining, and other controversial interests that also threaten the vitality of land, water and public health.

Which begs the question, “Why not?”

The North Woods Call

Michigan’s Conservation Sentinel

With support of the Michigan Woodlands Association

Published regularly by
Newfound Sounds Productions LLC
5411 East DE Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004

Phone: (269) 342-8724

E-mail: editor@mynorthwoodscall.com

Website: mynorthwoodscall.com

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

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

Address changes: Please send $2 to cover costs.

Editor & Publisher: Mike VanBuren

Publishers Emeritus: Margarete Gebhart, Glen and Mary Lou Sheppard

Advertising rates upon request.

Opinion Page

“Child no left inside”

The outdoor adventures of “Tom and Huck”

The coming of spring always brings back memories of growing up in rural Michigan when roaming the acres of wild woods and wetlands was relatively safe and uninhibited.

My friends and I were free to do most anything we wanted in the Great Outdoors, as long as it was legal and we were home by suppertime.

It was a time — in our lives, at least — when it didn’t take government programs and environmental decisions that “no child was left inside.” That was the last place any self-respecting kid wanted to be.

Richard Louv’s 2005 book, “Last Child In The Woods,” was decades away from being pub- lished and nobody in our orbit gave much thought as to where we would spend our days. It was simply assumed that we would be outside, away from the concrete jungles and generally burning off the youthful energy that many of us wish we still had today.

Social isolation is one of my friends often referred to her son and we as “Tom and Huck,” reminisc- ent of the adventures Mark Twain described in his novels Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. We even tried to build rafts, as I recall, to float down tiny Spring Brook after the spring rains came.

Those were the days when par- ents didn’t have to worry so much about where their children went, murdered or otherwise harmed by criminal weirdos with ill-intent, although we were routinely warned to be wary of strangers before we headed out of the house.

Truth be told, the entire neigh- borhood kept watchful eyes and ears on us, and news of any mis- deeds or trouble was likely to reach the adults promptly.

It was a time when it didn’t seem we locked our house — unless the fam- ily expected to be gone for several days. Our keys were always left in the car and our garage door was seldom closed, day or night, from March through Octo- ber.

And nothing ever came up missing.

In short, it was a glorious era to be growing up in the wide- spread lawlessness, violence and general disregard for the rights of others metastasized and became the cancer on our society that it is today.

No child that I knew needed to be coerced and shel- tered within the walls of a pro- tected home or day-care facility.

So we roamed pretty much at will — camping, fishing, hunting, swimming, biking, wrestling, playing ball, building forts, catch- ing frogs and exploring our world — from the time the mor- nings were cool enough until the days darkened, night fell and we dragged our weary bodies up the stairs to bed.

The benefits were obvious. We strengthened our muscles, tested our endurance and got more exercis- e in one day than most children addicted to television, computers and electronic games get in a month — or more.

Even our most inactive mo- ments (every kid needs to rest from time-to-time) still involved much social interaction with friends and neighbors — playing croquet on the front lawn, participat- ing in marathons front porch games. In fact, “playing croquet” was a new term to me.

In the end, we’re all doomed by the political debate has been polariz- ing. Critics claim such legislation will only be used to spread a political agenda to children. Supporters insist that there are phthalate-free products and chemicals in- cluding environmental education in elementary and secondary schools.

But what about the criticisms of this bill? The legislative epidemic of a savage, ruthless killer—which is, in reality, no more a reflected image of ourselves.

Biodiversity and the law

To hear Michigan Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) talk about Senate Bill 78, which would restrict the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from considering “biodiversity” when managing natural resources, it might sound reasonable.

The DNR, he says, makes a lot of recommendations related to SB 78 that would prevent legitimate uses of natural resources, or to keep the public from enjoying land that we collectively own, but simply to make sure the best decisions are made in protecting Michigan’s outdoor assets for this and future generations.

In the same way that we don’t want state officials ignoring pub- lic concerns in favor of special interests, we must prevent corpo- rate entities, ATVS, and other often-damaging uses from running roughshod over the land, and threatening wild areas with unwar- ranted development and physical destruction.

We have seen both of these things occur over the years and there is no excuse for it. There will always be competing interests vying for limited resources, but we all have to be wise in choosing the path that benefits the most people over the long term.

The DNR is neutral on this bill, but we tend to agree with the organization’s position that it would make these decisions wisely, and doesn’t ignore the practical need for resources, or dismiss the voices of citizens who want to protect our natural heritage.

It seems like Michigan bureaucrats and elected representa- tives lack the management protections with a host of lopsided economic values in mind and we probably don’t need to tip the scales any further in that direction.

(See the eloquent case against SB 78 outlined by Dr. John Richter on Page 5 of this edition.)
**Biodiversity matters: A solid case for rejecting “anti-biodiversity” bill**

By Dr. John W. Richter

Editor: I am so grateful The Call is up-and-running again. This important voice has been sorely missing.

It might just be coincidence, but it seems like our state’s legislature regarding natural resources is showing the same irreverent disregard for being completely haywire since Shap’s been gone. We need this forum like never before.

Thank you.

Another letter I hope to share with whomever I can. I hope you can find a place for it.

---

Friday, February 22nd, 2013, marks one of the darkest days in Michigan’s natural history. That was the day Michigan’s Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes quietly passed Senate Bill (SB) 78, which specifically removes “Bio-diversity” from the long-held stated goals and policies by which our state has managed our public-owned natural resources. If SB 78 becomes law, all of our state’s biodiversity, species of animal, or environmental quality be considered, or stand in the way of logging, mining, or drilling for oil and gas in our state forests.

Tragically, too few people recognize the significance or implications of this act.

The concept of “biodiversity” is the pillar upon which our state’s public land protection is built. Modern science has determined that one of the best ways to measure the environmental health and quality of life is the diversity of plant and animal species within a given community. Biodiversity also confers biological integrity, which means that all the necessary components to sustain life and promote ecological health are present and viable.

Managing our state forests to include biodiversity requires that we recognize and respect the elements that provide for the rich, balanced and diverse plant and animal communities upon which we all depend. It also requires that we avoid those things that fragment, pollute and destroy that delicate balance.

Following the travesties of the logging era, the citizens of Michigan and their representatives enacted a series of laws and policies by which our public lands would never happen again. They had witnessed, first hand, the wholesale destruction of Michigan’s virgin forests, extinction of animal species, and soil erosion. Rivers and streams clearly etched in their minds was the wasteful result of unfettered exploitation of our shared natural resources. The result of this unfettered exploitation was: to forever prevent such large-scale deforestation and degradation, protect our natural heritage for the public Trust through the conservation and management of our public lands has been largely successful. For many years, Michigan was considered a world leader for fostering the reforestation of our vast public lands. Michigan’s forests have regrown to become viable forest systems with valuable timber. They have also been used to protect public health and vital species as was hoped for and intended.

As a result, the waters of our streams and rivers run cleaner and faster. This renovation has also provided a vast diversity of opportunities and uses that people like who fish, hunt, canoe, bike, lake, birdwatch, snow-mobile, ORV, or just want to get outside. It also provides for the responsible, sustainable harvest of high-quality timber and the extraction of minerals. This was made possible by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources management goal that kept the forest ecosystem healthy and vibrant. Now, times have changed. Our re-born forests are seen as a commodity, open to the highest bidder. Our public lands have been leased for oil and gas extraction at unprecedented rates. The new, revised, State Forest Management Guidelines do not allow the industry to log a forest squarely on logging with few spots spared. There are no provisions for “old-growth designation” or “natural areas.” Our pristine natural resources are being stripped, degraded and permanently disposed of in alarming volumes. The oil and gas industry has found ways to connect the vast reserves of natural gas buried deep beneath our public lands through a process called horizontal hydraulic fracturing. These destructive and industrial-scale operations fragment, pollute and destroy natural habitats and ecosystems. They are not compatible with the principles or goals of biodiversity. In order for these exploitations to proceed, biodiversity must be removed as a management goal. SB 78 changes the balance.

Governor Snyder heralded the advent of these ventures when he proclaimed that Michigan will lead the nation in biomass of its recession. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has enabled these industries by leasing millions of acres of state land for oil and gas extraction. The new State Forest Management Guidelines focus squarely on timber harvest and leave few places unscathed. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality refuses to regulate the fracturing and allows the toxic contamination of tens of millions of gallons of fresh potable groundwater.

Nowhere through the course of these events was a public hearing held. No one was engaged, or properly informed, by our state’s officials. Instead, these decisions have been made quickly in closed rooms—as witnessed by the passage of SB 78—or crammed through during a lame duck legislative blockbuster. The groundwater has been laid for the commercialization of our public assets.

I urge all who read this letter to look into this issues seriously and soon. Sadly, I fear that the general public is too overwhelmed and worn out to put up much of a fight. The industries have mounted and sustained a massive and very effective public relations campaign filled with marvelous half-truths. It’s no wonder that people are confused and struggling just to make ends meet. Jobs and conservation are stressed and even enemies. However, we have not been informed of the short- and long-term costs associated with these decisions.

Removing biodiversity as a goal and management tool of our public lands will open the flood gates of industrialization and pollution of our most special places. The scars these industries will leave will never be undone, and they have the potential to pollute our beautiful Great Lakes State forever.

Are we willing to sacrifice our quality of life and that of future generations for a short-term profit most of us will never see? SB 78 is shameful. Restore, protect and sustain biodiversity.

---

**Viewpoint**

**Hydraulic fracturing: What’s happening in “pure” northern Michigan?**

By Anne Zukowski

State Excecltor, Auditor of State (and 2011-2013) within the Mackinaw State Forest in Kalkaska County. This area of forest—previously used by hunters, fishermen, snowmobilers, skiers and hikers—is now surrounded by “No Trespassing” signs and the1300 people were clear-cut to accommodate well pads, open storage pits and roads. Truck traffic and noise are constant. This is becoming a common sight in our state forests.

Encana Corporation, owner of this particular well, holds the dubious distinction of using and contaminating the Mackinaw Bridge and on a mile of Lake Huron shore—located three miles from Tahquamenon Falls on DontFrackMichigan.org.”

By those heroes who fought and struggled to obtain Michigan’s virgin forests, extinction of animal species, and soil erosion. Rivers and streams clearly etched in their minds was the wasteful result of unfettered exploitation of our shared natural resources. The result of this unfettered exploitation was: to forever prevent such large-scale deforestation and degradation, protect our natural heritage for the public Trust through the conservation and management of our public lands. Michigan’s forests have regrown to become viable forest systems with valuable timber. They have also been used to protect public health and vital species as was hoped for and intended.

As a result, the waters of our streams and rivers run cleaner and faster. This renovation has also provided a vast diversity of opportunities and uses that people like who fish, hunt, canoe, bike, lake, birdwatch, snow-mobile, ORV, or just want to get outside. It also provides for the responsible, sustainable harvest of high-quality timber and the extraction of minerals. This was made possible by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources management goal that kept the forest ecosystem healthy and vibrant. Now, times have changed. Our re-born forests are seen as a commodity, open to the highest bidder. Our public lands have been leased for oil and gas extraction at unprecedented rates. The new, revised, State Forest Management Guidelines do not allow the industry to log a forest squarely on logging with few spots spared. There are no provisions for “old-growth designation” or “natural areas.” Our pristine natural resources are being stripped, degraded and permanently disposed of in alarming volumes. The oil and gas industry has found ways to connect the vast reserves of natural gas buried deep beneath our public lands through a process called horizontal hydraulic fracturing. These destructive and industrial-scale operations fragment, pollute and destroy natural habitats and ecosystems. They are not compatible with the principles or goals of biodiversity. In order for these exploitations to proceed, biodiversity must be removed as a management goal. SB 78 changes the balance.

Governor Snyder heralded the advent of these ventures when he proclaimed that Michigan will lead the nation in biomass of its recession. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has enabled these industries by leasing millions of acres of state land for oil and gas extraction. The new State Forest Management Guidelines focus squarely on timber harvest and leave few places unscathed. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality refuses to regulate the fracturing and allows the toxic contamination of tens of millions of gallons of fresh potable groundwater.

Nowhere through the course of these events was a public hearing held. No one was engaged, or properly informed, by our state’s officials. Instead, these decisions have been made quickly in closed rooms—as witnessed by the passage of SB 78—or crammed through during a lame duck legislative blockbuster. The groundwater has been laid for the commercialization of our public assets.

I urge all who read this letter to look into this issues seriously and soon. Sadly, I fear that the general public is too overwhelmed and worn out to put up much of a fight. The industries have mounted and sustained a massive and very effective public relations campaign filled with marvelous half-truths. It’s no wonder that people are confused and struggling just to make ends meet. Jobs and conservation are stressed and even enemies. However, we have not been informed of the short- and long-term costs associated with these decisions.

Removing biodiversity as a goal and management tool of our public lands will open the flood gates of industrialization and pollution of our most special places. The scars these industries will leave will never be undone, and they have the potential to pollute our beautiful Great Lakes State forever.

Are we willing to sacrifice our quality of life and that of future generations for a short-term profit most of us will never see? SB 78 is shameful. Restore, protect and sustain biodiversity.

---

Dr. John Richter is president of the East Jordan, Michigan-based Friends of the Jordan River Watershed Inc.
39 bottles of wine by the road... There's an otherwise scenic country road near my home that holds great promise for aficionados of cheap wine. And not just any wine, but Arbor Mist. While I've never drank the stuff, I know now much. It costs around four dollars a bottle, rarely shatters on impact and comes in 12 tenderly-flavored varieties that actually smell like Kool Aid.

No there's no reason to feel morally superior because your buzz comes from a $20 bottle of Merlot with a genuine cork instead of a screw cap. Besides, when times are hard, there's a legitimate need for some sedative. And I've got a little low dose and Michigan might even achieve positive population growth.

My problem concerns the containing all that cheap happy comes in. If this year is anything like the last, we can expect a shiny harvest once the March rains melt the last roadside snowdrifts. On a walk with my wife and two daughters last spring, we picked up 39 empty Arbor Mist bottles—39!—that lay scattered along a two-mile stretch of road.

We'd brought along two empty trash bags, but they got so heavy and foul-smelling that we had to bring a car back and get them later. After some initial grumbling, the kids even made a game of it. They'd chant "Arbor Mist, Arbor Mist, Arbor Mist!" until they found another dead soldier—about every 200 feet or so. They also kept track of the most popular varieties.

Like a truck stop sommelier, my 9-year-old daughter's vocabulary now includes the terms Exotic Fruit and Sangria Zinfandel (which won hands down). Although I'm afraid the moldy drapes she found inside the bottles may make her swear off fermented beverages forever.

We also talked about the sad truth behind all this dismal litter. These weren't just piles of litter—sloppy kiss souvenirs from a summer of country love. Not when there's 39 bottles worth.

No, this was likely the regular route of a solitary drunk; his via dolorosa, his highway to perdition. He or she probably left a great mess—adobe and once you've been lured this far down the road, literally and figuratively, there's no pleasure in it. The party's long since been over. It's just drink, drive, toss out the window and repeat as necessary.

Even my newfound interest in redeemable rubbish. I decided to see which local convenience stores were purveyors of such rotgut. It didn't take much detective work: they all were. Free enterprise at work? Oh yes. Liquor companies will gladly target the market demographics of the opioid epidemic. While the wine bottles carried government warning labels that spoke to immediate risk—"don't drive a car (ha!) or operate machinery"—they were silent on the threats of ruined lives, families and finances.

Still, the roadside cleanup up made for good physical and civic exercise. Apart from infrequently picking up their rooms—which have a gross-out factor just a few notches below a fire Arbor Mist bottle—I don't recall that we'd ever asked our kids to clean up someone else's mess.

It was, as they first pointed out, exceedingly unfair. But soon enough they'll be too old to be clean up mentally longer messes that were, like wise, not of their making: trillions in ill-spent government debt; two or three unfinished wars; the occasional oil spill and nuclear catastrophe.

And should they choose the vocation of parenthood, 'll be the "dead guys" inside a few years' worth of loading dock. Sooner or later they may even have a similarly attendant Dad to attend (or Attend®), as the case may be.

I've noticed that the louder kids squawk about a swinehike or one-on-one time, the more likely they'll have the memory afterward. That certainly proved true here. After their parent-mandated community service, the girls were proud and even a bit self-righteous about what we'd done.

Dying quietly in your sleep in a comfortable and familiar place doesn't seem too bad, upon reflection. Still, death always shocks people, even when it involves only a pet. My check meats unexpectedly damp as I picked up my furry buddy for the last time. He wasn't sorry.

There was a red sled leaning in a corner of the barn. One of our daughter's old toys—now used to haul bags of sand and gravel around the farm. It was pulled away from the door. It's been a small prayer. More water on the face, this time requiring a bandana.

The emptied red sled gilded easily back to our barn along the trail we'd just made. The wind had dropped to a breeze, fresh out of the west. Clouds were thinning. Rays of sunlight were spilling through to the forecast in a place.

I covered him with a bower of branches to (temporarily) ward scavengers, then stood quietly by to say a small prayer. More water on the face, time this time requiring a bandana.

I hoped Big Boy was enjoying the beauty of that sky.
Unlicensed taxidermy, reckless snowmobiling & illegal trapping reported

District 1

COs Mark Leadman and Ryan Aho assisted the Upper Peninsula law enforcement drug team with the execution of a search warrant in the Marquette area.

ANOTE TO READERS: These are brief excerpts from the CO’s bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded some routine data and information 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.

COs Matt Liestenfeltz and Mike Evink assisted with the execution of a warrant for a residence in the Michigan border area. After the warrant was served, two suspects fled when the officer acted on his hunch and ordered them to the ground. Both suspects were arrested and charged with armed home invasion 
immediate doing. "Nothing" this person was un- able to produce a small game li- cense to possess this invisible wildlife. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

Note: This is an archieve of excerpts from the CO’s bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded some routine data and information 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.

COs Mark Leadman and Ryan Aho assisted the Upper Peninsula law enforcement drug team with the execution of a search warrant in the Marquette area.

A NOTE TO READERS: These are brief excerpts from the CO’s bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded some routine data and information 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 2

CO Mike Evink assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells issued a ticket for reckless snowmobiling & illegal trapping reported.

Evidence of operating an unlicensed taxidermy business was also obtained.

The angler was taken.

As the CO was inside his coat he replied, "I had no idea of the lake and the smoke was pitch black and blowing over a state highway, causing a hazard. COs Mark Leadman and Ryan Aho assisted the Upper Peninsula law enforcement drug team with the execution of a search warrant in the Marquette area.

A NOTE TO READERS: These are brief excerpts from the CO’s bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded some routine data and information 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.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

A NOTE TO READERS: These are brief excerpts from the CO’s bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded some routine data and information 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.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

A NOTE TO READERS: These are brief excerpts from the CO’s bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded some routine data and information 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.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

A NOTE TO READERS: These are brief excerpts from the CO’s bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded some routine data and information 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.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

A NOTE TO READERS: These are brief excerpts from the CO’s bi-monthly field reports. To conserve space, we have excluded some routine data and information 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.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with marshalling traffic through the snowmobile accident scene at a snowmobile accident.

CO Mike Wells obtained a confession from the driver where he was going and the driver stated that he was heading to his hometown and that they needed to find the rabbit. Other violations included unlicensed taxidermy and illegal trapping.
Michigan forest fire safety

Last year’s Duck Lake Fire in Michigan’s upper peninsula dramatically illustrated the ferocity of flames.

But fires can also be a smart resource management tool—if well-controlled and safely used. In fact, carefully managed fires are necessary to restoring and maintaining Michigan’s natural ecosystems, according to Don Johnson, head of the fire program in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Forest Resource Division (FRD).

“We burn pine barrens, oak savannahs and prairies,” Johnson said. “And we also burn wetlands, where we are using fire to help us control invasive plants, especially phragmites.”

While such prescribed burns are part of the program, the bulk of the DNR’s emphasis is on preventing and suppressing wildfires across much of the state, officials said. These fires are fueled by leaves, needles and limbs that are still attached to trees, they said, as well as surface material such as dead and live grasses, fallen leaves and needles, and woody debris.

The weather, of course, influences these fuels through drying that is caused by higher temperatures, little rain, low humidity and wind.

Michigan’s efforts to prevent fires dates back to 1817 when territorial Gov. Lewis Cass signed penalties into law for negligently setting fires and allowing them to escape. Preventing wildfires is as important now as it was then.

“Everyone needs to be mindful that any time they strike a match there is a responsibility to be cautious with that flame,” said Paul Kollmeyer, DNR wildfire prevention specialist. “People aren’t living in isolation like the early woodland pioneers. Structures are commonly threatened at the scene of most wildfires today and larger fires place entire communities at risk.”

In recent years, the DNR has focused on delivering these messages via radio, movie theater and television media campaigns which focus largely on the careless burning of debris, Kollmeyer said, but new strategies are needed. This year, attention will center on “ember awareness,” he said, and the need to quench hot coals from campfires, burn piles, or discarded barbecue and wood stove ashes. Similarly, fireworks users are urged to use caution when handling them near flammable vegetation.

“Smokey Bear remains an incredible icon,” Kollmeyer said. “People love having Smokey show up at an event. Just with his presence, a fire prevention message is delivered.”

Among other things, it’s important for citizens to remember that burn permits are required anytime the ground isn’t snow-covered. In northern Michigan, permits are issued through the DNR. In southern Michigan counties, permits are issued through local governments.

— Michigan DNR

A Blessing Or Curse?

Wildfires are fearsome and damaging, while controlled burns—such as this one in southeast Michigan—are needed to help restore and maintain the state’s natural ecosystems. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, prescribed burns—mostly done during the spring and fall—are smart management tools that improve wildlife habitat, help forest regeneration, restore native plant life and control invasive species.

Just who were Maggie and Shep?

Help us put together a thorough profile of these two legendary publishers of The North Woods Call for an upcoming history book and “reader” focusing on the newspaper and its role in Michigan conservation. Please send personal stories to:

The North Woods Call
5411 East DE Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004

Or contact us at:
editor@mynorthwoodscall.com