

“The newspaper for people who love the north”

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Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953

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Wolf-hunting battle

New law thwarts voter referendum

Legislation to enable Michigan's Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to authorize the hunting of gray wolves—regardless of whether voters say no to the idea in a planned 2014 referendum—has been signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

The bill giving the NRC final say in what types of animals can be hunted and companion legislation supporting the right of Michigan residents to hunt, fish and take game undercut efforts by oppo-

nents of wolf hunting to get the question on the 2014 ballot.

Keep Michigan Wolves Protected has gathered more than 250,000 petition signatures to that effect, but the NRC now has the power to allow wolf hunting regardless of the referendum's outcome, which they did May 9.

The Humane Society of the United States had joined in-state opponents of wolf hunting in calling on Snyder to veto the legislation. (See related story, Page 8).



North Woods Notes

MORE OIL & GAS LEASES SOLD: Despite the presence of a few dozen protesters, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on May 9 auctioned another \$1.4 million in oil and gas lease rights to nearly 37,000 acres of state-owned land. Oil exploration firms continue to purchase the leases, but opponents are concerned about the safety of hydraulic fracturing—a commonly used extraction method—and want the practice banned. *The North Woods Call* will have more about this in the early June edition.

BALLAST WATER: Legislation is being considered in the Michigan Senate that would weaken the state's current ballast water standards, and leave the Great Lakes more susceptible to invasive species and pollution. The bill would roll back a provision in the existing law that requires freighters entering the Great Lakes to upgrade with the latest technology to prevent invasive species from being discharged through ballast water. Shipping companies say the regulation is financially burdensome, while environmentalists insist that it protects the Great Lakes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently introduced regulations requiring all new ocean-going ships that enter the Great Lakes to carry onboard technology for eradicating invasive species, such as ultraviolet filters or chemicals. Ships already navigating the lakes would be required to upgrade with that equipment by 2020. There is no need to end Michigan's own technology mandate before the new federal rules are enforced, environmentalists say.

PIGEON RIVER ACCESS: Two large parcels of land that were previously protected with conservation easements through the Little Traverse Conservancy were recently opened for public access—one as state land and one as a new nature preserve. The 480-acre Cudlip property in Cheboygan County is now part of the Pigeon River State Forest and includes more than a mile of frontage along the river. The 110-acre Reed's Pigeon River Preserve, with more than 4,400 feet of frontage, is now permanently protected by the Conservancy.

TIPPY DAM SURVEY: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is conducting an online survey to inform its general management plan for Tippy Dam Recreation Area in Manistee County. The survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/TDRA_GMPSurvey will be available until July 4, 2013. For more information, contact Debbie Jensen at (517) 335-4832.

HONEY BEES: A new federal report blames a combination of problems for the dramatic disappearance of U.S. honey bees since 2006. The report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency cites a variety of factors for the problem, including a parasitic mite, multiple viruses, bacteria, poor nutrition, genetics, habitat loss and pesticides. This "colony collapse," officials said, has caused as much as one-third of the nation's bees to disappear each winter.

BIRDING FESTIVAL: The third annual Leelanau Peninsula Birding Festival will be held May 29-June 2. The event, aimed at raising awareness about birds and bird conservation in Leelanau County and elsewhere in northern Michigan, will this year feature a look at the Kirtland's warbler—including trips to see the endangered species east of Kalkaska. For details and to register, visit www.mibirdfest.com.

PULITZER PRIZE: The online news service *Inside Climate News* has won a coveted Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting for its coverage of the 2010 Kalamazoo River Oil spill in southern Lower Michigan, as well as follow-up articles about inadequate government oversight and the dangers of shipping tar sands oil from western Canada to refineries in the Great Lakes region. As reported in the last *North Woods Call*, Enbridge Energy—the company responsible for the Kalamazoo River spill—now wants to ship more oil from Canadian tar sands into the Great Lakes region for refining.

HEADIN' WEST: Last year, the Ann Arbor-based Michigan League of Conservation Voters opened an office in Grand Rapids and in January of this year hired former State Sen. Patty Birkholtz as its West Michigan director. The organization's growing role in the region—from farmland preservation to dunes protection to keeping Grand Rapids residents informed about Grand River rapids restoration plans—was highlighted in a late April profile in the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*. The League is a leading voice for protecting Michigan's land, air and water.

(Continued on Page 2)

Attorney general nixes use of trust fund to dredge

Dredging Great Lakes harbors is not a proper use for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, according to state Attorney General Bill Schuette.

In an opinion requested by Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh, Schuette said the fund was created to finance specific environmental projects and purposes, but harbor dredging is not one of them.

"As worthy and necessary a purpose as dredging may be—particularly in light of present lake levels—such use of trust fund money would constitute a misappropriation contrary to the expressed intent of the legislature that created the trust fund and as approved by voters," Schuette said.

The only way around that limitation, he said, would be for the Michigan Legislature to amend the Constitution on the use of trust fund money to permit such maintenance activities.

The opinion came less than a month after Gov.

Rick Snyder signed a bill that uses \$21 million from the general fund and the Michigan Waterways Fund to begin an emergency dredging program. Some lawmakers also called for more money and suggested that it could be taken from the trust fund.

"The trust fund cannot be used as an ATM," Schuette said. It was created for the acquisition of land and land rights for recreational purposes, and for the land's importance or scenic qualities, he said, as well as to develop public recreation facilities and administer the fund.

Dredging existing harbors is maintenance of already developed facilities, the attorney general said, and cannot be considered development of new recreational facilities.

Schuette's opinion is legally binding and has been publicly backed by Gov. Snyder. It supports what many experts, statewide conservation leaders and citizens had been saying all along.

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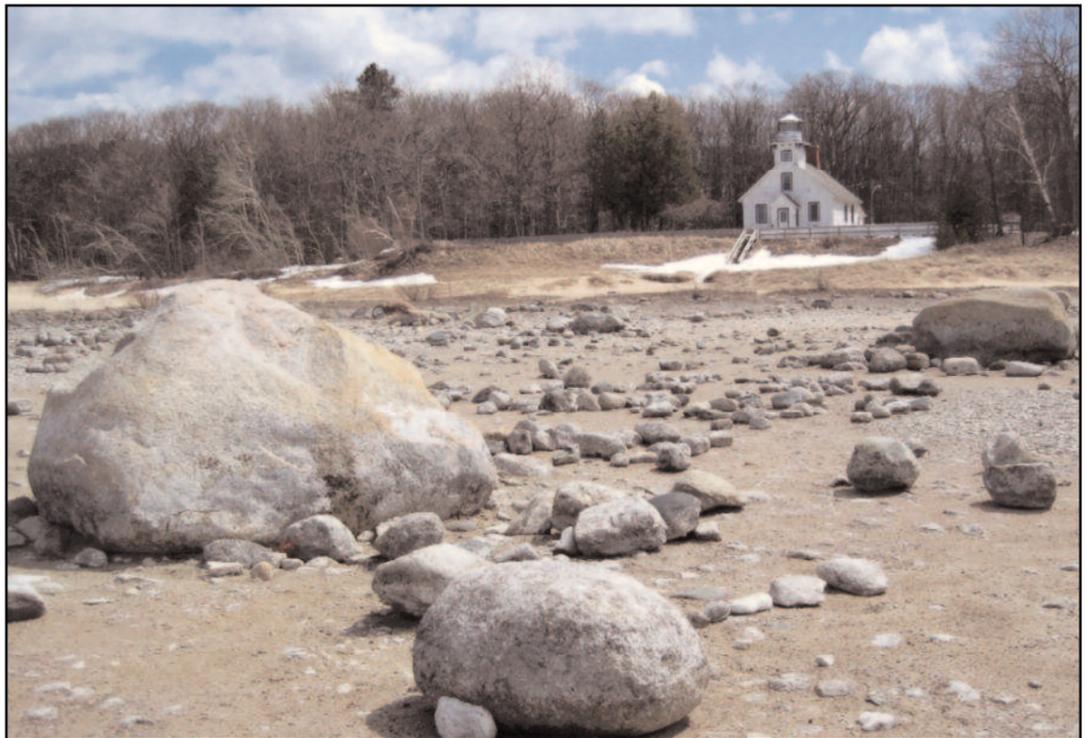
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Water Wonderland?

This photograph—taken a few weeks ago offshore from the Mission Point Lighthouse on Old Mission Peninsula north of Traverse City—dramatically illustrates the low water levels in Lake Michigan. These boulders are typically submerged under normal conditions, an employee of the lighthouse said. Water levels in Lakes Michigan and Huron have been well below average for more than a decade, according to observers. While extended periods of low water are not unprecedented, they said, various economic interests and the general public have been concerned about adverse effects of such low levels. Recent spring rains have reportedly raised the Lake Michigan levels by a couple inches, but the water was still down 13 inches from last year, which many will recall as being quite dry.

Rep. Miller: Time to re-evaluate Great Lakes diversions

Candace Miller, U.S. representative from Michigan's 10th District, says low water levels demand a re-evaluation of water diversions from Lake Michigan.

The Republican from Macomb County's Harrison Township said that a long-term pact allowing Illinois to divert water at a rate of 3,200 cubic feet per second from Lake Michigan through Chicago's shipping canal to waterways connecting with the Mississippi River should be revisited. She has sent letters to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder asking him to take another look at the diversion agreement and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers demanding an up-to-date accounting of how much water is being taken.

"It's a negative impact," Miller told the *Detroit News*. "Why do our Great Lakes shippers have to be disadvantaged so we can float barges in the Mississippi River?"

Miller, an avid sailor who has crewed in more than two dozen Port Huron to Mackinac races, said the Chicago canal—which opened in 1900—should be closed.

"I don't mean to have a water war here, or one state against the other," she reportedly told the *News*. We are not asking them to give us water. They want our water. I don't think in this day and age it should

be allowed."

Experts have said that the diversion lowers lake levels by only two inches, but Miller is skeptical of those figures.

Gov. Snyder, who recently approved a \$21 million plan for emergency dredging in 58 harbors that are nearly inaccessible to boating due to the low water levels, was reportedly reviewing Miller's request.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow are pushing for federal funds for harbor maintenance and have sought disaster funds for Great Lakes dredging.

The International Joint Commission—a group through which the United States and Canada cooperate on Great Lakes issues—has suggested that the two nations look at building some kind of structure in the St. Clair River to gradually raise water levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan up to ten inches over a ten-year period.

The commission is also looking at reversing the effects of a "dredging hole" in the St. Clair River near Port Huron and Sarnia, Ontario. The hole was caused by dredging, sand harvesting and shoreline improvements from the 1930s through the 1960s, which deepened a stretch of the river so much that it caused a 16-inch drop in lake levels.



Road Kill

By now, many readers have probably seen this photograph, which was first posted last winter on the Facebook page of Michigan Whitetail Pursuit and has been making the rounds on the Internet. Conservation officer Dave Painter of Iron County in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula is shown with an unfortunate wolf that was hit by a car near Watersmeet in Gogebic County. The 100-pound animal looked even larger than it was because of its thick winter coat, according to state officials. There has been significant debate in recent months over a proposed wolf hunt in Michigan and Gov. Rick Snyder in early May signed new legislation that enables the Michigan Natural Resources Commission to authorize hunting of gray wolves—even if voters were to repeal the previous wolf hunting law through a referendum. As for this particular wolf, the hide was to have been preserved, mounted and displayed for educational purposes by the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.



North Woods Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

FISH HABITAT: In-stream diversity is a priority for the Pigeon River watershed and the Gaylord-based Huron Pines organization has placed the first trees of the 2013 field season in the river to improve habitat for fish. The Sturgeon River will also be a focus of planned in-stream habitat work this year. In addition to this activity, Huron Pines is working with community leaders, conservation partners and local residents of the Rifle River Watershed to better manage storm water runoff in the important Saginaw Bay tributary.

ANGLER SURVEY: Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel will be collecting data at lakes, rivers and Great Lakes ports about the fishing experiences of anglers this year. DNR "creel clerks" will ask anglers how long they fished, what species they were targeting and how many fish were harvested and/or released. In some cases, clerks may ask to measure or weigh fish, or take scale samples. It's all part of the DNR's statewide Angler Survey Program, a long-term monitoring effort designed to track recreational fisheries across the Great Lakes.

ELK & BEAR LICENSES: Applications for Michigan elk and bear hunting licenses are available through June 1. Two hundred elk licenses and 7,906 bear licenses will be issued for the 2013 seasons. Only Michigan residents are eligible to apply for an elk license, while bear licenses are available for both residents and nonresidents.

WATER FOOTPRINT: The average American might think he or she needs only 8 glasses of water each day, but our real "water footprint" is much more than that, according to the Nature Conservancy. We actually use the equivalent of 32,911 glasses of water each day, they said, or 751,777 gallons of water per year. Of course, 96 percent of this water is "hidden"—consumed to grow and make things we eat, wear and use to generate energy. The eight crops with the largest water footprints, according to the Conservancy, are grass (for grazing livestock), cotton, soybeans, wheat, fodder (for feeding livestock), coffee, barley and corn.

GUN CRIME DOWN: Despite the ongoing war on private gun ownership in the United States, a new study says that gun-related homicide and crime are "strikingly" down from 20 years ago. The Pew Research Center found that firearm homicides today are 49 percent lower than in 1993 and firearm-related violence—assaults, robberies and sex crimes—was 75 percent lower. Yet applications for concealed carry permits and citizen purchases of firearms are way up in recent years.

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

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



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Michigan Forest Plans Discussed

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) held a series of six meetings across the state to gather input on its Regional State Forest Management Plans.

Unfortunately, the meetings didn't seem to be adequately advertised in at least some of the locations, resulting in decidedly low turnouts. In Battle Creek, for example, promised focus groups were not held because there reportedly weren't enough people on hand.

Be that as it may, some people who read the plans and attended the meetings have noted that the plans are focused much too heavily on economic development—specifically oil, gas, timber and forest product interests—and not enough on such things as biodiversity, and protections against "fracking," and other activities related to oil, gas and mineral extraction.

The fast-track plans cover the eastern Upper Peninsula, western Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula and were compiled using a diverse group of stakeholders representing government organizations, outdoor recreation, the forest industry, conservation agencies and citizens, DNR officials said. Notably missing, according to observers, was representation from stakeholders such as Michigan Native American tribes, private forest landowners and farmers.

A six-month public comment period drew 573 responses about the plans, DNR officials said.

Once finalized, the plans are expected to provide long-term direction for resource managers that will guide DNR decisions about timber management and other activities on state forest land.

Our 60th Year: Looking Back to May 19, 1954

— Excerpts from *The North Woods Call* —

Little bears not for humans, Mama Bear argues

Now is the time of the Little Bear—and any woods wanderer with experience will leave him alone!

Last October or November, Mother Black Bear disappeared into her winter home. Some time about January, she gave birth to one child if she was three years old; probably twins if she was older. Occasionally, she has triplets, more infrequently quadruplets.

Once a female bear was seen with five cubs, all the same size and presumably brothers and sisters.

Generally, the bear—which resembles man more than any other mammal found in North America—minds his or her own business. It will be recalled that last autumn many cottage owners protested the destructiveness of bruin.

Much of the trouble arose because cottagers fed the easily-tamed bears during the summer, then locked up cottages and went away, cutting off what had become the bear's regular food source.

Bears are now emerging into the spring sunshine and, according to officials of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, they are bringing their young with them.

At birth, the cubs of the black bear are tiny—about nine inches long and weighing six to eight ounces—about 1/500th of the weight of their mother. One could easily be carried in the pocket, but that is practically suicidal. The little fellows are blind, hairless, toothless and usually screaming for food, which they know how to find as soon as they are born.

Mother supplies it in abundance, as she dozes on, still in the winter state of suspended animation. But in April and May, the cubs are ready for their first airing. They now weigh about four pounds and walk, but climb much easier. This is the cute stage when the unwary woods visitor believes that a bear cub could be a wonderful pet.

Not infrequently, rangers ... have found small trees felled simply to drop the fat little cubs into the waiting arms of someone who would like to have a cub "to take home." Actually, it is against the law to keep any wild animal in captivity without a permit from the government and such permits usually are issued only to those who have scientific reasons for wanting such a captive.

No infant mammals have as much fun as do bear cubs. It is best to let them have it in their own habitat. Mrs. Bear, a good-natured customer as a rule, is quite willing to leave humans alone if they leave her and her cubs alone. But she resents any attempt to separate her from her children, just as human mothers do.

An angry mother bear is no plaything. Her total length is between 4-1/2 and 6-1/2 feet, height at the shoulders about 25 to 40 inches, and weight usually 200 to 300 pounds. Occasionally, there are 500-pounders.

The full-grown bear is tremendously powerful, with broad shoulders and forearms, which can smash the side of a log cabin. There are a few cases of any human being having been attacked by a bear in recent Ontario history.

In the words of experienced rangers, "If you pick up a bear cub in the woods, you're asking for it!"

Poached eagle information sought

Up to \$2,500 is being offered for tips or information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who poached a bald eagle April 27 in Clinton County.

Two Michigan conservation officers responded to a complaint about gunfire and a dead bald eagle found near Alward Road, adjacent to Highland Hills Golf Club in DeWitt. The caller saw the bird fall from the sky after the gunshots, retrieved it and turned it over to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at Sleepy Hollow State Park.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Report All Poaching (RAP) line at (800) 292-7800, or go online at michigan.gov/conservationofficers.

Tips may be anonymous.

Cover Photo:

The First Conservationists?

There are many reminders of Michigan's Native American heritage at various locations around the state, such as this statue of Hiawatha—billed as "The World's Tallest Indian"—at Ironwood in the western Upper Peninsula. Erected by the local Chamber of Commerce in 1964, the 52-foot-tall monument may or may not reflect the image that the area's first inhabitants have of themselves. Many have called these early residents the "first conservationists" because of their lifestyles and reverence for the natural world (see related column on Page 4).

On (and off) the road with Michigan CO Patten

By Doug Freeman

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement District Seven comprises 11 counties in west and southwest Michigan. It stretches from Muskegon County in the north down to the Indiana border, and as far east as Ionia County.

The district supervisor, Lt. Tim Robson, was quick to respond to my phone request for a "ride-along" with one of his crew.

Greg Patten, a 27-year veteran conservation officer out of Norton Shores, was waiting patiently as I parked my truck just off the Muskegon Causeway, south of the B.C. Cobb power plant.

After brief but cordial introductions, we climbed aboard Officer Patten's patrol vehicle, a dark green four-wheel-drive Chevrolet Silverado with the traditional gold shield on each door. The truck was packed with law enforcement and emergency gear, and featured amazingly clear radio communication with the Lansing Report All Poaching (RAP) line, as well as with other police agencies. An on-board laptop computer also provided timely information.

Officer Patten's first mission on that cold and overcast afternoon was to check out some of the designated trout streams in the Muskegon State Game Area; 15,000-plus acres of wooded hills and flats, winding dirt roads, and plenty of waterways known for quality fishing.

No violators were found on the several streams visited, but we did leave the vehicle to follow a set of ORV tracks and some footprints leading down to Henna Creek. Possible illegal spearing of steelhead, Officer Greg told me, judging by prints in the snow and mud. And, by the way, the quad-runner had been parked in a concealed spot.

Most conservation officers, as one might expect, are keen observers and trackers.

Married and with grown kids, Greg Patten graduated from Central Michigan University in the 1970s with a degree in wildlife biology. From there, he put himself through the police academy at Lansing Community College, and worked as an officer in the mid-Michigan town of Stanton until being selected as a CO.



Conservation Officer Greg Patten patrols primarily in the Muskegon County region. (Doug Freeman photo)

Application wait-time to join the force: five years.

His first posting was in the area he knew best, his home turf of Muskegon. He continues to work the northern portion of District Seven, and finds his career rewarding.

"I'd be lying if I told you I didn't enjoy my job," he said with a grin.

We drove on, bumping along badly rutted two-tracks consisting mostly of ice and mud. A large hollow beside the road was ripped down to bare sand by illegal ORV use. Some of the soil was clearly eroding into a nearby stream. A common problem in the game area, according to Patten, causing long-term environmental degradation. One of the DNR's major concerns.

Parked by an isolated section of the Muskegon River, a half-mile hike through brush and brambles brought us to a family group fishing for suckers. All licenses were found to be in order. This was followed by a general discussion of luck and weather. Officer Patten picked up a discarded turtle trap on the way back, and checked out an unoccupied tent further down river.

Our next destination was the game area's headquarters, a complex of small offices and large garages. Parked inside were mostly firefighting vehicles—tanker trucks, pickups, and bull-

dozer/furrowers mounted on flatbeds—ready for action during the drier months. Now I know what makes those overgrown trenches people sometimes come across in the woods.

Then we were off to the game area's eastern unit, a mostly forested area which adjoins the county's vast wastewater system of farmland and settling lagoons—a fantastic place to watch waterfowl.

I asked Officer Patten to describe some of the more dicey occurrences he'd encountered during his career. He mentioned a case where several intoxicated men were driving around in a pickup, carrying a small arsenal of loaded firearms and acting beligerently. A touch-and-go situation, aggravated by the remoteness of the stop and rough terrain. After some discussion, tempers cooled and the appropriate citations were written.

In another fairly recent case, he was again the only law enforcement person on the scene when drunken campers at Grand Haven State Park began pelting park staff with bottles and cans of beer. Ouch. Officer Patten held a near-riot in check until the timely arrival of other police units—a few tense minutes, he said.

A surprising fact (as the above stories indicate) is the relatively small number of conservation officers currently in the field in

Michigan—approximately 120. Definitely at a low point over the past four decades. Talk about a "thin green line."

While continuing to patrol the game area's Eastern Unit, fishermen were spotted on Crockery Creek. Another family group—this time a father and his sons, with all licenses, gear, and catch in order—accompanied by two large but very playful dogs. They were licensed, too. Good to see.

Late in the afternoon, Officer Patten drove up the Musketawa Trail, one of many former railroad right-of-ways now converted to paved bicycle/pedestrian paths. Two quad-runners were parked just off the trail. Tracks in the snow showed where they had been traveling.

Citations were written for violations too numerous to mention fully, but included an under-aged rider, no proof of title, and an adult driving a motorized wheeled vehicle on a suspended license. None of the riders were in possession of a helmet.

The adult in charge took responsibility, and Officer Patten was reasonable. His advice to anyone coming into contact with a sworn peace officer; "Cooperation yields the best results—just give me the straight story."

Outrageous behaviors the officer has had to deal with? A couple of examples:

An under-aged hunter—a

child—shooting coots on Muskegon Lake out of season, while riding in a power boat being driven by his father, an employee of a prominent sporting goods store.

Or the gentleman in possession of three recently-shot bucks, all tagged with other people's antlerless deer permits. The man's explanation when questioned by Officer Patten?

"I guess I'm not very smart."

While most outdoors people have a pretty good idea what conservation officers do, Officer Patten mentioned what he felt were some of their lesser-known duties.

Besides checking on hunters and fishers, boaters and off-road-ers, they also observe and sometimes investigate the activities of trappers, fur dealers, taxidermists, animal rehabilitators and bait sellers.

They teach hunter safety classes, speak at schools on request, and set up booths at local outdoor sports events to meet with the public and answer questions. These sessions can be lively, Officer Patten said.

Then there are the mountains of reports and documentation required by law for each and every aspect of their jobs—more than most people realize, he assured me. Court dates are frequent and can't be missed if the state is to successfully prosecute any case against a violator. Long and sometimes difficult investigations often play an important and satisfying role in the process.

Finally, being fully certified law officers, conservation officers move quickly to assist other police agencies with crimes not normally in their purview.

That's a lot of business to do.

Pale sunlight had broken out as the eight-hour shift ended. Low clouds were no longer obscuring the top of the Cobb Plant smokestack. Officer Greg Patten dropped me off at my truck and we shook hands. I know that having a civilian "ride-along" can be burdensome and an actual impediment to an active officer, but I felt none of that from Patten. He gave me insights I won't forget.

Should he, or any conservation officer, come up to you on a lake, stream, in the woods, or in town, give them a friendly nod and tell the straight story.

Report: Isle Royale wolves near extinction

The gray wolves of Isle Royale National Park are at their lowest numbers in more than a half-century and could die out within a few years, according to a recent report from scientists at Michigan Technological University.

At last count, only nine wolves remained on the wilderness island chain in western Lake Superior and just one was known to be female, according to Michigan Tech wildlife biologists Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich, who authored the report. There were 24 wolves—which is roughly their long-term average number—as recently as 2009.

"The wolves are at grave risk of extinction," Vucetich said.

The population crash is largely the result of a shortage of females, which has cut the birth rate while the breakdown of several packs boosted inbreeding and weakened the gene pool, the researchers said. Other troubles include disease and starvation from a drop-off in the moose population, which is the wolf's pri-

mary food source.

The wolf population is the smallest since biologists began observing their interactions with moose in 1958—the longest-running study of predators and prey in a single ecosystem—Vucetich said. Previously, the closest they came to extinction was in the 1980s during a parvovirus outbreak, when their numbers dropped from 50 to 12.

Unless they rebound soon, the National Park Service will have to decide whether to intervene. Various options are currently being evaluated. Ideally, however, the existing wolves will repopulate the island on their own—if they are able.

Vucetich and Peterson reportedly prefer to let the wolves determine their own fate. But if the animals die off, they said, more wolves should be airlifted to the island to prevent moose from running rampant and damaging the ecosystem.

The Isle Royale wolves are one of the world's most closely monitored predator populations.



Gray wolf population dwindling on Isle Royale.

—Michigan DNR

Opinion

Conservation Quote

“Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people.”

— Chief Seattle

Deep trouble: Injection wells

All this talk about “fracking” and toxic waste disposal has us thinking nervously about deep-well injection.

We first became aware of the practice more than 25 years ago when covering the environmental beat for the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. It seems like a local pharmaceutical company had state and federal permits allowing it to inject hazardous waste water far below the earth’s surface between so-called “impermeable layers” of rock.

This never seemed like a very good idea to us. Yet environmental engineers with much more knowledge than we have claim that waste water treatment followed by disposal through injection wells is the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible method of waste water treatment. About the only alternatives, they say, are direct discharge of treated waste water into “receiving water” (lakes and streams?), or using the treated water to irrigate crops.

Deep-well injection reportedly uses the earth as a filter to further clean treated waste water and spreads the waste over a wide area, the experts say, thus decreasing environmental impacts.

Really? That seems to us to be a devil’s bargain.

Are these wells immune from ever leaking? Can the waste water ever migrate into fresh drinking water supplies? What if there is a major earthquake? Can these wells withstand such movements of tectonic plates?

After merely a century or so of modern industrial manufacturing history, what makes the experts so sure that the waste water will either be filtered clean over time, or remain in place for all eternity?

In our somewhat ill-informed view, if this is the best method of disposing hazardous waste water, maybe we shouldn’t be generating it in the first place.

Sanity in the public square

Is it just us, or has the entire world lost its marbles?

It seems like nearly every public debate these days—whether about gun control, fracking, health care, climate change, immigration reform, or any number of other important local, state, national and international issues—is twisted by intentional “disinformation” and personal attacks that do little more than turn citizens and institutions against each other when we should be focused on our common interests.

Spin, ridicule and propaganda regularly take the place of facts, thoughtful reflection and reasoned logic—all the while spreading venom, hatred and strife among the populace.

We can thank our so-called “leaders” and the special interest groups with which they bed down for much of this. After all, these are the people who most benefit—personally, politically and financially—from the interpersonal suspicion and social disarray that they sow. And we can thank the members of a largely complicit media who long ago gave up the objectivity and constitutional duty with which they are entrusted to serve as lap dogs for those who manipulate the system and feed upon its fruits.

But, most of all, we can thank ourselves for failing to hold these civic parasites accountable to the higher ideals of honesty, integrity and selfless service to the nation. Too often, we support their misdeeds at the ballot box—blindly re-electing the most egregious offenders of the public trust.

Sometimes we’re just not paying attention, or we simply can’t believe that the articulate and attractive speaker we see on television, hear on the radio, or witness on the stump could possibly have anything but our best interests in mind. We believe what they say, rather than what they do.

Other times, it’s our own misinformed notions of reality that close our eyes and ears to the ideas of others. We’d rather follow whatever path advances the “home team’s” chosen agenda—however misguided and unsustainable it might be—than to honor and respond to that which is actually true.

Whatever the reason, we need to return sanity to the public square. Polls consistently show that few Americans approve of the direction the nation is going, regardless of their personal political leanings.

Like it or not, our system of government was set up to serve the needs of a virtuous and moral people willing to abide by the rule of law. Only by returning to those original principles can we make the kind of collective decisions that are needed to nurture and sustain our nation—and our environment—for the good of this and future generations.

Isn’t it time we turn from the madness, demand better results and start respecting each other again?

Native Americans and the conservation ethic

As a light-skinned man of predominantly European heritage, I can’t claim much Native American descent.

There is some, however. My maternal great-great grandmother was reportedly a full-blooded Cherokee.

Be that as it may, as a typical boy growing up watching 1950s-era television westerns, I was more influenced by the cowboy and Indian mythology that permeated our lives. On one family trip west in 1963, I remember looking for telltale signs of this exciting history in the desert sands along Route 66 in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Roadside attractions on the “Mother Road” in those days included staged cowboy shoot-outs and traditional native dances presented by colorfully dressed Indians scraping for a living on wooden platforms outside rural truck stops.

In many ways, these things were responses to stereotypical images in the media and literature.

Fortunately, I got a more realistic interpretation of the two cultures in back-to-back classes at Central Michigan University that focused separately on the “Westward Movement in America” and “Indians of North America.” It was a splendid opportunity to get both views of an awful cultural clash in a single semester.

Conventional wisdom says that Native Americans were the first conservationists in the United States—even before the states were united—living close to the land and harboring a deep reverence for the animal and plant life left to us by the “Great Spirit.”

I’ve never been sure if this conservation ethic was deliberate, or simply evolved because Native Americans didn’t have the population numbers, or the means, to cause wholesale damage to the environment. But that’s just a 21st Century white guy talking.

Native writer Vine Deloria Jr. has linked this strong environmental ethic with the religion of native peoples—a close connection between what they believed and how they lived.

“We have on this planet two kinds of people—natural peoples and the hybrid peoples,” Deloria

A battle to control our resources

One of the first things we heard from readers when restarting *The North Woods Call* nearly nine months ago concerned a state senator’s alleged “assault” on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR officials themselves didn’t seem overly perplexed about the matter, saying that they had a good working relationship with the senator—sometimes agreeing with him and sometimes not.

That said, we decided we should talk to Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) ourselves and see what was up.

Our first impressions were relatively positive. The senator didn’t try to dodge our calls like so many politicians do and spoke very candidly about his current beliefs and policy priorities. He even phoned back twice to continue the conversation. Casperson wasn’t out to get the DNR, he said—only to make the agency more accountable to the public. Fair enough.

In the succeeding months, however, we’ve noticed that many of the senator’s legislative initiatives seem to favor commercial and industrial interests (wood products, mining, etc.) at the expense of the DNR’s ability to manage, protect and preserve natural resources for future generations.

While we support sensible economic development and the wise use of Michigan’s resources, we’re alarmed by these attempts to neuter conservation efforts. If you, too, are troubled by such legislative maneuverings, it’s time to push back.

North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



A cross-cultural Native American mural on Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church at Brimley in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Known as “Lily of the Mohawks,” the church’s namesake was the fourth Native American to be venerated by the Roman Catholic Church.

said. “The natural peoples represent an ancient tradition that has always sought harmony with the environment.”

Hybrid peoples, he concludes, view the planet not as our natural home, but something that is ours for “total exploitation.”

I’ve seen the natural view of the world first-hand when I’ve visited Native American communities in Washington State, Oregon, New Mexico, Arizona, North Carolina and northern Michigan. And I’ve read about it in countless books.

Many traditional religious ceremonies performed by indigenous people are done on behalf of the earth, its people and other forms of life.

I like to think that pure Christianity similarly honors God’s creation and promotes good stewardship of the earth and its resources—although Deloria has harsh criticism of the Christian church and its unwitting role over the years in aiding the exploitation.

In an introduction to his book, “God Is Red”—Deloria said late

20th Century U.S. Supreme Court rulings “all but prohibited the practice of Indian traditional religions and opened Indian lands to coalitions of developers, mining interests and other exploiters.”

Clearly, he said, the struggle is between a religious view of life and the secularization that science and industry have brought.

In a society that now seems intent on wiping all vestiges of religion out of American life and culture, this does not bode well for the future. Have we already ignored biblical warnings and those of native conservation advocates for too long and “in our knowledge become fools?”

“It gives me no comfort to have predicted religious confrontation two decades ago, only to see it now in its most virulent form” Deloria said. Nor do I look forward to paying the penalties that Mother Earth must now levy against us in order for her to survive. ... It remains for us to learn once again that we are part of nature, not a transcendent species with no responsibilities to the natural world.”

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Global warming: What's the debate all about?

EDITOR'S NOTE: We recently read about a survey by Public Policy Polling that suggests at least 37 percent of Americans don't believe in man-made global warming. It's not clear whether the other 63 percent queried in the poll are all believers—or whether some of them don't have any opinion, or just don't care.

Nevertheless, if you add to that another poll by the Gallup organization that says 48 percent of Americans think the seriousness of the problem is "exaggerated," we thought it might be a good time to look closer at the current debate—without prejudice, of course.

Trouble is, it's a very complex and politically charged issue that can't be adequately addressed in the space we have available. For now, then, we opted for the following relatively balanced summary written by Rebecca Turner for Suite 101, a collaborative online magazine that publishes the work of more than 20,000 writers across thousands of topics.

What is Global Warming?

Global warming is a theory that the average air temperature around the globe is steadily increasing, with catastrophic effects such as rising sea levels and severe weather patterns.

While certain temperature records demonstrate a warming trend since the 1950s, these appear to be beyond the normal realm of natural climate change. This has led many people to conclude that the current climate change is being caused by some relatively new external factor—namely mankind's industrial boom [and use of fossil fuels].

The Greenhouse Effect

The science behind the theory of global warming is largely based on the greenhouse effect. This process, first observed over 180 years ago, involves the emission of infrared radiation by the planet's atmosphere (It is not actually anything like the heating of air inside a greenhouse).

The current global warming trend is therefore defined as the heating of the lower atmosphere due to an increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the air. Such gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone.

The Global Warming Debate

The issue of climate change is a complex one, fueled by a host of different types of data (including inexact measurements of the ground, sea-surface, ocean air and troposphere temperatures), warming theories and consequences. An exhaustive list is well beyond the scope of this article.

However, in the main, supporters of [the theory of man-made] global warming state that the disappearance of rain forests, the growth of the hydrocarbon industries, the increase in livestock and the depletion of the ozone layer are all fundamental causes of global warming.

In contrast, opponents of the theory state that carbon dioxide levels (descended from the above factors) do not directly correlate with warming trends. Instead, they point to erroneous data [that claims global warming], or a natural process of global

warming caused by sun spots, volcanic eruptions, changes in the earth's orbit, or changes in the earth's orientation toward the sun. Evidence, they say, arises from increasing arctic temperatures, glacier shrinkage and rising sea levels before the industrial revolution began.

Why the Uncertainty?

Some people claim that the data supporting global warming theory is circumstantial. For example, exact temperature records only go back a few hundred years (as opposed to millennia), making this a relatively short-term trend to gauge. Similarly, it is very difficult to measure sea levels, where the level of precision needed is within centimeters, which is infinitesimal on a planetary scale.

While this uncertainty throws the exact causes of global warming into debate, the considerable political, financial and environmental consequences make the truth about global warming even more critical.

A broad range of motives—coming from all angles—have been put forward to support the idea that the global warming theory is false. Here are a few of note:

- * The United Nations wish to promote a single, global government.

- * Environmentalists wish to halt the industrial development of Africa.

- * Climate science researchers wish to gain greater financial support.

- * Left-wing political activists wish to halt globalization.

- * Right-wing political leaders wish to promote nuclear power.

The Truth About Global Warming

On both sides of this multi-faceted global warming debate, data is often misrepresented, or misused, scientific facts and processes are contorted, and conclusions from both supporters and opponents are hotly contested.

While the politicians and mainstream media generally provide a case to support man-made global warming, it is the job of individuals with no political, or financial bias to sort through the facts and fiction. In an age where media propaganda is rife, that may be no easy task.

* * *

For those who haven't yet made up their minds about the veracity of claims on either side of this issue, more can be learned from a comprehensive collection of essays, scientific articles, news stories, opinion pieces and economic studies posted online at climatedebatedaily.com. The material—aimed at deepening understanding of the disputes over climate change and mankind's alleged contribution to it—comes from a variety of reputable sources and is arranged in a point-counterpoint fashion with both "calls to action" and "dissenting voices."

Climate Debate Daily—which also features links to other websites and resources—offers a "studied neutrality," allowing each side of the debate to present its most powerful and persuasive case so that readers can form their own judgements based on the best available information.

The Wild Nearby

By Tom Springer



Are 43 wolves worth it?

A victory hunters may regret

While I've never eaten a wolf burger, at least 43 hunters in Michigan may soon have the chance to savor this new Up North delicacy. After years of legal wrangling, a bill signed into law by Gov. Snyder and a subsequent ruling by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) clear the way for a selected wolf hunt in the U.P.

For the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) the wolf hunt represents a major legislative victory over its arch nemesis the Humane Society of the United States. But long term? I wonder if it was in the best interests of all Michigan hunters to pick this fight.

It's not that the pro-hunting lobby's position is incorrect. They are right to say that the U.P.'s wolf population can sustain a limited hunt. They are also right to say that once a wild creature becomes a game animal its survival is virtually guaranteed. From deer to ducks, from wild turkeys to pine marten, game animals that in the 1800s were hunted to near extinction have thrived due to science-based wildlife management. The revenue generated by hunters, through license fees and taxes on ammunition and firearms has done much to make this possible.

That said, this hunt will benefit only a handful of Michigan's 750,000 hunters. And for that small gain, the wolf controversy has enraged a wide swath of the state's citizens.

Some 250,000 Michiganders signed a petition to stop the bill. Many of them see the wolf as a noble symbol of the north, a totem of untamed places. Once extirpated, it has now returned to grace the U.P. with its otherworldly howls and ghostly presence. It again reigns as the top-dog megafauna, just as nature intended it to be. Aldo Leopold, the founding father of wildlife management, made that very point in his landmark *Thinking Like A Mountain* essay from "A Sand County Almanac."

The democratic way to reconcile these opposing philosophies would have been at the ballot box. Apparently, the pro-hunting lobby didn't believe that was a fight they could win. So they convinced lawmakers to take this issue out of the hands of Michigan's voters.

Their rationale? That the NRC should make these decisions in a science-based fashion that's free from "emotions" (what, are the commissioners all Vulcans?) or "politics" (as if the NRC wasn't a politically appointed body) and "out-of-state special interests" (although it was Michiganders who signed all those petitions).

Yet in one respect, the pro-hunting lobby is indeed correct. As a layperson, I can't calculate what the optimal wolf, deer, turkey or large-mouth bass harvest should be. But as a Michigan taxpayer, I can make an informed decision that's based on my own values and the facts as I see them. After all, I'm no expert on the Detroit-Windsor bridge to Canada, renewable energy, or right-to-work legislation, but I was given a vote to help determine such matters during the fall 2012 elections.

Apart from that, the wolf debate has spawned a PR/image crisis of its own making. Groups like the MUCC know that hunting, in an ever more urban and gadget-obsessed society, has been in steady decline for the last few decades. They also know that more and more people view hunting as an anachronism that society could do without. Still, for the sake of 43 wolf carcasses, they've fed into the media stereotype that hunters are cruel brutes who'll shoot anything for sport. All for an animal that no one intends to eat (unless there's a wolf-jerky seasoning mix that Cabela's has yet to put on the market).

It reminds me of another self-induced PR/image crisis: the 2006 ballot proposal that restored the ban on mourning dove hunting. The pro-hunting lobby somehow thought that voters would bow to "science-based" reasoning when it comes to this gentle bird; the one that graces our feeders and coos like an angel on summer mornings. The voters decisively disagreed—emotion and aesthetics can never entirely be reasoned away.

Now, emboldened by the new law and NRC ruling, MUCC and others may try to reinstate the dove hunt.

Before they reopen this old wound they may want to heed Theodore Roosevelt, the most conservation-minded president in U.S. history. In matters of foreign policy Roosevelt famously urged that we "speak softly and carry a big stick." He did not suggest (pro-hunting lobbyists take note) that we give our enemies a big stick with which to hit us over the head.

Share your thoughts and ideas

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

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

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.

Seminar on Great Lakes water levels is May 30

The University of Michigan will host a special seminar about the causes, consequences and economic implications of low Great Lakes water levels on Thursday, May 30, 2013.

The event will be at the university's Palmer Commons (4th Floor) from 3 to 5 p.m., with a one-hour reception following.

An online "webinar" will also be offered. Registration is required for both the in-person and webcast events.

The Great Lakes hold the

largest amount of available surface freshwater in the world, comprising approximately 21 percent of the world's total freshwater supply. In the past several months, however, Great Lakes water levels have fallen to historical lows, impacting tourism, shipping and recreational activities.

The seminar will provide an overview of the causes and consequences of the low water levels, featuring a series of three 30-minute presentations followed by a panel discussion. Presenters in-

clude Drew Gronewold, hydrologist and physical scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; John Allis and Keith Kompoltowicz of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Michael Moore, professor of environmental economics in the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment.

For more information about the seminar series, contact Larissa Sano at llubomud@umich.edu.

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

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

Tell all your friends about the North Woods Call

Landowner plans habitat restoration for rare butterfly

Kalamazoo County landowner Dan Carl recently discovered that he has at least three threatened or endangered species living on his property in Richland Township—

the eastern box turtle, blanding's turtle and Mitchell's satyr butterfly.

A dedicated outdoorsman and active conservationist, Carl has

been working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Kalamazoo Nature Center on a habitat improvement project that will benefit the rare butterfly, which is reportedly found only in 18 Michigan and Indiana wetlands.

It is one of the world's rarest butterflies, according to the DNR, endangered by habitat loss and modification. The butterfly needs a special kind of wetland habitat found in prairie fens, they said, many of which have been drained for agriculture or development.

A fen—which occurs only in parts of the Midwest scoured by glaciers—is a grassy wetland with peat soils that have a basic pH (the opposite of acidic). They usually have tamarack trees, poison sumak and a profusion of wildflowers, DNR officials said. The diversity of wildflowers makes fens a magnet for many insects, including butterflies, they said, and they provide valuable habitat for deer, turkeys and other birds, as well as snakes, turtles and fish.

Among other things, alteration of these globally rare prairie fens has led to the invasion of exotic plant species which make wetlands unsuitable for satyrs.

In addition, natural processes that may be important for maintaining suitable satyr habitat—such as wildfires, changes in water levels and chemistry, and flooding from beaver activity, have been virtually eliminated or altered throughout the species' range.



The Mitchell's satyr butterfly

A federally funded recovery plan has been completed by Indiana and Michigan DNR agencies and their partners to guide conservation efforts for the satyr and its habitat.

Anna Kornoelje, director of

ecological services at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, said the habitat restoration will involve cutting out undesirable vegetation—"taking what we want to take and leaving the good stuff"—and a "controlled burn" in the spring or fall.

Carl said the project will involve about 25 acres of the 130 acres he owns.

Mitchell's satyr is a dark, chocolate brown of medium size with a wing span that ranges from 1.5 to 1.75 inches. The undersides of the wings contain a row of four to five black, yellow-ringed "eyespots," with the central three eyespots on the hind wing being the largest. Two orange bands circle the eyespots.



Property owner Dan Carl (right) discusses butterfly habitat improvement options with Anna Kornoelje, director of ecological services at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, during a recent outing on Carl's land.



A limited number of wetlands such as this one in southwestern lower Michigan are prime habitats for the Mitchell's satyr species, adults of which fly from the third week of June to the third week of July.

A Naturalist's Musings

By Richard Schinkel



Planning ahead for the fall hunt

In all the fishing and hunting magazines, there are articles dealing with preparing or scouting for next year's season. That's all well and good, but let me give you an additional perspective to help in your fall hunting endeavors.

I have taught hunter safety to hundreds of kids and some adults, and these are some tips I have given. In today's world, the biggest problem we have is hunter access. Now is the time to get out there and get to know the landowner/owners. Find those woodlots adjacent to farm fields and talk to the landowner/farmer operator. The main thing is to let him or her know you are a reliable and considerate person.

See if there is some way for you to be an asset to his operation. Help with putting seed corn/soybeans in planters, etc. If he bales hay, can you assist? If he plows/cultivates, can you lend a hand? Does the operation have livestock? Help with manure, feeding, milking, etc.

If visiting on a hot/cold day, bring an appropriate beverage. If there is a problem with poaching, trash, etc., offer to patrol and clean up. Sponsor a road cleanup mile adjacent to the farm. A sign "Joe Smith and family sponsor this mile" keeps your name front and center for the entire year.

Talk to the farmer and see where his greatest crop damage occurs and indicate you can focus your hunt in that area. Many farmers will have block permits and allow you to take deer, or other game, that are a problem to them. Talk to wildlife control companies and see what farms/areas have the greatest problems and target your efforts there.

Make friends with the rural postal carriers, as they see all the areas daily and can pinpoint exact deer and game populations. If the landowner is a hunter, see if you can help with the creation of a food or bedding plot. Now is the time to put out a mineral lick and salt/antler blocks. The fall is the least effective time to place these, because deer habits have been already set in place and usage is at a low ebb.

One thing that I like to do is to pay the farmer to allow a couple of rows of corn or soybeans to remain for the winter. Wildlife will feed here after harvest and provide hunting success. This also allows a place for wildlife to feed into the late season, as well as keep a healthy population for next season.

And, of course, the old adage: If you are successful, share. Not just the steaks and chops, but filets, sausage and smoked meats. Doing your groundwork now will put you way ahead of those hunters who will not have any land on which to hunt. It also may benefit you for years to come.

Putting the brakes on chemical contamination

Are you troubled by what seems to be steady increases in the rates of cancer, asthma and other human health problems?

If so, now is the time to let your U.S. Senators know that you support the Safe Chemicals Act, which would update the nation's Toxic Substances Control Act of the 1970s.

According to the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV), the law has not been updated in nearly 40 years, despite the fact that more than 80,000 chemicals have been produced in the United States over that period. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has only required 200 of those chemicals to be

tested, the MLCV says, and only five of those have been restricted.

The proposed bill—introduced in April with strong support from environmentalists and heavy opposition from the chemical industry—would put limits on trade secret practices and require the industry to reduce use of chemicals the EPA designates as being of "greatest concern." There are no laws in the United States that require independent testing before a new industrial chemical is introduced on the market.

It would also screen chemicals for safety and provide risk factors that allow the EPA to work through the ones that could cause the most harm first, and then re-

quire risk management for chemicals that cannot be proven safe.

Some scientists have suggested that harmful chemicals exist in nearly everything the average consumer uses—including cleaners, detergents, shampoo, soap, lotion, furniture, food packaging, electronics, cookware and children's products. Babies are said to be born "pre-polluted" by these chemicals and sometimes have hundreds of synthetic chemicals showing in their blood.

Recent testing by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has shown that more than 212 industrial chemicals are in the average American's body, including at least six known carcinogens.

Michigan dunes threatened

Last year's passage of Public Act 297—billed by supporters as "an act to protect the environment and natural resources of the state"—seems to be helping developers more than Michigan's coastal landscape.

Dozens of permit applications have been filed by developers since the bill amending Michigan's Sand Dune Protection and Management Act of 1989 was passed, making building permit standards less stringent.

Developers have their eyes on a variety of locations—including the Saugatuck Dunes—where a former church camp is being sold for the construction of 12 homes on land that will reportedly sell for \$1 million an acre—and the White River Township Dunes north of

Muskegon, where a quarter-mile-long "driveway" through the dunes has been proposed.

The original legislation recognized freshwater dunes—mostly found along Lake Michigan in the western Lower Peninsula and on the southern shore of the Upper Peninsula—as globally rare and in need of additional protection from development.

The law set up a permitting process to ensure that development and activity in the dunes were carefully reviewed to ensure the natural migration and shifting of sand, and protection for rare flora and fauna.

Public Act 297, however, has made permitting easier for driveways, homes and related access roads within critical dune areas.

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Excerpts from conservation officer logs (4/1/13 through 4/14/2013)

Full moon? Shoot-out, assaults, murder and attempted suicide are logged

DISTRICT 1

CO Elton Luce received a complaint of deer carcasses and boxes dumped on public land. CO Luce was able to recover a deer tag that identified the subject. A confession for dumping the deer carcasses and boxes was obtained and enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Leadman and Elton Luce were conducting a surveillance patrol on a Gwinn area lake. While conducting the patrol, two subjects made contact with the covert COs, asking to borrow an auger and bait. Both subjects were observed fishing. One of the subjects did not have a license. A ticket for fishing without a license was issued.

DISTRICT 2

CO Mike Hammill was conducting a routine inspection of a local taxidermy business when he observed a nice 11-point whitetail rack. From evidence found by the CO it appeared the deer may have been taken illegally. After a series of interviews, a full confession was obtained from the shooter. The subject explained that he used his last kill tag during rifle season and wanted to hunt the muzzle loader season and did so without a license. He used his aunt's kill tag on the illegally taken 11-point. The rack was seized and an arrest warrant is being sought along with \$1,000 restitution for the deer.

CO Kyle Publiski responded to a complaint that dogs were chasing and killing deer. This has been an ongoing complaint over the years, but on this day the dogs did catch and rip apart a deer. Contact was made with the dog owner who boldly claimed that it wasn't his dogs—that his dogs never leave the yard. The next day the CO set up surveillance on the area and it didn't take long for him to witness the out-of-control dogs running at-large and chasing deer. Contact was made with the owner as his dogs were running about. Without any excuse, the subject had no complaint as he received a ticket for dogs running at-large.

DISTRICT 3

CO Steve Speigl received a complaint of someone who was in possession of an unsealed bobcat in Antrim County. After a short interview, CO Speigl educated the individuals about the laws regarding the possession of wild game.

CO Matt Theunick responded to a complaint regarding an unchecked trap. Contact with the trapper resulted in a ticket being issued for failure to check traps in a 24 hour period.

DISTRICT 4

CO Steve Converse contacted a subject with an undersized Rainbow trout. The subject's record showed 10 prior DNR violations and a valid arrest warrant. The subject was ticketed for the fish violation and lodged in the Misauske County Jail.

CO Sean Kehoe, along with local deputies, responded to a complaint of shots fired. Upon ar-

rival at the residence, CO Kehoe and deputies observed what they were led to believe was the suspect standing in the road in front of the residence. While the CO and the deputies were attempting to secure this person, the actual subject exited the residence with a rifle and began firing toward the officers. Another deputy following behind the group returned fire toward the suspect as CO Kehoe, the deputies and the first subject they were attempting to secure found cover behind CO Kehoe's patrol truck. The subject retreated to his residence and surrendered several minutes later and was taken into custody. No rounds struck CO Kehoe's patrol truck but several rounds struck a residence across the street. Fortunately none of the officers or residents were injured. The suspect was lodged and will be charged with several felonies.

CO Brian Brosky was first on the scene after receiving a complaint of a trespass in progress with a weapon involved. Upon arrival, CO Brosky located two subjects arguing in the driveway and was able to determine that the trespasser had shot at a turkey vulture on the neighbor's property. The landowner was in the field trimming brush and was in line with the vulture at the time of the shooting. A heated argument between the neighbors resulted in threats being made and an assault. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a hawk caught in a foot-hold trap set next to a deer carcass. CO Wells was able to locate the trap and release the hawk. The CO obtained an address of the subject and determined that he was also unlicensed to trap. CO Wells contacted the subject at his residence while he was in the process of skinning a fox taken during the closed season. The subject admitted to not checking his traps for nearly a week. CO Wells advised the subject of several violations, including trapping without a license, trapping during the closed season, failure to check foot-hold traps within 24 hours and possession of a fox during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken on several of the violations.

COs Jeff Ginn, Brian Lebel, Troy VanGelderren and Sgt. Mike Bomay were first to respond to a 911 call of shots fired, including at least one person being shot and a possible barricaded gunman. COs Ginn and VanGelderren took positions on foot around the perimeter of the



suspect residence while CO Lebel and Sgt. Bomay blocked the roadway until an incident command post could be set up. As additional police units responded to the scene, it was determined that there were two fatally shot family members outside the residence and that the suspect was believed to still be alive and possibly on foot. **COs Angie Greenway and Mike Wells** responded and assisted for several hours. Later in the evening it was determined that the suspect had committed suicide and his body was located within the residence.

DISTRICT 5

CO Brian Olsen followed fresh tire tracks that led off the main trail on state land to a subject who was illegally cutting standing timber. In addition, the individual was not in possession of a fuel wood permit, and had been ticketed for the same offense in the past. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Nick Atkin conducted surveillance on several anglers during the inland walleye closure and witnessed one of them hide something in the woods. The CO continued his surveillance and witnessed the angler continue this activity several more times. CO Atkin contacted the angler and conducted a search of the wooded area where he located numerous illegal walleye. The angler then confessed to hiding the walleye in the woods. CO Atkin also located two additional walleyes hidden in the angler's work bibs and coat. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Chippewa River, **CO Jeremy Payne** contacted two subjects near their car who claimed to be "checking the river for steelhead." CO Payne immediately smelled the odor of burned marijuana. CO Payne located a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. One of the subjects also indicated that he had an additional small amount of

marijuana at his house. CO Payne seized the additional marijuana at his house and released the subjects. CO Payne returned to the river where he contacted the two subjects and followed their footprints. While following the footprints CO Payne discovered four small pine trees that were recently pulled out of the ground, the trees were seized as additional evidence. CO Payne returned to the subjects' house and gained a confession for attempting to steal the pine trees. CO Payne is seeking warrants through the Isabella County Prosecutors Offices for all charges.

DISTRICT 7

CO Steve Mooney was checking a closed stream in the City of Bangor when he observed a subject fishing on the closed trout stream. As soon as the subject saw CO Mooney approaching, he threw his fishing pole in the river. CO Mooney had contacted the subject on prior occasions and had the subject retrieve his pole from the river. The subject didn't have a fishing license and was fishing on a closed stream. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten located three subjects with trucks along a power line, tearing up a wetland area after recent heavy rains. Each operator was ticketed for operation in a wetland area and trespassing along a utility right of way.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss finished a nine month investigation into unlicensed charter boat operators from Indiana that failed to obtain Michigan licensing. Eight operators have been charged with 28 counts of operating unlicensed charter boats in Michigan waters in 2012.

DISTRICT 8

CO Daniel Prince received a private property littering complaint from the RAP line. The complainant saw two subjects drive by in a pickup truck and dump a trash bag full of animal parts on their neighbor's property. The complainant was able to get the vehicle's license plate number and called the RAP hotline. CO Prince was able to locate the trash bag and found seven rabbits and one skinned raccoon carcass. CO Prince also located the vehicle owner, who admitted to dumping the animals on the property when his garage freezer quit working. The property owner asked for prosecution and enforcement ac-

tion was taken.

CO Daniel Prince, while on patrol, was called to assist local deputies with a felonious assault involving a teenager and his parents. The teen threatened his mother with a machete and refused to give it up until police ordered him to surrender. The teen gave up without incident.

CO Pete Purdy assisted local township police officers in locating a subject who attempted suicide along the Huron River. A shaken up angler called 911 after discovering the subject. The angler gave vague information as to where he was located and CO Purdy advised from the description two possible locations in Island Lake Recreation Area. The subject was located and transported to the hospital with severe burns. It is believed the subject poured gasoline onto her head and lit it on fire with a lighter. She then jumped into the river to extinguish the fire. A suicide note was found in her vehicle.

CO Kyle Bader responded to the location of a large cloud of black smoke and found a fire spanning at least 25 feet across. When CO Bader asked the subject who was tending the fire what he was burning, the subject said "I got tired of looking at that pile of garbage out my window so I lit it up." Items in the fire included a couch, a television, a mattress and other furniture. Enforcement action was taken for the illegal burn.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler received a complaint of a walleye angler in a camouflage coat, sitting on a bucket. CO Scheidler responded and located the subject. The subject was in possession of a black plastic garbage bag with four walleye in it. The subject said he lost a bet with a friend that he could fish for walleye and not get caught by the DNR. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska attended a bench trial on a subject that he and **CO Kris Kiel** caught shooting and killing a Canada goose out of season and without licenses in the City of Mt. Clemens. The subject accepted a plea bargain and pled guilty to shooting the goose without a Federal hunting license and transportation of the bird without proper tagging requirements. The subject was ordered to pay \$300 reimbursement for the Canada goose, \$30 in conservation fees, and had his air rifle condemned.

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Final Shot



Leading Man

This monument on Sunday Lake at Wakefield in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula is named Nee-Gaw-Nee-Gaw-Bow, or "Leading Man." It was carved from a single piece of pine from the Ottawa National Forest by Peter Wolf Toth. It is one in a series of wooden sculptures placed across the United States on what is known as the "Trail of the Whispering Giants" in honor of Native Americans. Seventy-four similar sculptures created by the artist can be found in each of the United States and in several Canadian provinces and territories.

Governor pushes support for forest products industry

Gov. Rick Snyder recently held a summit meeting aimed at adding value to the forest products industry.

About 150 representatives from industry, government, the financial sector and academia gathered for the late April event.

Although most observers agree that economic development activities are important, many conservationists say that there may be a greater need for a summit on biodiversity, or protecting forests from the impacts of "fracking" and strip mining—issues they say seem to have been edged out of forest management plans in favor of business and industry.

Snyder encouraged summit participants to take a strategic and innovative approach to "reinvention" of the timber industry, which reportedly generates \$14

billion annually and directly employs 26,000 Michigan residents. The industry, he said, has an opportunity to lead in this area, while continuing to sustainably manage the state's world-class natural resources.

"Reinventing the industry will pay dividends to all of Michigan in the future," said J.R. Richardson, chair of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission and the Timber Advisory Council.

"This event is just the start of an opportunity to highlight Michigan's forest products economy in a brand new way," said Bill O'Neill, chief of DNR's Forest Resources Division. "This is about more than just making a profit. Environmental stewardship is just as important as economic development."

NRC authorizes wolf hunting season

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) on May 9 approved a controversial wolf hunting season for parts of the Upper Peninsula.

The decision—along with Gov. Snyder's signature a day earlier on a new law enabling the NRC to decide which animals are hunted in the state—makes Michigan the sixth one to authorize hunting wolves since federal protections were removed over the past two years in the western Great Lakes and the northern Rockies, where the animals are said to be thriving.

The Department of Natural Resources recommended the hunt as part of a strategy to cut down on the number of wolves in areas where wolves have attacked livestock and pets. The new regulations target 43 wolves to be killed in the designated areas.

The proposal was approved by a 6-1 vote, with Annoesjka Steinman casting the lone dissenting vote. The approval came a day after Gov. Rick Snyder signed Senate Bill 288 giving the NRC power to determine game species and hunting seasons in the state—a duty previously reserved for the Legislature (see related story on Page 1).

The inaugural hunt will begin in November in three zones of the Upper Peninsula—a portion of Gogebic County, including the

city of Ironwood; portions of Baraga, Houghton, Ontonagon and Gogebic counties; and portions of Luce and Mackinac counties.

A group opposed to the hunts—Keep Michigan Wolves Protected—disagrees that the decision represents sound science and had collected more than 250,000 signatures to get the question on the 2014 ballot so voters could decide. But the governor's signature on Senate Bill 288 effectively neuters that effort.

"Governor Snyder has betrayed the trust of Michigan voters by signing legislation that takes away their referendum rights to challenge laws on animal issues," said Jill Fritz, director of the group. "This is a dark day in the history of Michigan and for people who believe in fundamental democratic principles and the humane treatment of animals."

Snyder, however, said the bill he endorsed was not about wolves.

"I didn't sign a wolf bill," Snyder told reporters when asked about the matter. "I was signing a bill that dealt with sound scientific management principles for game and fish."

Fritz said the bill was fast-tracked through the legislative process and called the governor's actions "shameful." She said the group will not give up the fight.

Spring rains damage Michigan trails

Recent spring weather that brought heavy rain, wind, ice and snow throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula caused significant damage to several pathways, snowmobile/ORV trails and forest roads.

Parts of some trails have been closed due to excessive amounts of standing water and flood conditions, as well as downed trees.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been evaluating the damage and repairs have already begun. Trail conditions are expected to improve moving into the summer season, but users are urged to be patient with cleanup efforts and exercise caution.

If you have questions about specific areas, or know some trails that need immediate attention, contact Amanda Matelski at the DNR's Roscommon Operations Service Center at (989) 275-5151, ext. 2044.

—Michigan DNR

Sound off on The North Woods Call!

This is your last chance to complete this survey and submit it to us 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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