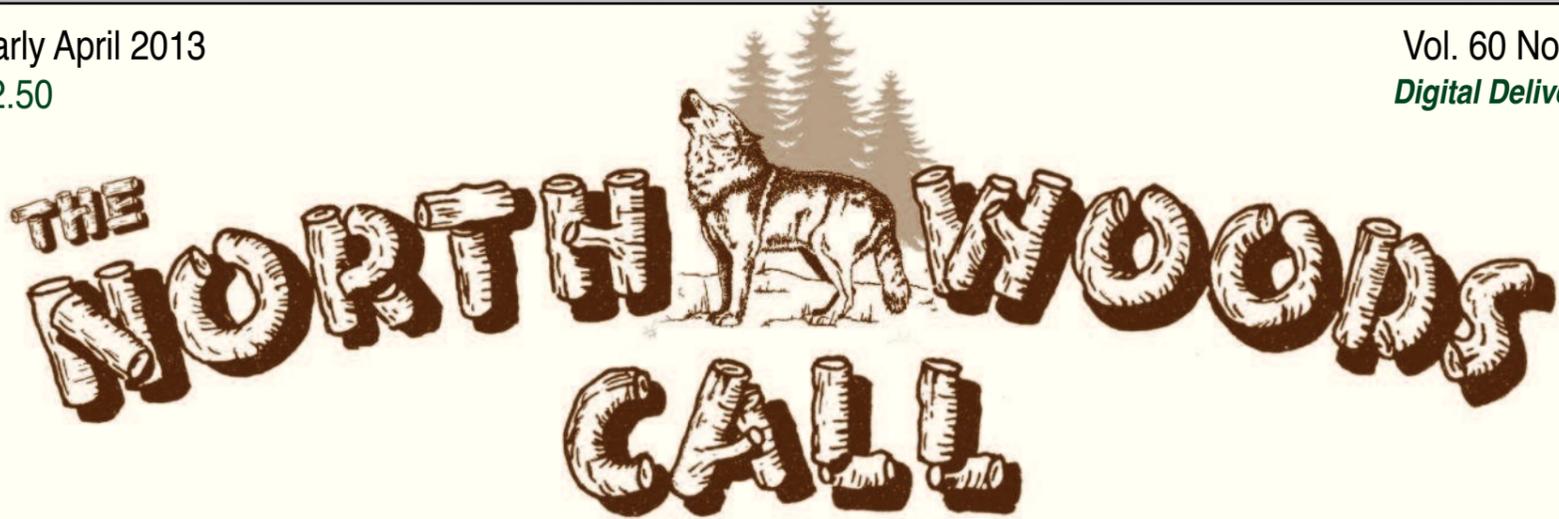


"The newspaper for people who love the north"

Early April 2013
\$2.50

Vol. 60 No. 9
Digital Delivery



Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



Sniffin' Out Springtime

Toby the Beagle—an adopted member of *The North Woods Call* family—checks out the melting snow and fresh scents of the changing season.

**Slicing & Dicing
the DNR Budget**

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Fund Raid?**

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www.mynorthwoodscall.com

Let us know your thoughts

Sound off: Reader survey

Here's your chance to sound off in a constructive manner—and help improve *The North Woods Call* in the process.

The newspaper has been published for seven months now—in both electronic and print formats—since it was resurrected following the death of former publisher Glen Sheppard. To help assess where things are at and where they should go in the future, a brief reader survey is being conducted to solicit input around three basic questions:

What do you like about the new *North Woods Call*?

What don't you like about the new *North Woods Call*?

Do you plan to renew again when your current subscription runs out?

The publisher is asking all readers—particularly those who have actually signed up since last September—to consider these questions carefully and answer them directly. Specific positive suggestions will be most helpful, he said, and you may remain anonymous, if you choose.

"We know there are probably as many opinions as there are readers," said Mike VanBuren, *The Call's* editor and publisher. "and we're always walking a tightrope in terms of pleasing everyone, which is seldom possi-

ble. But straightforward and honest answers to these questions will help us take stock of where we're at and where we go from here."

As always, *The Call's* future depends on reader support and growing the overall subscriber base to a point where more commercial advertisers are attracted to the publication. Without those things, there is little reason—or economic ability—to carry on, VanBuren said.

"We're still working to get some solid legs under this venture," he said, "and we often wonder whether we are meeting the needs and expectations of our readers. A small handful of people have already let us know their ideas about some issues, but not enough for us to really have a good understanding of the whole."

Readers can give their feedback in three ways, according to VanBuren—send an e-mail to editor@mynorthwoodscall.com, fill out and submit the reader survey on the mynorthwoodscall.com website, or use the form on Page 8 to put their thoughts in an envelope and send them via snail mail.

The deadline for submitting your thoughts and suggestions is June 1, 2013.

Results will be shared sometime during the summer.

Spring break: It's not Florida, but it will do

It's time, once again, for the traditional *North Woods Call* spring break.

That means we will not publish in late April and the next issue of the newspaper will be the early May edition.

No big plans here, other than to relax, regroup and generally catch up on things around home that have not gotten enough attention lately.

There's also a good chance we'll be wandering around the north country sometime during the next

two weeks, taking photographs, watching spring unfold and looking for new story ideas.

As longtime readers know, *The Call* for many years has scheduled regular quarterly breaks in the editorial production schedule—usually in January, April, July and October.

The next few weeks should bring warmer weather (hopefully), spring wildflowers and a welcome greening of the landscape.

Enjoy. We'll be back in early May.

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Budget cuts are affecting most state agencies, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Slicing & dicing the proposed DNR budget

As support continued to build among conservation groups for a proposed restructuring of Michigan hunting and fishing license fees, the state House of Representatives was slicing and dicing the governor's Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget proposal to eliminate other desired strategic reinvestments in natural resources programs.

In late March, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources approved a package that included changes to license fees that are consistent with those supported by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but which exclude General Fund support for some other proposals.

Eliminated was \$3.5 million in ongoing funding to support the hiring of 25 new conservation officers and \$600,000 in one-time funding for the academy; an additional \$150,000 for aquatic invasive species prevention and control; \$9.7 million from the state Waterways Fund for emergency dredging and other boating-related projects; \$3.7 million in ongoing

funding to operate Detroit's Belle Isle as a state park; and \$2 million to replace the *Chinook*, a 66-year-old Great Lakes research vessel.

The adjustments—part of the targeted General Fund cuts that are occurring in most departments—represent a \$2.3 million reduction from current budget levels and a nearly \$19 million reduction from Gov. Rick Snyder's original budget proposal, according to analysts.

Changes can still be made and there is some hope for restoring certain line items—such as funding for a new Great Lakes research vessel—but citizens still need to make their concerns known to their senators and representatives.

Yet another version of the bill was expected to emerge soon from the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources. Both bills will then go through their respective chambers and probably land in a conference committee to reconcile differences.

Wolf hunting recommendation expected April 11

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been asked to prepare a formal recommendation regarding wolf hunting in the state by April 11.

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) requested the recommendation—for information only, at this point—during its March meeting and wants to hear from the DNR when the commission convenes next at the Saginaw Field and Stream Conservation Club.

The DNR has been exploring the matter since December, when the NRC directed the agency's Wildlife Division to recommend

whether a wolf hunt should take place, as well as the parameters of such a season. Included in the DNR's multi-faceted investigation has been series of public meetings around the state (Ironwood, Marquette, St. Ignace, Gaylord and Lansing).

"Interest in this decision is, understandably, very high throughout Michigan," said John Madigan of Munising, chairman of the NRC's Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries. "We are continuing to look at various data and information, and work with the DNR, other wildlife experts and the public in order to come to the best sci-

ence- and management-based decision about the possible harvest of wolves in our state."

Madigan said the NRC plans to bring out-of-state wolf experts in during May to meet with Policy Committee members.

The 2008 Wolf Management plan will serve as an important guide tool for the meetings and for any recommendation that is made, according to the DNR. The agency's staff is also compiling an analysis of historic wolf damage complaints.

The NRC is expected to examine all relevant information at its May 9 meeting.



North Woods Notes

EARTH DAY: It's nearly time to celebrate Earth Day 2013 on Monday, April 22. Several organizations are planning observances and activities surrounding that date. The Kalamazoo Nature Center, for example, will offer free admission, along with a 5K trail run and various other activities aimed at families and kids. Earth Day began in 1970 to create awareness of the earth's environment and to encourage conservation efforts. In 1990, it was taken international and today more than 500 million people in 175 countries are said to observe the event—the theme of which is reportedly, "The Face of Climate Change."

HOLLAND POWER PLANT: The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled that state regulators legally approved the City of Holland's application to expand coal-burning capabilities at its James DeYoung power plant. The appellate court upheld a lower court's decision that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) properly issued permits to the city. The Sierra Club had filed suit, claiming that the plant didn't comply with the Clean Air Act and that state regulators didn't consider cleaner technologies, but a three-judge panel found that the DEQ conducted "an adequate best-available control analysis."

ENERGY INPUT: The citizen input process on Michigan's energy future began in March with the launch of a new website and announcement of seven public forums around the state. Five of the public forums had been held as of this writing, but there were two more still scheduled—at Northern Michigan University in Marquette April 12 and at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City April 22. The agenda and speakers for each event, which run from 1 to 5 p.m., are provided about two weeks prior to each session. There will be ample time for the public to comment during the forums, officials said. The governor will rely on the factual questions, information, reports and suggestions presented when making his energy recommendations in December. For more information, visit michigan.gov/energy.

GREAT LAKES CLEANUP PLANS: The federal government is making plans to continue a long-range cleanup program for the Great Lakes—known as The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative—although decisions about how to pay for it will be made on a year-to-year basis.

TRUST FUND GRANTS: Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation approving \$23,348,700 in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants, funding 76 recreation development projects and land acquisitions in 43 Michigan counties—66 to local units of government and 10 to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

KALAMAZOO RIVER DREDGING: The U.S. Environmental Protection agency has ordered Enbridge Inc. to do additional dredging in the Kalamazoo River to clean up oil from a massive 2010 spill. The company will dredge sections of the river above Ceresco Dam near Battle Creek & Morrow Lake in Kalamazoo County's Comstock Township.

(Continued on Page 2)



SS Badger Gets Temporary Reprieve

The coal-fired SS *Badger*—seen here moored in Manitowoc, Wisconsin last summer—would be allowed to continue dumping tons of toxic ash into Lake Michigan for at least two more years under a proposed consent decree between the owners and federal authorities. The agreement—announced in late March and subject to a 30-day public comment period—is a compromise hammered out by Lake Michigan Car Ferry Inc., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice. The ship reportedly flushes nearly four tons of coal ash into Lake Michigan each day during a shipping season that runs from May 6 to Oct. 13. Under intense fire from conservation groups and others, the company had sought to continue dumping coal ash until 2017, but would now have to begin reducing the pollution during the 2013 and 2014 seasons. The owners would also have to pay a \$25,000 civil penalty for violating water quality standards for mercury in 2012. The ferry has been authorized by a 2008 permit to dump coal ash into the lake, but the permit expired Dec. 19, 2012. While the proposed agreement doesn't specify how the *Badger* will stop future pollution, the owners say used ash will be stored on board during the crossings and is exploring the possibility of using compressed natural or liquified natural gas as fuel.



North Woods Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

KALKASKA "FRACKING": Despite continued public protest against hydraulic fracturing, Encana Oil & Gas Co. has requested "fracking" permits for 13 more wells in Kalkaska County. In applications filed with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the company says it would require more than 300 million gallons of groundwater for the production activities. Needless to say, northern Michigan conservationists are up in arms over the request. "It's extremely irresponsible to allow the withdrawal of our groundwater at such a magnitude without any type of cumulative study being done," Paul Brady of Bear Lake Township told the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.

DAM MANAGEMENT: Six Michigan dam management projects have been approved for grants by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources totaling \$2.35 million. Grant recipients will use the funds to remove selected dams without an economic purpose, or repair those with economic purposes. The projects include Phase II of the Boardman River Dam Removal project (\$357,725), the Kalamazoo River/Otsego Township dam repair project (\$725,000), the Lyons Dam removal project in Ionia County (\$994,975), the Shiawassee Dam removal project in Shiawassee County (\$162,700), the Vassar Dam removal project in Tuscola County (\$40,300) and the Sunday Lake Dam Spillway gate replacement project in Gogebic County (\$69,300).

DUCKS UNLIMITED LICENSE PLATES, ETC.: Michigan lawmakers have approved bills to create specialty vehicle license plates to raise money for Ducks Unlimited (DU) and the organization's wetland conservation efforts. Gov. Rick Snyder signed the legislation into law March 20. The Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office of DU also recently received the Department of Natural Resources' Partners in Conservation Award. The organization was honored for its outstanding contributions to Michigan's natural resources, including its continued work with state officials on a variety of wetland restoration and development projects.

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN: Public input is being sought on a draft land management plan developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with the assistance of an advisory group. Several regional open houses will be held from April 9-25 around the state. The plan, which outlines a strategy for DNR-managed public lands, is required under a law enacted last year that capped how much land the DNR can acquire for public use. For details: www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Arbor Day events are scheduled at Michigan parks

A full schedule of Arbor Day programs is planned across the state for April 26-27.

The public is invited to join state park and visitor center staff for family-friendly outdoor programs that celebrate the many benefits of trees.

Programs will be held at the Carl T. Johnson Hunt and Fish Center at Cadillac's Mitchell State Park (3 p.m. April 26 and 1 p.m. April 27); the Eddy Discovery Center at Chelsea's Waterloo Recreation Area (2 p.m. April 27); the Gillette Visitor Center at Muskegon's Hoffmaster State Park (11 a.m. April 27); the Hartwick Pines State Park Visitor Center at Grayling (all day); Ludington State Park (10 a.m. to 10 p.m. April 27); the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park near Ontonagon (1 p.m. April 27); the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center at the Bay City State Recreation Center (9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 27); Tahquamenon Falls State Park near Paradise (5 p.m. April 27); and the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center near Matawan (11 a.m. April 27).

There is no cost for these events, but a Michigan Recreation Passport is required for entry into state parks and recreation areas.

Specific details about each program can be found at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' *Celebrate Arbor Day With the DNR* website.

Our 60th Year: Looking Back to April 7, 1954

— Excerpts from *The North Woods Call* —

Minute Man of Today

By Marguerite Gahagan

A desire to organize a rifle and pistol club in Otsego County is expressed by William Bankov (of Gaylord) in a story in this issue of *The North Woods Call*.

As an expert marksman and member of the historic National Rifle Association (NRA), he expressed the opinion that such a club would especially benefit the younger people in this area.

In this month's issue of *The American Rifleman* appears an editorial by the executive director of (the NRA) asking "is the rifleman outmoded?" This editorial points to the proposed national budget for 1955 with some \$34 billion allotted for national security.

Of that sum, one item for \$100,000 is earmarked for the "National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice." In accordance with the Act of 1916, the money is (to be) used for "the instruction of citizens in marksmanship and promotion of rifle practice."

The editorial writer anticipates the arguments against added instruction of citizens in marksmanship, because of the atomic age ...

"The very nature of the new weapons of war will enhance, rather than diminish, the value of the rifle," says the editorial, pointing out that in future wars there will be greater dispersion on the battlefield and 'safe' rear installments of former days will face a constant threat. "Subversive groups, fifth columnists and just plain cut-throats will thrive in the confusion resulting from a thermo-nuclear attack on any one of our major cities.

"More than ever before, the individual soldier and individual civilian will be forced to rely upon the weapon with which he is armed and his own ability to use it effectively if he is to survive."

"It is equally important, therefore, that the civilians who stay at home—employed in industry, or tilling the soil—should be trained in the use of personal firearms," the editorial continues, pointing out that wives, sisters, or daughters, too, might find such training may mean the difference between life and death.

"It was his skill with the musket that stood the Minute Man at Concord in such good stead. Our country was won by stout-hearted men with firearms in their hands," it emphasizes, adding that such home defense might be necessary again.

"That is why we should see to it that every citizen is taught the essentials of basic marksmanship. The National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice was created by Congress for that purpose. Let us provide it with sufficient funds to do the job."

While the ability to shoot well means more small game and deer to folks in the north woods, and membership to the type of club urged by Mr. Bankov would doubtless be based more on that sporting angle, the thinking of the quoted editorial should not be ignored for the more pleasant one of getting one's game limit.

Assault rifle ban stalls in U.S. Senate

The proposed ban of so-called "assault weapons" and high-capacity magazines failed to clear a U.S. Senate committee in late March and was dropped from a larger package of new gun laws slated to be considered by the legislators this month.

"Obviously, I'm very disappointed," said Sen. Diane Feinstein, the California Democrat who proposed the legislation. "The enemies of this are very powerful."

Congress passed an assault weapons ban in 1994, but it was allowed to expire when lawmakers didn't renew it a decade later.

The Senate still planned to vote on the ban, officials said, but only as an amendment to the larger gun bill. Not including it in the larger package all but guarantees that it will not pass, observers say.

The move is a setback for the Obama administration's push for broad new gun control laws, but welcome news for dedicated proponents of Second Amendment rights.

Help compile *The North Woods Call* history

If you have stories to share about *The North Woods Call*, or photos and background information about the newspaper's role in Michigan conservation history, please contact us at:

editor@mynorthwoodscall.com

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. Send personal stories to:

5411 East DE Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004

Or contact us at:
editor@mynorthwoodscall.com

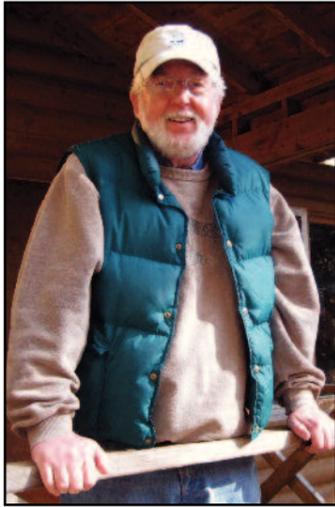
For updates, t-shirts & caps,
visit our website at:
www.mynorthwoodscall.com



Also follow us on
Facebook, Twitter
& Blogger

The North Woods Call legacy lives on at Gahagan Nature Preserve

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Early subscribers to the resurrected North Woods Call may recall seeing this feature story when it first appeared last October. Because most of our current readers signed up after the story was published, we thought we would share it again—this time on the better-quality newsprint that we are now using. Our apologies to those of you who are experiencing a bit of déjà vu.*



Education Director Tom Dale year.”

ROSCOMMON, Mich. — One of the sterling legacies of *The North Woods Call* is the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve—an oasis of land preservation and conservation education located at the southern edge of Roscommon.

Established on property donated to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources by the *Call's* founder and first editor when she died in 1997, the preserve consists of mature pine forests, cedar swamps and the beginnings of Tank Creek, which feeds into the South Branch of the Au Sable River.

Upon her death, Gahagan gifted ten acres of land and her cabin home, which served as a foundation for the preserve. Another 50 acres of land was added later.

“Our principle mission is to preserve (the land) and educate our community on the value of preserving wildlife habitat,” said Education Director Tom Dale. “We host about sixty elementary and middle school class field trips each year. We also have a naturalist who visits about twenty area schools and takes the message to nearly five thousand students each

The preserve offers summer nature camps, along with occasional evening programs, and there is an opportunity for groups of parents to learn how to teach ecology lessons—complete with education kits that can be used in their children’s classrooms. Since 2000, the preserve has provided approximately 160,000 student contact hours of environmental education to area children, according to Dale.

In addition, the preserve has partnered with several other organizations to collect data and regularly monitor water quality in the upper Au Sable River watershed. Each June and September, volunteers collect insect specimens at six points along the river system. The type, quantity and variety of these macro-invertebrates are used to determine the overall health of the water.

“Our mission was Marguerite’s mission,” Dale said—preserving and protecting the resource. “She died without ever knowing that

the preserve was established. The Department of Natural Resources was days away from selling the property when a local civic group managed to grab onto it and—through legislative action—got it transferred to the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority.”

This occurred largely through the efforts of John Rosczyk and Pat Demers—then chair and vice chair of the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority, he said. They recognized the property’s value and made significant effort to acquire the land for future generations, according to Dale

“We came within days of not having the preserve,” he said.

Marguerite Gahagan—a novelist and early Michigan conservation journalist—founded *The North Woods Call* in 1953, following jobs with the *Toledo Morning News*, *Detroit Mirror*, *Detroit Times* and, finally, *The Detroit News*, which she joined in 1934. She was known as a hard-driving reporter who made weekly visits to northern field stations of the Department of Natural Resources, which was then known as the Michigan Conservation Department.

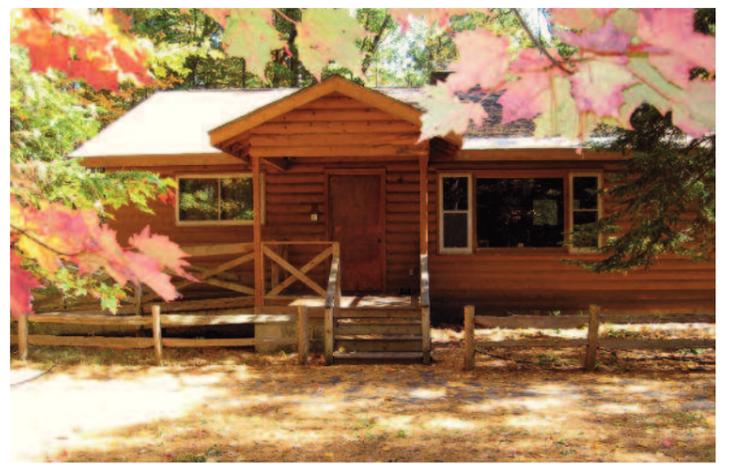
Gahagan lived in the Roscommon cabin for the last ten years that she published the *Call*. “The cabin is the center of everything we do,” said Dale. In addition to educational programming, it is available for rent to groups and individuals, he said.

Other than the structure itself, the only piece of Gahagan’s personal property that remains is her typewriter, he said.

Gahagan sold the *Call* in 1969 to Glen Sheppard, who continued publishing the newspaper until his death in early 2011. Dale said the publication has always been very well respected. Both Gahagan and Sheppard made huge contributions in the fight to protect Michigan’s natural resources, he said, although in different ways.

“Marguerite had a much larger subscription distribution,” Dale said. “She worked harder at it. She was more newsy and somewhat confrontational. He was less newsy and way more confrontational.”

Dale and his colleagues have recently finished a biography about Gahagan, which includes



Marguerite Gahagan’s cabin is the centerpiece of the Gahagan Preserve

selections from her *North Woods Call* writings and information about the preserve. The biography was officially released and made available during the preserve’s open house last October.

Dale, a retiree of Kirtland Community College where he taught a variety of life sciences, works part-time under contract and is the only paid employee of the preserve. “We have ten or twelve reliable volunteers,” he said, and twenty more who will be there occasionally when begged.”

An eight-member board of directors governs the preserve.

A portion of the preserve’s financial support comes from a small endowment left by Marguerite Gahagan to maintain the property, which is invested in various funds, as well as from another small interest-bearing account at the Roscommon County Community Foundation. The rest comes from memberships, donations, grants, bequests and user fees.

“We primarily serve the Roscommon Area Public Schools and they pay us to use the preserve,” he said.

In addition, Kirtland Community College sponsors the Visiting Naturalist Program—one of the preserve’s popular outreach activities. Other schools pay fees to participate in the preserve’s Environmental Education for the Future program.

Dale said the board would like to grow the preserve—add acreage on its perimeter—but funding is minimal and they need much more. He also would like to one day hire a young naturalist educator on a full-time basis.

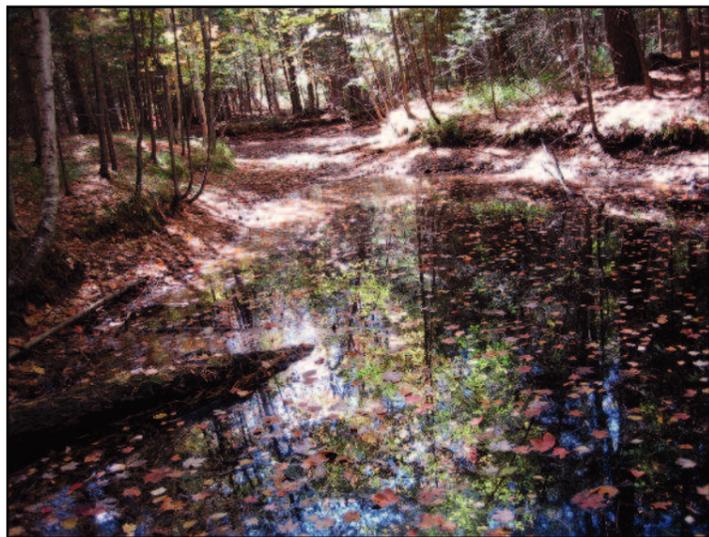
The public can help by getting involved.

“We need memberships, sponsors, donors and users,” Dale said.

There also are many opportunities for volunteers.

The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve is located at 209 Maplehurst on the immediate outskirts of Roscommon. It is a non-profit corporation and all donations are tax-deductible. Memberships are \$15 per year for an individual, \$25 for a family and \$50 for an organization.

For more information, phone (989) 275-3217, or visit: www.gahagannature.org.



Marguerite’s beloved pond near her Roscommon cabin as seen in 2011.



The Gahagan cabin has become a classroom for area school children

Big-Time Fishing
Michigan’s non-tribal, state-licensed commercial fishing industry harvested more than \$4 million worth of fish during 2012, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. That’s 3,762,000 pounds with a dockside value of \$4,087,000 prior to processing, marketing and retail sale. The total store value is estimated to be worth nearly \$20 million to the state’s economy and the industry supports an estimated 300 fishing and fishing-related jobs.



Trust Fund raiders hard at work
Efforts to raid the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) for unintended purposes continued apace in March, as the Senate Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Committee passed Senate Bill 229.
The bill would raid the fund to pay for dredging the state’s waterways, even though an emergency dredging plan was already passed for 2013.
While it’s clear to most observers that the state’s waterways and harbors need dredging due to low water levels, conservationists say the NRTF is not the appropriate funding mechanism for such projects.
Even though the NRTF is protected against such legislative raids under Michigan’s Constitution, it continues to be eyed by politicians whenever there is an intractable budget challenge.
Citizens are being urged to speak out against this seemingly illegal use of Trust Fund dollars.

Opinion Page

Conservation Quote

"If you follow your heart, if you listen to your gut and if you extend your hand to help another—not for any agenda, but for the sake of humanity—you are going to find the truth."

— Environmental Activist Erin Brockovich

Landfills: A throw-away world

There have never been so many mountains created since God rested on the seventh day. Mountains of garbage, that is.

Almost everywhere we go these days, new land formations are rising from the earth, filled with paper, plastic, construction debris and various other undesirable byproducts of the modern world. Hungry seagulls often glide around these constantly growing geographic blights—looking for discarded Big Macs and curly fries—and you can sometimes smell excess methane gas from decomposing organic material being burned off as you drive by.

It's all rather unsightly, unhealthy and seemingly unnecessary compared to the more natural drumlins, moraines, hills and valleys we've known. Is there really any reason to generate so much trash, then toss it out and bury it in some bulldozed mound that rises like Devil's Tower in the rural landscape?

We think not.

From what we understand, landfills are primarily used to "settle" disposed items into the ground, rather than decompose them. Waste management companies compress discarded material that can't be recycled, burned, or degraded, piling layer-upon-layer until a baby mountain is created.

Critics say that landfills create a toxic soup of industrial and home-cleaning chemicals. Electronic waste—everything from lead to cadmium—creates water-quality issues near such landfills, they say. These chemicals accumulate and mix over time, and can be washed away periodically by rain, threatening water supplies.

In addition to the various types of gases that are created by organics and chemicals, dust and other forms of non-chemical contaminants can make their way into the atmosphere.

None of this sounds very appealing to us—or smart.

Lately, the rights to a number of different landfill facilities have been sold to companies that want to mine precious metals and other minerals that can be found in these locations. Not a bad idea, but that activity also causes its own problems with atmospheric pollution.

We don't have an easy solution to the throw-away world in which we live, but it's clear we should all be trying to eliminate as much garbage as possible coming out of our households, municipalities and industries. We should simply say, "No" to using disposable items and embrace recycling.

Much easier said than done, however.

We imagine that some day in the distant future—if the world lasts that long—cultural archeologists will dig into these giant garbage heaps and try to understand how their human ancestors could have preferred the mindless convenience of a throw-away society over the wisdom of sustainable living.

Green living: Conservation in the "good old days"

Here's one of those anonymous Internet commentaries that we normally wouldn't share, but it has a conservation twist:

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

"That's our problem today," the young clerk said. "Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right—our generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then, we returned milk bottles AND pop bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags,

that we reused for numerous other things, such as household garbage bags and covers for our schoolbooks.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator or elevator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line (via wind and solar power), not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand new clothing.

We had one TV, or radio, in the house—not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand, because

Conservatives and conservation: Why not?

Rush Limbaugh calls me an "environmental wacko."

I'm one of those people who believe in saving energy, preserving wild areas, and treating the earth as a finite resource that should be handled with care. I get alarmed when I hear about air pollution, "fracking," food contamination, and open-pit strip mining in the Upper Peninsula.

Rush seems to hate this. He likens me to a Nazi extremist. He says I don't understand the world's bounty, or the simple principles of supply and demand. Worse yet, he's convinced I'm one of those "whining liberals" who use environmental scare-tactics to push big government.

The funny thing is—in most areas of my life—I'm a fairly conservative guy.

As an independent thinker, I believe that pure conservatism—based in a deep respect for the uniquely American ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and anchored in personal faith and responsibility—makes much more sense than the frequently deceptive, often ineffective and sometimes immoral policies espoused by the major political parties. Some may disagree, but I'm convinced that those organizations are populated largely by inflexible ideologues who only see the world through their own selfish ambitions and greed.

As some *Call* readers have discovered, I have particular difficulty relating to modern "liberal" or so-called "progressive" thought. It seems to run counter to how most people live their daily lives. Nevertheless, I have often found myself walking hand-in-hand with left-leaning Democrats in battles to protect our natural heritage.

I wonder why that is.

Shouldn't more conservatives be conservationists and more conservationists be conservatives?

After all, there are few things more "conservative" than protect-

ing resources for future generations. And—language-wise at least—"conservatism" comes from the same root word as "conservation," for crying out loud.

I know there are some members of the so-called "political right"—whatever that is—who feel as I do.

ConservAmerica, for example, is a national grassroots organization that claims to be "the environmental conscience of the Grand Old Party." Members believe we can preserve our environment and boost our economy at the same time. They want to resurrect the GOP's once-strong conservation tradition and restore natural resource stewardship and sound environmental protection as part of the Republican vision for America.

It seems like this would be something we could all support, but many Republican leaders—don't seem to be listening. They want to scrap laws that have cleaned up air and water, preserved natural areas, and prevented the extinction of native species.

What's that all about?

Anybody with the smarts to get elected ought to be able to see that more—not less—needs to be done to defend the natural world that our children and grandchildren will inherit.

While significant environmental progress has been made during the past few decades, we can still benefit from cleaner air, water, soil and food supplies. And reducing wasteful consumption today will likely bring greater benefits tomorrow, including better economic performance.

You'd think more conservatives would be leading the way to safeguard our natural resources,

rather than fighting against those liberals who are. If ever there was a bipartisan issue, this is it.

Few modern social concerns are as vital to our health, recreation and economic prosperity. Human progress should not be measured solely on the basis of dollars and development, but also on what we have preserved and protected.

Of course, there will always be disagreements as to how to best go about this work and far too often we've seen that professed concerns for the environment are just smokescreens for more sinister political agendas.

In an ideal world, we could simply educate people about environmental issues and trust them to do what's right. Isn't that what personal responsibility in a free society is all about?

Sadly, the reality is that individuals and corporations don't always do what they should, and there's an ongoing need for some kind of regulation and enforcement action.

But politicians and bureaucrats are not any more selfless and trustworthy than individuals and corporations, so there are all kinds of pitfalls on the path to good stewardship.

Republican Theodore Roosevelt called conservation "a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring safety and continuance of the nation."

Roosevelt, of course, may have been the first "environmental wacko" to be elected President of the United States. Maybe it's time to put another one in the Oval Office—along with several others at all levels of government and industry.

And there's no good reason they couldn't be conservative in thought and deed.

North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



Farley's World: True or false?

In our last issue, we quoted popular Canadian writer and environmentalist Farley Mowat in an editorial about wolves. A reader has since pointed out that Mowat has been heavily criticized for playing loose with the facts during his prolific literary career.

That's true. We first heard this criticism years ago and had considered not using the chosen quote for that very reason.

Most of Mowat's work is ostensibly nonfiction, but he is said to have never let the facts get in the way of a good story. Even his defenders have acknowledged that he does not necessarily strive for absolute reality, because his primary passion is to communicate more universal truths.

Be that as it may, we remain fond of Mowat's writing because it captivated our imagination during our younger years and—along with the clearly fictional works of American novelist Jack London—inspired us to learn more about the subjects covered in his books, most notably those described in "Never Cry Wolf" and "People of the Deer."

Mowat himself is a compelling character and a fine storyteller. He may well be flawed and deserving of some criticism, but he is also quite gifted as an observer and writer.

So—for now at least—we're willing to shrug off his factual meanderings as "artistic license."

A note to letter writers

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

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

Reader Comment

Wolf hunt: Voters should not decide wildlife science

Mike,

I'm with you on hunting wolves myself (or bobcats, or coyotes). I see no point, though the winter furs are truly beautiful and incredibly warm for winter folk.

This said, I have little doubt that the social carrying capacity has been exceeded. Wolf biologist Jim Hammill told me years ago that this would likely happen *before* the biological carrying capacity was reached.

If memory serves, I think he told me then that he thought the Upper Peninsula might biologically support 1,200-1,500 wolves, but don't hold me to that number. I know it was heaps more than the population at the time.

Though I won't be in the hunt, I support the hunt because the biologists support it and it will help control population in counties where there is a problem.

Remember, not that long ago U.S. Fish and Game (I think) brought in a hunter to kill a heap of wolves inside the city limits of Ironwood. My feeling is that if we have no hunt, yahoos will continue to kill wolves illegally.

I think a hunt will reduce—not eliminate—this.

People have already shown they will shoot wolves. As long as the population supports it, better the state control it and take revenue from it.

Simple as that for me.

We love seeing wolves and bears in the wild—even close up. What I'm sure of is that the "voters" of Michigan should not be deciding wildlife management science (as with doves some years ago) and I'm equally sure that if self-styled pro-wolf folks are successful in driving re-listing on the endangered species list, more animals will die as a result of illegal activity.

Each time delisting was in sight and pro-wolf forces managed to prolong the downgrade, wolves died. Every time.

I feel not as many would have been sacrificed had these people not turned science into politics.

Joe Heywood
Portage, Michigan

The North Woods Call: An editorial view from the Northern Michigan Conservation Network

EDITOR'S NOTE: As background for the 2013 North Woods Call Reader Survey (see story on Page 1 and response form on Page 8), we thought it might be helpful to share the following editorial published last September on the Northern Michigan Conservation Network website.

We don't like to admit this—we're still building our own contacts and news sources—but we only recently discovered this website. We are impressed by what we have seen and read there.

As with much of the material found on the website, we feel this take on the challenges of resurrecting The Call is quite balanced, informative and on-target.

* * *

As many of you likely know by now, the publication of *The North Woods Call* has resumed after a one-and-a-half-year suspension, following the passing of conservation legend Glen Sheppard.

This news comes at an especially good time for those of us who have struggled in our attempt to at least partially fill this huge conservation news and information void. If one even quickly peruses the archived posts assembled on this site, it also becomes clear that there is no shortage of issues for a re-born *Call* to take on.

Mike VanBuren has assumed the unenviable task of following "Shep" and *Call* founder Marguerite Gahagan, who first began this publication in the early 1950's. Mike's journalism experience includes work as a writer, photographer and editor at northern Michigan papers, which include the *Antrim County News*, and the *Kalamazoo Leader and the Kalkaskanian*.

Larger market experience includes the *Kalamazoo Gazette* and *Flint Journal*, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation where he served for two decades as communication manager and video producer. Mike is also a past recipient of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs' *Ben East Award*, presented for outstanding outdoor or conservation writing.

For the time being, plans are to electronically publish *The North Woods Call* on a biweekly basis. According to Mike, long-term goals include making the publication the primary source for Michigan conservation news and information.

Perhaps the biggest challenge ahead for the *The*

Call "2.0" will be trying to reassemble the kinds of relationships that Glen had developed, which served as the basis for much of the publication's fine work. Sadly, these relationships were built during a time which no longer exists. This was a time when sufficient stability existed within our state and federal natural resource agencies to allow for their employees to develop trust in writers such as Glen Sheppard.

This was also a time when these agency professionals had confidence in the security of their own respective careers, allowing them to speak about matters which conflicted with their mission without fear of retribution; and lastly, a time when fundamental changes in Michigan's natural resource management were less frequent and far less draconian than those now being advanced almost daily in Michigan's state legislature.

These facts—combined with the realization that Michigan's sportsmen-conservation community has become even more fragmented and desensitized to the political takeover of Michigan's natural resource management—will make this hill an even steeper one to climb.

For these reasons, success for *The Call* will also partially depend on our ability to help provide support and content and promote this effort so that this voice can be heard by the broadest audience possible. It has become increasingly obvious that we are making little headway against this new prevailing wind by only talking to ourselves.

Success for *The Call* would also mean that some of us could return to spending more time in Michigan's forests, lakes and streams.

The cost for electronic subscriptions is \$35. Printed copies sent through the U.S. Postal Service are \$55 a year.

More information is available at:
www.mynorthwoodscall.com

The Northern Michigan Conservation Network is a Web-based news and information source dedicated to "connecting conservation-minded hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts to the issues facing Michigan's forests, waters and wildlife." Content comes from a variety of contributors.

Thanks for story

Dear Mike,

Norm and I just read *The North Woods Call* and we are both delighted with your accurate and well-written article (Vol. 60, No. 8—Late March). So here is a heartfelt thank you.

It's good to get some recognition after all these years.

Sincerely,
Norm and Barbara Spring
Grand Haven, Michigan

The thanks goes to you for your efforts to stop the use of DDT and other toxic pesticides in Michigan. We honor that legacy.
—Mike

Tell your friends about The Call**Death pellets and the DNR: Don't let paranoia trump truth**

A *North Woods Call* reader is likely someone with plenty of knowledge and trail savvy about the great outdoors. So ask yourself this:

Do you believe that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), through a secret campaign, would use aircraft-dispersed poison pellets to kill thousands of deer across southern Michigan?

We will return to that question momentarily, but first some background.

I recently attended a public meeting in St. Joseph County where Steve Chadwick, the DNR's southwest region supervisor, spoke about Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD). Last year's EHD outbreak, as widely reported, was devastating to deer and distressing to anyone who loves wildlife.

Chadwick gave his talk in a gun club dining hall, redolent with the musty, knotty pine ambience particular to such places. He came across as bright, yet believable; a Vibram-soled technocrat with a hunter's beard and DNR-issue green sport shirt.

"All ungulates can get EHD," he said by way of introduction, "but for some reason only white-tails and mule deer die from it. "With cattle, pronghorn antelope and elk, it just causes mouth lesions."

Yet not all whitetails afflicted with EHD die. Nor do deer taken

The Wild Nearby

By Tom Springer



from an EHD-infected area pose a health risk to humans. This includes the one Chadwick shot last fall.

"I just had some venison from it tonight, so I know it's safe," he said.

Armed with slides and unsailable logic, Chadwick proceeded to lay out the facts of last year's EHD outbreak. Most are well-known, but his cogent summary bears repeating.

It is the midge, a tiny gnat the size of a pencil tip, which spreads EHD. For most of its life cycle the midge eats plant nectar. Yet the pregnant female needs blood for her eggs to develop and that's when she craves deer flesh. Once bitten, deer have about 36 painful hours to live. EHD makes their tongues swell (they call it "blue tongue" out west) and their eyes bulge. Finally, driven mad with fever, they go off to die near water if they can make it that far.

Officially, nearly 15,000 deer died from EHD in 2012, but the actual losses could be in the 50,000 to 70,000 range. Although Michigan's first EHD outbreak was in 1954, the trifecta of a mild winter, warm spring and droughty summer made it the worst year

ever; it created acres of new mud flats where midges like to breed. Still, Chadwick isn't worried long term about EHD—and he doesn't think we should be either:

"If I had \$10 million to cure a deer disease, EHD would not be the one I'd choose. Chronic wasting disease is far worse. It persists in the soil and we'd never get rid of it."

Chadwick's presentation wasn't flashy, but it was interesting and useful. No public relations doublespeak—just a front line biologist who told the scientific truth as he knew it. That's why he must have been so exasperated by the stray question that I overheard someone ask him in the parking lot.

"What about those poison pellets that kill deer? Is the DNR involved with that?" a man said. "I know somebody whose daughter found white pellets in the woods, and then saw a helicopter overhead. And farmers have found them in their fields. And a friend knows someone at work who says he's found them, too."

"Uh, well ... it's not us," said Chadwick, caught a bit off guard. "Helicopters cost about \$800 an hour and the DNR doesn't have

that kind of money. Plus, we're really here to protect the resource, not destroy it."

An on-line search found that the white pellet myth had found traction elsewhere on news sites and chat rooms. For me it's a backwoods urban legend, of a cloth with those who believe the DNR introduced coyotes and see cougars lurking behind every wood pile.

The DNR can, of course, be bureaucratic, insular, politicized and slow to change. But to accuse the agency of dispersing deer poison across entire counties—a massive, criminal operation that would likely require not just helicopters, but military sized cargo planes? Holy guacamole.

It's easy to rail against social institutions: government, schools, churches, soccer leagues. Run as they are by flawed humans, they're in constant need of oversight and reform. But what happens when we unfairly tarnish and tear down those invested with authority for the common good? For one thing it breeds more cynicism and paranoia, neither of which ever built anything worthwhile.

Ultimately, even grown men with "Question Authority" bumper stickers have to trust someone. So who will you believe? I'll go with a guy who vows that our venison is safe—and proves it every time he eats some for supper.

The North Woods Call

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953

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More Opinion

Book Review

Death Roe: A Woods Cop Mystery

By Joseph Heywood

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If you're one of those who like reading the "Conservation Officer Logs" that appear regularly in *The North Woods Call*, you'll probably enjoy the "Woods Cop Mysteries" penned by Portage, Michigan, resident Joseph Heywood.

We've heard about these for some time—so far, there are at least eight books in the series—but hadn't actually read one until recently. We chose to initiate ourselves with "Death Roe" for somewhat selfish reasons. The main character, Michigan Conservation Officer Grady Service, contacts Glen Sheppard at *The North Woods Call* in Chapter 65 (most chapters are relatively short).

The story begins when the protagonist busts a Ukrainian immigrant illegally selling salmon eggs and leads Grady Service into a complex case that takes him throughout Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas—and into New York, Alaska and even Costa Rica—before the bad guys are nailed.

There are plenty of familiar Michigan locations described in the book and readers get a solid flavor of some daily duties performed by the state's real "woods cops" and criminal investigators.

The author, a retired Upjohn Company vice president who regularly spends time these days hanging out with conservation officers to conduct background research for his books, is a prolific writer who has written other adventure novels filled with political intrigue, as well as variety of nonfiction and poetry. Oh, and he's also into photography, painting and cartooning—some of his humorous drawings having appeared in past issues of *The North Woods Call*.

And you can find some damn interesting outdoor- and issues-related blog posts on Heywood's website (www.josephheywood.com). He even sharpened his electronic pencil last fall on those of us who would dare attempt to resurrect Glen Sheppard's beloved newspaper.

"All kinds of folks rallied to him—not the publication," Heywood wrote in his blog. "You'll have to accomplish something similar and this will take trials by fire. I wish you luck."

Heywood's love for Michigan's north country—he's a 1961 graduate of Ruyard High School in the Upper Peninsula—and his deep respect for the work of conservation field officers is quite evident in the pages of "Death Roe." What is not so certain is whether the personal and political corruption in the upper levels of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources—or the interpersonal lustfulness among sexually charged employees and others—that the author describes in the book are based in reality, or perhaps just the result of rich imagination and poetic license. Hey, it's only fiction, so we shouldn't read too much into it, right?

What is clear in "Death Roe" is that Heywood provides some riveting writing around a compelling story line. If this one book is an indication of what can be found in his other novels, they are well worth the read.

Youth Conservation Council named

The first 18 members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's Youth Conservation Council have been named.

Ranging in age from 14 to 18, members represent a cross-section of young people and will share their ideas about how to get new generations invested in the future of the state's natural resources.

"It was an impressive pool of applicants that made the selection process difficult, but we finally chose 18 youths that represent a variety of backgrounds and experiences in outdoor recreation and community involvement," said Raymond Rustem, Department of Natural Resources advisor to the Council.

Members include Ashley Andres of Reed City, Claire Erwin of Bloomfield Hills, Madison Gosh of Bridgeman, Lori Goodwin of Detroit, Anna Hagler of Grand Blanc, Gabrielle Herin of Trenton, Jean-Claude Howd of Linden, Austin Jones of Mayville, Ben Littlefield of Burr Oak, Wolfgang Lohrer of Oak Park, Sage Nash of Tecumseh, Garrett Nolan of Fowlerville, John Parham of Saginaw, Peter Pelon of Fenwick, Trevor Petroskey of Suttons Bay, John Rumery of Grand Rapids, Jonathan Trombley of Chatham and Sigurd Utych of Newberry.

The Council will hold its first meeting in June, with recommendations expected by year's end.

Expanding Michigan's bottle bill

Volunteers are currently being sought to collect more than 250,000 signatures on a petition aimed at expanding Michigan's existing bottle bill.

A new grassroots organization known as Expand Michigan's Bottle Bill is spearheading the effort to add sealed drink containers

such as water, juice, sports drinks, energy drinks and alcoholic beverages to the state's deposit law.

They are hoping to get the issue on the ballot for the 2014 general election.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/expandMIbottlebill.

Outdoor values: Lessons from Grandpa Roy

My grandfather grew up on a farm in Arenac County, one of a half-dozen brothers and sisters.

Besides working hard on the farm, he naturally turned into an avid outdoorsman—an enthusiastic lover of hunting and fishing.

More importantly, he was a sportsman in the best sense of the word. A bit of a purist, even.

When we grandkids visited the classic old family home in Standish, the boys were always fascinated by the polished cabinet with a glass front that was situated in a corner of Grandpa Roy's den. Inside were well-oiled rifles and shotguns, many of them antiques, and all still working.

Wisely, Grandpa kept that cabinet locked and one eye on us at all times as we admired the contents.

Almost as impressive was the collection of fishing gear stowed neatly in our grandparents' garage. Split bamboo rods, numerous fly- and bait-casting reels, spools of line, nets large and small, and tackle boxes filled with every type of lure and rig. A kid's paradise.

Even today, a slight whiff of gasoline, or the sight of a Baby Ruth wrapper, returns me to that spot.

Up at the family cottage on Clear Lake (near West Branch), Grandpa took pains to make sure we were all properly instructed in the mechanics of effective fishing. Beyond that, he stressed the need for safety, a respect for our quarry, and care for the natural environment.

He was more than generous with all his fishing stuff, and allowed us to use his wooden rowboat, a 14-footer painted a dark forest green. Grandpa could have afforded a much speedier craft, I'm sure. But why? Who needs to go fast on a 350-acre spring-fed lake fringed by beautiful woods and full of pike and smallmouth

Outdoor Rhythms

By Doug Freeman



bass?

I remember pulling on those oars while wearing a bulky orange life jacket, trolling a feathered spinner along the edge of the weedy shallows, hoping for a strike in the early morning hours. Usually, no one else was on the water. Ducks and loons were my most frequent company.

About that time, when I was eight, Grandpa Roy decided to teach me how to shoot. Mom was upset with the very idea. She absolutely didn't want her only son handling a real firearm at such a tender age. Only the intervention of my dad—and strong promises of constant supervision—finally persuaded her, with misgivings.

On a piece of land near the appropriately named Rifle River, Grandpa had set up a simple target range, consisting of an earthen berm for a backstop and a low table lined with empty soda bottles. He produced a single-shot .22 caliber of a style popular in the late 1800s—light in weight with an octagonal barrel and (as I recall) some kind of swinging-block mechanism.

Grandpa demonstrated how to load and fire the gun, breaking a couple of bottles. I can still hear the surprisingly sharp report of that little rifle.

So, with my father and grandfather looking on, I was granted the privilege of firing the piece. I couldn't hit a thing. After five or six shots in vain, Dad gently removed the rifle from my grip. He reloaded and took aim, breaking three bottles in succession. Possibly a stint in Patton's Third Army during World War II had honed his skills.

Five-year fisheries plan released

The final version of a new five-year strategic plan to guide future management activities of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division has been released.

The plan provides a vision and lists broad activities for managing the various components of the states fisheries, including fish, their habitat and angler participation, according to the DNR. It will help the Fisheries Division meet its responsibilities to protect, manage and enhance Michigan's aquatic resources, they said.

"It has taken over a year of intensive work and public engagement to define what needs to be and what can be accomplished," said Division Chief Jim Dexter. "The plan will help us continue to provide some of the finest freshwater fishing opportunities in the world."

Several stakeholder groups were engaged in the process, including the general public, constituent group leaders and Fisheries Division staff, he said. More than 10,000 individuals provided input through online surveys, or phone interviews. Additional public input was provided when the draft version was reviewed during January and February.

Specific tactics are currently being developed and designed to support the plan's strategies, objectives and goals, using information provided by the public during the review process.

To view the completed plan, visit www.michigan.gov/fishing.

Office of the Great Lakes funding cut

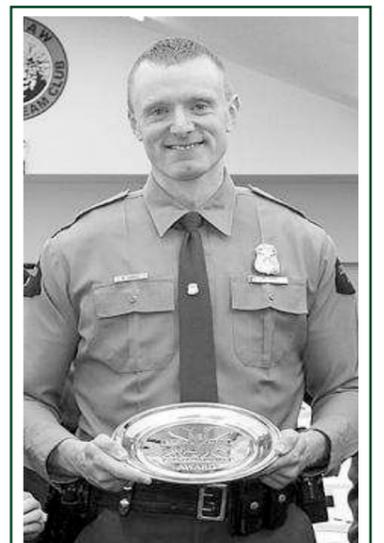
The Michigan House Department of Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee has voted to eliminate \$700,000 in funding for the Office of the Great Lakes and other water protection

programs. If the cuts stand, conservationists say, they will represent major losses for the state's environment and economy.

Share your thoughts and ideas

The *North Woods Call* welcomes letters and viewpoint articles. Please write tightly and include your name and contact information.

(Ideally, *Viewpoint* articles will be 700 words or less).



Officer of the Year

Michigan Conservation Officer Mike Hammill is the Shikar-Safari Club's 2012 Wildlife Officer of the Year and the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Law Enforcement Division Conservation Officer of the Year. A native of Crystal Falls, Hammill joined the DNR in 2002 and has worked on the east end of the Upper Peninsula most of his career. A highly motivated and dedicated officer who is well-respected by his peers, Hammill excels at balancing the spirit and intent of the law, according to his supervisor, Lt. Skip Hagy.

Conservation Officer Logs (3/4/13 through 3/17/13)

Deer hunter uses heavy equipment to clear shooting lanes on state land

DISTRICT 1

CO Marvin Gerlach investigated a complaint of illegal cutting of trees on state land in early March. He located an elevated blind currently under construction on the state land. The subject building the blind had brought in heavy equipment off his private property to create a path to the deer blind and had opened several long shooting lanes extending into a marsh—all on state land. For good measure, the subject also decided to get a head start on his deer baiting, as several illegal deer baits were located near other deer blinds in the area. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Brett Gustafson investigated a fatal snowmobile accident on Mackinac Island. The subject, who wasn't wearing a helmet, reportedly lost control and hit a tree. The passenger was thrown from the sled, narrowly missing several trees himself, and walked away with only bumps and bruises.

COs Jared Ferguson and Mike Evink assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) on the Garden Peninsula with the recovery of human bones found by an angler. The ice angler had gone to shore and had come across a femur bone. He reported the find to 911. Soon after, the COs were needed to transport the angler and the troopers to and from the scene.

DISTRICT 3

While on patrol, CO Duane Budreau observed and followed a column of black smoke to a fire where there were illegal materials being burned. Three 17-year-olds were in a bed of a pickup truck in reclining chairs watching the fire. Considering their age, CO Budreau gave them a warning and advised them to put the fire out, then watched as they started to kick snow on the fire. CO Budreau left and came back to check about 20 minutes later and found the fire going again, with the three subjects sitting in their reclining chairs once again. This time a ticket for unlawful disposal of solid waste was issued.

During a routine patrol of Lake Charlevoix, CO Andrea Erratt checked ice shanties still left on the ice and anglers fishing for walleye. Upon contacting an angler at dusk, the subject stated he had a cut finger and asked for a Band-Aid. While supplying him with a Band-Aid, CO Erratt counted lines and found he was fishing with too many lines. He was issued a Band-Aid and a ticket.

CO Bill Webster received a complaint of an ice shanty frozen into the ice and left out past the March 15th deadline to have them removed. CO Webster responded to the area and chipped the shanty out of the ice, along with empty propane tanks and beer bottles. He then contacted the owner of the shanty, who stated he planned on burning it the next day. CO Webster informed him that burning would also be illegal and issued him a ticket for leaving his shanty on the ice past March 15th.

DISTRICT 4

CO Rebecca Hopkins investigated a complaint of an ice shanty that had been set on fire in Leelanau County. The shanty owners stated they poured gas on the shanty and set it on fire because they did not feel like dragging it off the ice, as required, by the March 15th deadline. A ticket was issued for illegal disposal of solid waste.

While following up on a complaint of a potential over-limit of steelhead on Manistee Lake, CO Carla Soper contacted two possible suspect boats, each containing two subjects. CO Soper found that one of the vessels contained no life jackets, was not registered and their boat trailer was displaying an invalid plate. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a subject who allegedly used his vehicle to intentionally run over several wild turkeys in the roadway and then take several of the birds. A lengthy investigation revealed the location of possible suspects. When CO Greenway contacted the suspects at their residence, she observed a garbage bag on the porch overflowing with wild turkey feathers, tails and parts. CO Greenway obtained a full confession from the subjects and arrest warrants will be sought through the prosecutor's office.

DISTRICT 5

CO Jason McCullough was checking ice anglers when he observed one of the subjects had over 35 bluegill lying on the ice. The subject claimed that he would sort the fish at the end of the day and throw the extras back in the water. The obvious problem was that all the "extra" fish would be dead from lying on the ice. CO McCullough ticketed the subject for taking an over-limit of bluegill.

CO Warren MacNeill responded to a snowmobile fire on a local lake. Upon arrival, CO MacNeill found what was left of the completely burned snowmobile lying on the ice. There were no injuries and it is believed a mouse nest may have been the cause of the fire.

DISTRICT 6

While investigating a complaint of a deer shot after dark, CO Larn Strawn stopped a suspi-

A NOTE TO READERS:

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

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

cious vehicle that left from the suspect's residence and was approaching the deer kill site. After stopping the vehicle and speaking to the driver, the CO detected an overwhelming smell of marijuana coming from the driver and the vehicle. The CO confirmed his suspicions and discovered a large amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the vehicle. The subsequent investigation led the CO to a local residence where he and a trooper with the MSP contacted two additional suspects with more marijuana, amphetamines and cash from the sale of the drugs. Felony warrants were issued and the subjects were arrested.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling the Saginaw Bay when he came into contact with two anglers who were proud to show off their limit of 10 walleye. Unfortunately for them, they forgot their measuring device and had to guess if the fish met the legal limit of 15 inches. The CO measured the fish and found that four of the 10 fell significantly short of the legal mark. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Mike Mshar responded to a complaint of a subject attempting to snag walleye at the Allegan Dam along the Kalamazoo River. CO Mshar conducted an undercover patrol, fishing alongside the subject and witnessed the violation. The subject was ticketed and it was discovered that he had 13 prior violations with the DNR, with many related to snagging and illegal taking of walleye. The subject's equipment was also confiscated.

CO Cary Foster observed an ice angler on Morrison Lake who appeared to have panfish on the ice near the holes he was fishing. CO Foster moved to another vantage point to monitor the angler's activity and eventually contacted him as he left the lake. The angler initially advised CO Foster that he had no fish and only a lantern in his bucket. When questioned on the second bucket he responded

he might have a few fish. A check of his two buckets revealed 51 bluegills, 26 fish over his limit. As CO Foster took enforcement action, two citizens walking by wanted to know if there was any way they could assist the angler by posting bond as he is the most law-abiding citizen they know.

DISTRICT 8

CO Kyle Bader observed an angler walk on the ice with a full-size fishing pole. The angler sent a few casts into the open water while walking toward the edge of the ice, within three feet of the open water. Just as CO Bader was thinking "this guy is going to go through the ice," he did. As CO Bader got his rescue disk from the back of the truck, the angler was able to touch the bottom (the water was only three to four feet deep) and get himself back onto the ice. When the angler made dry land, CO Bader asked for a fishing license. He didn't have his fishing license or ID on his person. The angler supplied a false name to CO Bader, which his girlfriend verified. The alias did not have a fishing license, or show up on file. When CO Bader obtained his real name, the angler had three outstanding warrants. He did have a fishing license though and proper action was taken.

After observing anglers at a local dam, CO Rich Nickols checked two subjects fishing at the entrance to a fish ladder. One of the subjects had tossed his fishing pole in the river but the water was too low and the pole could be observed sticking out of the water. The subject admitted to fishing and said he usually buys a license every year on his birthday but he didn't get one for the current season because he did not have a valid ID. The subject also had a warrant for failing to appear on a snagging charge. The pole was retrieved from the river and the subject was issued a ticket for fishing without a license and given a notice to appear for the warrant.

CO Jeff Goss investigated a suspected illegal deer case found at a taxidermist. The subject had

purchased two archery deer tags during the 2012 deer season. It was discovered that the subject had filled his original archery tag early in the season, and was then left with only an antlerless tag. While hunting in early November, the biggest buck of his life "forced" him to make an unethical and expensive decision. Unfortunately the subject made the wrong decision and shot the buck without a valid license. After killing the buck, the subject purchased another archery tag and then took the deer to a taxidermist. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Todd Szyska and Intern Ryan Cook were checking anglers at the Clinton River Spillway Dam. As the pair walked down to talk to the anglers, one of the subjects whispered to his buddy, "Oh no, here comes the DNR." After checking their tackle and asking for fishing licenses, it became apparent why the comment had occurred. The angler who was nervous could not find his fishing license. A check of the license system revealed the subject had not purchased a license since 2011. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a call that a group of subjects was floating down Mill Creek in St. Clair County stealing tree stands. The complainant saw the subjects as they were attempting to take his stand. He scared them off and reported it. CO Kovach was able to respond downstream and contact the four juveniles as they were pulling their paddle boat out of the water. The subjects did not have life jackets and were not dressed for the weather. Parents were contacted and did not know the juveniles were floating the river. The parents and juveniles were educated on the dangers of the cold water. The parents had the juveniles contact the complainant and everyone agreed as punishment the juveniles would clean up trash along the creek.

While checking several anglers near the Clinton River Spillway Dam, CO Kris Kiel and Intern Ryan Cook contacted a subject with five northern pike on a stringer. The CO asked the subject if he knew what the limit was and the subject told him, "Someone told me six or seven pieces". The subject got an education on the legal limit and a ticket for the over-limit.

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Final Shot



Trout Madness

The National Trout Memorial in the village of Kalkaska is a reminder that Michigan anglers will be taking to the state's trout streams in earnest the last Saturday of April. If you are preparing for this annual event, be sure you have a current fishing license and are familiar with all appropriate laws and regulations governing the sport. Kalkaska will host the 77th Annual National Trout Festival April 24-28, 2013.



The final step for 22 hens and three toms released onto public land in the Baldwin Area. (DNR photo)

Boosting northern Michigan wild turkeys

Allegan County was ground zero when Michigan began rebuilding its wild turkey population in the 1950s.

Birds were shipped from Pennsylvania and released there, but as the population grew and expansion became a possibility, wildlife managers began to look north.

"A long time ago, it was thought that turkeys needed 10,000 acres of contiguous woods with oak trees as large as you could put your arms around," said Al Stewart, upland game bird program leader with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "At that time—short of the Allegan area—northern Michigan showed a lot of promise."

Areas such as Baldwin and Mio were selected as potential release sites, he said, because they had big blocks of lands with mast-bearing trees.

"When we put birds up there in the sixties, those were the sites that were considered the best," Stewart said. "Over time, we realized that turkeys were more resilient to

habitat types such as we had in southern Michigan—more open lands."

It wasn't until the 1980s that the DNR decided to expand turkey populations across the state, he said.

Today, southern Michigan is where the bulk of Michigan's wild turkey population lives. Birds further north have not fared as well, due to poor nesting success and other factors.

Over the past two years, the DNR has been on a mission to rebuild the northern wild turkey populations, trapping and transferring birds from thriving southern Michigan populations to the northern areas of the state.

"There are still good numbers of birds in northern Michigan," Stewart said, "but from our hunter survey information we've seen some decline in hunter satisfaction and hunter success."

DNR staff in the Barry State Game Area recently moved 25 birds—22 hens and three toms—to the Baldwin area. Another six,

trapped within the city limits of Norton Shores, were also relocated.

Stewart said that, since the releases were primarily hens, he hopes they'll add to a bit of genetic diversity to the turkey populations. Combined with crabapple plantings and additional habitat improvements in the areas where the turkeys were released, he's optimistic that the transplanted birds will thrive.

Turkeys are most easily trapped during the winter, he said, when they are in big flocks and attracted to corn bait. The latest trapping was done in March, when it was still winter, but there was less snow up north and more favorable ground conditions.

With spring already here, it is unlikely that more turkeys will be transplanted this year, according to the DNR, but as long as there are robust populations in southern Michigan and landowners are willing to share them, the opportunity exists to continue relocating birds.

—Michigan DNR

Sound off on The North Woods Call!

Please take the time to respond to this brief survey by June 1, 2013. Be specific and use additional paper, if needed. You can also send an e-mail to editor@mynorthwoodscall.com, or fill out the survey at www.mynorthwoodscall.com. Your thoughts and ideas are important to us as we consider the future of this publication. Thank you.

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