



"The newspaper for people who love the north"



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Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



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Feds say, "No!"

Should gray wolves be protected?

On the heels of Michigan's decision to allow a limited wolf hunting season, the federal government says its four-decade campaign to rescue the gray wolf has been a success.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) earlier this month proposed eliminating the remaining protections of the animal as an endangered species across the lower 48 states—except in portions of the Southwest, where recovery efforts for the related Mexican gray wolf have made slower progress.

The proposal is subject to a 90-day public comment period, with a final decision to be made within a year.

Some scientists and members of Congress, consider the move to be premature, but USFWS officials insist the wolf can thrive—even enlarge its territory—without ongoing federal protection.

Wolves once were common

across much of North America, officials said, but trapping, poisoning and aerial shooting encouraged by federal bounties decimated their numbers and left only a small remnant in northern Minnesota by the time protections were begun in 1974.

There are now more than 6,100 wolves in portions of ten states, they said, primarily in the northern Rocky Mountains and the western Great Lakes region. Most are found in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, although some small packs and individual wolves have been spotted in select other states.

Many conservationists say that protections are still needed if the wolves are to expand their territory further and they accuse the USFWS of bowing to political pressure from elected officials in the West who want to limit the predator's range so they are less threatening to livestock interests.

Great Lakes governors discuss Asian carp

Now that Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has said that separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems is the "ultimate solution" to keeping Asian carp out of the lakes, it remains to be seen whether any real action will be taken.

As reported previously in *The North Woods Call*, Quinn got hearty applause from fellow governors and others in attendance at a recent "leadership summit" at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, but he acknowledged that fixing the problem is much easier said than done.

It would be very costly to rework the Chicago canal—probably at least \$3.5 billion—and would likely involve a massive "national project" requiring federal dollars, Quinn said.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and some of his counterparts from other states welcomed the remarks, but Indiana Gov. Mike Pence made clear his opposition to the idea.

"We just simply do not believe that closing the locks is the best approach to dealing with what I believe is a serious, but manageable, issue facing the Great Lakes," Pence said. "Separating the Great Lakes could cost thousands of Hoosier jobs."

Commerce through the Chicago locks is estimated to bring \$1.9 billion in economic activity in Indiana alone, according to *Crain's Detroit Business*, and is

related to almost 18,000 jobs in Pence's state.

Nevertheless, the governors and premiers of the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec pledged joint action to block aquatic invasive species and identified a "least wanted list" that includes Asian carp, bighead carp, silver carp, grass carp, black carp, northern snakehead, stone moroko, zander and wels catfish. Invertebrates on the list include killer shrimp, yabby (crayfish) and golden mussel, while plants listed are hydrilla, Brazilian elodea, water soldier, European water chestnut and parrot feather.

They also created a "maritime initiative to encourage the U.S. and Canadian governments to authorize, manage and fund the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River as a single transportation system; adopted a resolution calling for expanded international trade and export opportunities; launched a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Partnership to collectively advance the region's "blue economy" companies and market them to the world; promoted economic cooperation between Canada and the United States; created a "beach safety awareness week; called on the federal government to address the problem of nutrient enrichment and harmful algae blooms; and initiated steps to better coordinate regional efforts to monitor water quality and quantity in the Great Lakes basin.



North Woods Notes

MORE GREAT LAKES WATER: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit is forecasting a total rise of 20 inches in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron from this past February through the month of July—thanks in part to heavier than normal rainfall this spring.

CHRISTMAS TREE SEARCH: It may seem early, but the annual search for the State of Michigan's Christmas tree is under way. Nominations are being sought for the 2013 holiday icon that will be placed on the front lawn of the Capitol building in November. To be eligible for the honor, trees must be spruce or fir, at least 65 feet tall, with a maximum crown of 30 feet and a maximum trunk diameter of 30 inches. They must be easily accessible from a road, with no interference from wires. Oh, and they must be available at no cost. If you have such a tree, send a photograph of it, along with your name, telephone number, and information about size and location to ChristmasTree@michigan.gov.

FUEL WOOD WEBSITE: An updated website has been launched—www.michigan.gov/fuelwood—to make the purchase and use of fuel wood permits easier and more convenient. It includes new county and township maps, easier navigation and a mail-order option. The permits—2,500 to 3,500 of which are issued annually—cost \$20 and are for use on designated state forest land in the northern two-thirds of the state. They allow for the collection of up to five standard cords of wood per household.

MODIFIED FOOD: More than 2 million people across the United States and in more than 50 other countries marched in a Memorial Day weekend protest against seed agricultural giant Monsanto. The purpose was to bring awareness to the potential hazards associated with the genetically modified food that Monsanto and other companies manufacture. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, few Americans realize they're eating such foods every day, because genetically modified organisms are not listed on food or ingredient labels.

FRACKING APPROVED: The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has reportedly approved permits to drill a well in Muskegon County's Ravenna Township—northeast of the village of Ravenna—using controversial hydraulic fracturing techniques.

THE FAMILY DEER: The Detroit Zoological Society has been asked—pending a battery of diagnostic animal health testing—to provide a home for a white-tailed deer that has been living inside a Genesee County residence for approximately five years. It is illegal in Michigan to possess a wild animal, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). No matter how domesticated a wild animal may appear, wildlife biologists say, it can still pose a significant risk to the public. The DNR has always urged people to leave wildlife in the wild—especially in the spring when babies are more visible.

DEER PEE & HEMLOCKS: This just in from the journal *Ecology*—the booming white-tailed deer population is bad for hemlock trees. During Michigan winters, when deer converge on stands of young hemlocks for protection from winter chill and predators, the high concentration of animals relieving themselves in a small space saturates the soils with nitrogen, according to the science magazine. While nitrogen is a rare and necessary nutrient for plants, slow-growing hemlocks reportedly prefer low-nitrogen soil and the excessive urine can result in nitrogen-loving species like sugar maple outgrowing the hemlocks, thus out-competing hemlocks and affecting their regeneration.

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THE NORTH WOODS CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



Officials say that Michigan's timber industry and economy will benefit from a new package of laws aimed at enticing private landowners to participate in the state's Qualified Forest Program.

Timber! New laws encourage logging on private land

The forest management goals set during Gov. Rick Snyder's Forest Products Summit in April were advanced in early June when the governor signed a 9-bill legislative package aimed at boosting Michigan's timber industry.

The legislation encourages owners of the state's 11 million acres of private forest land to allow logging on their property in exchange for tax breaks. They can earn tax incentives by adopting a land-management plan that includes harvesting, habitat improvement and environmental protection.

Educational and technical assistance will also be available for those who choose to participate in the state's Qualified Forest Program, which was implemented in 2006. Currently, only 20 percent of privately owned forest lands in Michigan are actively engaged in the program, state officials said.

"By encouraging private land owners to get involved with active

forest management, Michigan can give a boost to the timber industry and improve the environment by nurturing the health of privately managed forests," Snyder said.

It provides an opportunity to export more lumber, the governor said, and creates more commerce and opportunity for Michigan business.

It is estimated that the state's timber industry generates \$14 billion annually and directly employs 26,000 residents.

The new rules will benefit both landowners and timber-related businesses that create jobs in rural communities, according to State Sen. Darwin Booher (R-Ewart), one of the primary sponsors of the legislation.

The legislation is seen by supporters as an economic driver for property owners and the timber industry, providing potential gains in employment along with increased rural development. It will help en-

sure a steady, future supply of timber, they said, that will bring more certainty to businesses as they decide to locate or expand timber processing in Michigan.

Among other things, the legislation reportedly eliminates the punitive nature of the "recapture tax," which requires property owners to repay exempted taxes when their land is removed from the Qualified Forest Program. It also reduces land fragmentation by allowing property owners with larger tracts of land to take part in the program, improves the process for establishing qualified forest property, enhances technical and program support, and fosters stronger working relationships with private forest owners.

In addition, the Qualified Forest Program will now be managed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, rather than the Department of Natural Resources.



—DNR photo

Habitat Improvement

A work crew places logs, trees and branches in the North Branch of the AuSable River to improve habitat—and ultimately fishing—in the river. The activity is part of a \$60,000 project under way this summer and next near Lovells, Michigan. State fisheries managers have been adding woody cover to trout streams for nearly a century, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Properly placed, it can improve the function of streams, including helping to manage and move sediment that covers up gravel—which is valuable spawning and aquatic insect habitat.



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NRC MEETINGS: The next Michigan Natural Resources Commission meeting will be held July 11 at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing. The September 12, November 7 and December 12 meetings will also be held at that location. On August 8, the commission will be at Annis Water Resources Institute in the Lake Michigan Center, 740 West Shoreline Drive, Muskegon, and on October 10 commissioners will convene at a location yet to be determined in Iron Mountain. For more information about starting times and agendas, visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website at michigan.gov/dnr.

TREE PLANTING: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has planted more than 7 million seedlings this spring on state forest land. The Arbor Day Foundation supported the planting of 400,000 of the tree seedlings in both the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula. Many of the seedlings planted came from the DNR-operated Wyman Nursery in Newberry.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME: A recently completed statewide survey of 33 known bat wintering sites in Michigan showed no sign yet of white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that kills bats by causing them to burn up energy reserves prematurely during hibernation. All species of Michigan bats are highly beneficial insectivores and consume large numbers of insects that cause agricultural crop loss, damage forests and can affect human health.

MUCC opposes new gun control attempt

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs is battling proposed gun control legislation that it says could criminalize youth firearm hunting.

House Bill 4774, introduced by Rep. Jim Townsend (D-Royal Oak), would apply all current license requirements for acquiring, carrying, possessing and transporting a pistol to all firearms—including restrictions on youth carrying or possessing them outside a target range.

Applying handgun requirements to all firearms—including rifles and shotguns (with the exception of black powder antiques)—would effectively ban youth hunting with firearms, the MUCC says.

Intended or not, that would be the result, the group says.

Brown Bridge Dam project completed

Removal of the Brown Bridge Dam on the Boardman River near Traverse City has been completed.

Spring rains have helped transform the newly exposed bottomlands into a greenscape, according to the Boardman Dams Implementation Team. As restoration work continues, the river is running through a “dynamic and primarily relic” channel for the first time in more than 90 years.

The dam removal took 21,270 man hours—equal to 14 people every day for five months—to finish the deconstruction phase. The project reportedly wrapped up on schedule and within budget.

The team has now turned its attention to plans for removing the Boardman and Sabin Dams. In addition, the single-lane Cass Road Bridge will be replaced, thanks to a \$3 million grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

More fundraising continues.

Michigan budget includes funds to hire more conservation officers

A new budget bill passed by the Michigan Senate in early June and sent to the governor for approval sets aside enough revenue to hire up to 40 additional conservation officers.

It also restores funding to the Office of the Great Lakes and various surface water protection programs.

“[The vote] sends a strong message [that] protecting our natural resources is a smart investment,” said Jack Schmitt, political director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV). “Michigan’s economy relies on clean water and diverse forests, and this budget ensures our state’s most valuable resources will be preserved for years to come.”

The MLCV and other conservation groups had previously expressed concern that proposed cuts to some of these programs would be damaging to the state’s natural resources.

The revised legislation, however, reinstates \$700,000 for water protection, and assumes that changes in Michigan’s hunting and fishing license fee structure will also pass the Legislature and be signed by the governor, thus earmarking the additional revenue expected from the fee increases to pay for a larger force of conservation officers.

Our 60th Year: Looking Back to July 9, 1980

— Excerpts from *The North Woods Call* —

North Woods Ramblings With Shep Leaving Phelps Station

By Glen Sheppard

MATCHETT LAKE—This department’s guide is one of those guys who talks with trees. I make no apologies for it. Don’t even feel silly about it.

There are trees spotted all through the north woods that I’m on mighty personal terms with. In the spring and summer, my lap cradles a fly rod as we carry on our conversations. In the fall, I trade the rod for a shotgun and bird dog nuzzling my shoulder. For the past few winters—since the big red fox hound, Call, died—the rifle I used to carry has been left at home.

They are all sorts of trees. Cedars. Pines. Oaks. Beeches—they’re my favorites. Birches. Tamaracks. Spruces in the Arctic. Maples. And now a giant basswood. They are all large and old; superior specimens. With some of them, our affair has been going on for 20 years, or more.

I ask them about the things they’ve seen—how the land has changed in their time ... whether man has been good for them...

* * *

They display no impatience with this small talk, nor discomfort as my shoulders wriggle around looking for the best curve to settle in. They don’t complain of the small campfires that have cooked fish, woodcock, grouse, canned beans and hash. They have yet to wince at the odor from drying wool socks and underwear, or pipe smoke.

* * *

The past few evenings I’ve been developing a relationship with an ancient basswood that grows on the west side of this drumlin where Mary Lou, Toots, Twig, this typewriter and I have put down stakes. It’s stately, proud and, at first, sorta aloof—like it wasn’t sure it wanted to get involved with the fella whose gaze seemed to be trying to absorb the valley and swamp along the shore of Matchett Lake only a few hundred feet away.

I explained the sorrow in having to leave the birch under which the swing had set at Phelps Station. That we didn’t want to leave Phelps Station, which sits temporarily abandoned just three miles to the east, but that the grand old farmhouse is larger than we really needed and the mortgage payments considerably higher than our means, as inflation and recession put the pinch on us.

I tried to humbly point out that, thanks to John Frey’s generosity, we are going to be sharing the view, so we might as well be chums.

That first evening, a gentle rain dropped off the rim of my hat and washed the basswood’s leaves. So gentle that fireflies, like dancing stars, seemed to snap and crackle in the fieldstone where the deer came to drink in the pond—within arrow distance of the basswood and the swing.

It was, I think, when I mentioned the fireflies that the birch and I shared for years at Phelps Station and how important they are in my scheme of things, and how clean the rain will leave things, that the basswood joined in the conversation.

A friendly wind made soft music through the cedars, birches, popples and showy lady’s slippers that fringe the lake. There was this tingling sort of sensation, as though the wind had missed us at Phelps Station and traveled across the four drumlins until it found us.

Now the basswood can listen to the wind and I recall memories of those wonderful years at Phelps Station. Maybe I’ll send it visiting to check up on and let me know how things are over there in the valley where the ghosts of the old logging town still hold forth. To visit Big Dog Call’s grave and remind his spirit that I still roam the ridges and swamps with him.

Moving was—still is—hard. For several months, I was tempted to close up *The North Woods Call* and turn this typewriter to tasks that would bring in enough money to keep us at Phelps Station. But that was, really, never a viable option. *The Call* is too important to us and, we hope, you.

So, this basswood, the swing, the wind and I are going to start a new chapter on firefly watching and dreaming.

“A step backward for clean water”

A proposed bill overhauling Michigan’s wetlands protection program passed the House Natural Resources committee recently, potentially creating additional exemptions for development within currently protected wetland areas.

Even worse, according to the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV), it could open a state-managed protection program

to a federal takeover.

The MLCV calls the legislation “a step backward for clean water.”

The bill—also opposed by the Michigan Environmental Council and others—was intended to address deficiencies, but in-turn creates exemptions for development and eliminates important protections, MLCV officials said.

And, if signed into law, the bill would make it easier for Michigan’s wetlands protection program to be transferred to federal control, which they say is a bad idea that should be thwarted.

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2013 Survey

North Woods Call readers share their likes and dislikes

The new *North Woods Call* fared relatively well in a recent reader survey, with most respondents saying that they planned to renew their subscriptions when they expire.

The feedback was somewhat anemic, however, with just five percent of subscribers participating in the survey.

"I don't know whether that means the rest of our readers are satisfied," said Mike VanBuren, *The Call's* editor and publisher. "But we hope that's the case."

Of those readers who answered the survey, 71 percent said they would sign up again and 24 percent answered "maybe."

It was difficult to decipher the renewal intentions of the one person who accounted for five percent of the response, VanBuren said, because the relevant mark on the survey form left some question as to whether the answer was "yes," or "no."

"Because that person offered mostly positive comments, we're assuming that he was indicating that he would re-subscribe," VanBuren said.

Likes

Here are some of the things readers said they like about the newspaper:

"So far, there isn't anything NOT to like—front to back."

"We think you're doing just fine—good information, well-presented and fun to read. Thank you."

"Most articles, regardless of title, are concerned with the out-of-doors, wildlife, conservation, hunting, fishing and factors which affect any of the above."

"We get outdoor news and find out what the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) is up to. They have too many high-priced college kids and not enough old guys that really know what conservation is all about. *The Call* is the only place to get this data."

"The new version is much more even-handed. That is, [it] presents both sides of disputes much better than *The Call* used to do. I value that highly."

"I really enjoy Tom Springer's columns—also Doug Freeman's and your own—[as well as] the conservation officer logs and the *North Woods Notes*."

"[I like the] *North Woods Notes*, conservation officer logs, opinion page—all of it."

"It's all about what is good for the land and therefore the people.

[There are] better explanations than are available elsewhere, more topics in one spot [and the] references to more information that you include."

"[It's the] only place you can get outdoor information. Local papers only write sports."

"First, I like that you are carrying the torch. Thanks for that. Second, I like the conservation commitment you make. Third, I love the conservation officer reports. These men and women are unsung heroes of the state's attempt to maintain order on a limited budget. Without their commitment, there is no telling how many offenders would be emboldened to destroy our environment and our resources. Keep up the good work."

"[You retained the] same format and similar columns as the original. I enjoy the longer articles, which is something Shep did not have."

"Content is fine and will only get better as your acceptance by readers increases. I think I'm hooked on the conservation officer reports. It's true—for the most part lawbreakers do stupid things."

"You are doing a great job. Keep up the good work. The issues are getting better."

"It takes me back to the times of the first *North Woods Call*. I hope you are successful in this publication. We need to know what is going on from another point of view."

"I am very satisfied with everything."

"I enjoy each issue. Keep up the good work."

Dislikes

Here are some of the things readers said they DON'T like about the newspaper:

"[There's] too much. Just [give us] good, informative news affecting Michigan's natural resources and conservation."

"No district map for the conservation officer reports. [Former Publisher] Glen [Sheppard] always included one."

"Regurgitated columns from old (Marguerite Gahagan). I did not enjoy reading them under Shep and I don't care to read them now."

"Your political conservatism. I am not sure you can/should consider this as a bully pulpit to get into the political arena on all issues. Some of them are inevitable, as they relate to our



The past and present merged last October when the current North Woods Call editor dropped by Marguerite Gahagan's cabin at Roscommon to deliver some newspapers for the Gahagan Nature Preserve's open house.

natural resources, but some definitely are not."

"You probably won't like this, but there needs to be a voice for responsible gun owners to offset the mania we hear from the National Rifle Association and other reactionary groups. You won't scare away any subscribers by being silent on issues beyond your scope. What's wrong with background checks and banning assault weapons? Does everyone in our country need to lose a loved one to a Newtown massacre in order to overcome those who hide behind the Second Amendment—which never contemplated assault weapons in the hands of crazies?"

"I will keep looking for something I don't like and let you know if and when I find it."

"In answer to the disgruntled reader (see Late March—Vol. 60, No. 8—Page 6), I've taken *The Call* since Marguerite Gahagan and Shep (who I knew) and *The Call* is very much the same. Some people cry about everything."

Suggestions

Several good and interesting suggestions were also offered by survey participants.

"It's not clear which of these we can implement—in the near-term, at least—but we will take a closer look in the coming months and try to accommodate all that we can," VanBuren said.

The ideas include:

"The older *Call* used to have articles, or regular columns, written by a person just speaking to the common things that were hap-

pening in her/his section of woods—like the coming of spring, cutting wood for winter, the 'popping' of spring mushrooms, or the joy of visiting one's favorite stream and the serenity it provided. ... I would like to see a regular short article in the new *Call* from the 'Woods Walker,' or other fictitiously named author with a similar theme. The conservation news is important, but let us not forget why it is so. [I and many others] can speak to many wonderful experiences throughout northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula that I think others would like to read about."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We hope some of the personal columns contributed by Richard Schinkel, Tom Springer, Doug Freeman and others accomplish this, but we would also be glad to hear from any reader who thinks he or she has a similarly compelling story to tell about their own outdoor adventures.)

"[*The Call*] needs more news coverage. This version includes more about the Upper Peninsula than *The Call* used to, but we still need more on that area."

"[Contact] bait and sport shops north of Big Rapids-Bay City for fishing reports. Include the Upper Peninsula, too."

"I would think you could get extra quality content through the many land conservancies with little, or no cost. They may also advertise. I also have never understood why the hunt/fish crowd doesn't love what you and the conservancies do."

[Provide a] "DNR [Natural Re-

sources Commission] board list. Include some final results [in the conservation officer logs about] fines, counts, etc."

"I would like to see more information on how the Natural Resources Trust Fund money was spent this year—DNR land acquisitions, counties, acreage, etc."

"Stand for something [such as] the bottle bill [and] include a petition."

"Need more reader feedback printed [and] less 'endorsement' or fault-finding in 'global warming.' The real issue (never mentioned) is *too many people* in this world!"

"I prefer the print edition. However, it is a bit pricey for us retirees."

"The electronic version is OK, but I would much rather have it on newsprint. Find a cheap way of getting it done."

* * *

"While we wish more readers would have participated in this survey, we want to thank those who did," VanBuren said. "Such feedback—both encouragement and criticism—is very much appreciated. It helps to inform us about the strengths and weaknesses of our journalistic endeavors and gives us solid ideas as to how we can improve our efforts."

"A more thorough assessment of *The Call's* current and future health will be done in the coming months, when we attempt to attract new readers through various marketing efforts and see just how many current subscribers actually renew."

DNR invites public forest plan input

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host open houses for public comment on proposed 2015 forest management treatments in the Traverse City and Gaylord Management Units.

The Traverse City unit includes Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau and Manistee counties. Open houses there will be from 4 to 7 p.m. June 25 at the Traverse City Field Office, 970 Emerson Road, and 4 to 7 p.m. June 26 at the Kalkaska Field Office, 2089 Birch Street.

The Gaylord unit includes Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Mackinac and Otsego counties. Open houses there will be from 3 to 7 p.m. June 25 at the Gaylord Field Office, 1732 W. M-32, and June 26 at the Indian River Field Office, 6984 Wilson Road.

On July 18, the DNR will complete its formal review to decide on final treatment plans for the Traverse City unit. That review will begin at 9 a.m. at the Stone House, 419 S. Coral St., Kalkaska. Final review for the Gaylord unit will be at 9 a.m. July 24 at Otsego Lake Township Hall, 10584 S. Old 27 in Waters.

Charlevoix County gets \$1 million forest legacy grant

Approximately 750 acres and nearly three-quarters of a mile of Thumb Lake frontage in Charlevoix County will be protected under a \$1 million Forest Legacy Program grant.

The project, known as Gitche-ninj Nebish Forest (Ottawa for "Big Finger Water"), includes state acquisition of a conservation easement on 750 acres of rolling northern hardwood forests—strategically positioned to connect larger blocks of protected lands and habitats. The property is adjacent to state forest land on three sides and contains the Thumb Lake frontage on the fourth side.

Bill O'Neill, chief of the DNR's Forest Resources Division, said state acquisition of the conservation easement means that the property will stay in pri-

ivate ownership, but will be open for public recreational use and will be managed as a working forest under a plan approved by the state forester.

"Whether you enjoy hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking, or one of the many other recreational opportunities our forest land has to offer, this project also takes into account protection of wildlife habitat and ensures that sustainable timber management continues on the property," O'Neill said.

The Forest Legacy Program, administered by the U.S. Forest Service with money from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, is providing 75 percent of project funding. The purpose is to identify and protect environmentally important forest areas threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

Opinion

Conservation Quote

"If a man knows how many fly rods he has, he has too few."
— Glen Sheppard

Population and Immigration

Here's a conundrum—for us, at least.

Why do so many of our staunch "environmentalist" friends seem to support decidedly liberal immigration policies? These same people are quick to say that they're concerned with the pressures that too many human beings put on our natural resources. In fact, they often want to block the use of these resources when such population pressures demand more of the earth's bounty.

Yet they seem curiously unconcerned about porous borders and political maneuverings aimed at loosening immigration restrictions. Why is that?

Now, this is not an anti-immigration rant. Indeed, hard-working immigrants have long been a major strength of our nation. But don't we need sensible policies that welcome those who believe in our founding principles, and want to support the laws and institutions that have made the nation what it is? And shouldn't we factor in the impact on natural resources when considering how many people to let into our country each year?

Anything less than that seems foolhardy.

Those of us who have been around a while have seen the dramatic changes brought to our communities and the natural world by increasing numbers of people—heavy traffic, urban sprawl and pressure on natural areas among them.

Some of these changes are inevitable, of course, given the exponentially increasing population all over the world. But does that mean we shouldn't better manage these impacts?

It's getting harder to find places we can go to shut out the din of modern civilization. Many of the places we remember from childhood have long since been swallowed by the ever-advancing tide of development. We grieve the loss of these places, yet mostly seem powerless to prevent it—despite the good work being done by land conservancies, environmental groups and assorted conservation-minded citizens.

Almost everywhere we look, the battle is being lost. Yet the nation is poised to extend the welcome mat to millions more individuals who didn't see fit—for whatever reason—to abide by existing immigration laws and help us better manage our nation's resources.

One can't necessarily blame this problem on those who are seeking better opportunities for themselves and their families. We would probably do the same. But we still need to protect this nation's resources through thoughtful policies and enforcement.

Maybe if their own governments weren't so corrupt, this flood of immigrants—both legal and illegal—could find greater opportunity at home and not feel the need to search for it here.

National Rifle Association

We continue to scratch our heads over the antipathy we hear from some readers toward the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Although we are not and have never been members of that organization—and are naturally wary of the money fueled power exercised by these types of lobbying groups—it seems to us that the NRA is legitimately representing the interests of hundreds of thousands of its members—and perhaps the general interests of a free society, as well.

If not for the battle being waged by the NRA, there would likely be many more restraints on gun ownership than we have already seen—liberty suppressing regulations that do not honor the Second Amendment, or the U.S. Constitution.

Argue if you must about the "craziness" of semi-automatic weapons in the hands of average citizens. Our predecessor, Glen Sheppard, reportedly had little use for the NRA himself and would probably agree that prohibitions are necessary.

But we believe the issue runs much deeper than that. If we only could trust dishonest politicians and the cynical intentions of those agenda-driven special interests that are lobbying every bit as vehemently against gun ownership, we might have more sympathy for such arguments.

As it is, we're glad to see somebody standing up for these basic rights, however contentious they may be.

Most gun owners—no matter what kind of weapons they possess—have never so much as entertained the idea of using them for ill-intent. And we don't believe that removing guns from the hands of law-abiding citizens will keep them, or some other equally effective killing device, out of the hands of those who wish to damage lives and create mayhem.

The underlying moral conditions and mental health issues surrounding such actions are the real culprits, along with a general spiritual breakdown that didn't plague earlier generations.

Demonizing the NRA, or myriad other responsible gun owners who handle their weapons with care, will not lead us out of the dark and frightening place into which society has descended.

Last call for Shep and Mary Lou: A final goodbye

The stacks of loose paper, piles of books and racks of charred smoking pipes that defined Glen Sheppard's basement office are gone now. The well-used ceiling maps have disappeared and the built-in gun cabinet is empty.

Only a couple of steel file cabinets and the legendary conservation writer's laminate-topped desk remain—and they'll soon be hauled away.

Nearby, at the opposite end of the basement, Shep's fly-tying paraphernalia, fishing reels and extensive collection of tools have been cleared from the wooden work benches. Only a few stray items are left to remind us of the many years he inhabited this space as an avid outdoorsman and longtime publisher of *The North Woods Call*.

Up a narrow spiral staircase on the main floor of the Turkey Run home south of Charlevoix, Michigan, the rooms have been emptied in preparation for a series of estate sales in the large garage and nearby pole barn outside, which are now stuffed with a lifetime of memories. Furniture, outdoor clothing, fishing and camping gear, inflatable boats, hand and power tools, assorted household items, several prints by wildlife artist Jim Foote and a large collection of cribbage boards—some of which Shep made himself—are on display, along with numerous other personal items that are available for purchase.

My wife and I are here to load and carry away 40-plus years of unbound newspaper archives that are stored in boxes, plastic bags and random stacks in Shep's basement, as well as in the still-cluttered upstairs office once belonging to his wife and business partner, Mary Lou.

The former business office is located just inside the back door, a few feet from the now barren kitchen dining area where Shep once held court for governors, Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials and field staff, fellow journalists and assorted other visitors—including yours truly—who made regular pilgrimages to the wooded drumlin on which the Sheppard home sits.

Mary Lou kept track of the books, circulation figures, advertising, phone calls and most

North Woods Journal By Mike VanBuren



Daughter Jackie Anderson at an estate sale held recently in a large pole barn at Shep and Mary Lou's home near Charlevoix.

everything else with which Shep did not want to be troubled—including Shep himself—while he did the reporting and writing.

The feisty scribe passed away in January 2011 at the age of 74 and Mary Lou followed not long after in late December 2012. Many conservationists have called it "the end of an era."

So this is a somewhat wistful and reflective day for those of us who are walking in their rather large footprints. Yet the sad and decidedly dark cloud that hangs over the reason for our being here is brightened by the general cheerfulness of Mary Lou's daughter, Jackie Anderson, who has the unenviable task of cleaning everything out and organizing the estate sales. One sale was held a few weeks ago, while the second is occurring today.

Anderson says she expects to hold at least one more sale—maybe more—before she is finished clearing things out and puts the house and accompanying 11-acres on the market.

It's a grim task and nature is already reclaiming Mary Lou's once-immaculate flower and vegetable gardens. Two picturesque wooden swings where the couple reportedly sat to enjoy their outdoor Shangri-la are hanging overgrown and unused.

But Shep would likely scoff at any latent sentimentality. "He lived, he died and he's gone" is the only epitaph needed, he once

told a friend, and he insisted on no memorial service to celebrate his life and times. The same is apparently true for Mary Lou.

Both were cremated upon their deaths and their ashes scattered in locations meaningful to them. A bit of Shep resides for posterity in the woods surrounding his former home, according to Anderson, and the rest will likely be placed soon in the "Holy Waters" of the Au Sable River, a place dear to the hearts of both Shep and his father.

Mary Lou, on the other hand, loved to travel and requested that family members take her ashes along on trips, leaving portions behind at various special locations. Her wishes have already been carried out in Hawaii, Ireland and the United States, Anderson said, and there are more of her remains waiting to be scattered whenever other family members feed their wanderlust.

As for my wife and I, we elect to honor their memories by visiting one of their favorite restaurants—*The Front Porch* in nearby Ellsworth—where in later years Shep and Mary Lou are said to have eaten lunch nearly every day. I was here with Mary Lou twice myself after she sold me *The Call*.

As the nonprofit ministry of a local church, the small eatery will provide just the kind of nourishment we need on a day like today, when we say our final goodbyes to these tenacious friends and defenders of the north country.



The North Woods Call was written for many years in this basement office at the Sheppard home on Turkey Run Road. The office contents—and those of the entire house—are now being removed for sale.

The North Woods Call

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Since 1953

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Mary Lou Sheppard enjoyed gardening and planted several varieties of flowers and vegetables around their home. This patch in a driveway island has been in need of her attention for the past couple of years.



This swing in front of their home was one of the Sheppard's favorite spots to enjoy the woods and wild creatures that frequented the surrounding 11 acres and regularly provided fodder for Shep's writing.



A lone abandoned coffee mug rests on the deck railing that Glen and Mary Lou Sheppard regularly covered with suet and seed to encourage birds and other woodland creatures to visit their drumlin abode.

The Wild Nearby

By Tom Springer



A young girl's guide to power tools

At age 12, our daughter discovered that a front yard can be more than a soft, green place to turn cartwheels.

It's also a renewable source of income. I'd gladly pay her to mow, since this frees me up to tend the garden, pick berries, or fish the river. It's time, not money, that's the true currency of a fleeting Michigan summer.

There was just one problem—she couldn't start the mower without me. It was a second-hand push model that took three or four Dad-sized yanks before the engine would smoke and sputter to life.

"Dad," she'd say, with a pony tailed sincerity that would soon enough break hearts other than my own. "What's up with this thing?"

I suppose it could have been a rusty spark plug, clogged fuel filter or fractured electron transducer shield for all I know. But there's another answer that I couldn't burden her with just yet. The mower won't start because it's a machine—a soulless, unreliable, infuriating and deceptively time-consuming piece of mechanical enslavement.

Own a house, especially in the country, and you'll feel compelled to own plenty of such machines. Chain saws, snow blowers, rototillers, weed-whackers and leaf blowers are the usual suspects. All useful in their own right, yet all encumbered with hidden costs of maintenance, storage and repair.

You can quickly end up as a small-engine wet nurse to a barn full of expensive, internal combustion ingrates that never quite work when or how you want them to. Here's what I've found to be the biggest repeat offenders:

The Chain Saw: I've got a small one, still like new, that I've never been able to make run longer than 90 seconds. For me, it stalls out every time. For my brother, who speaks fluent chain saw, it purrs like a Ferrari. Yet here's the subversive truth: if all you need is a few cords of wood each year for a fireplace, then you don't need a chain saw. You just need to know somebody with a chain saw and then volunteer to help them. That's because guys who love to cut wood would rather do just that. They're far less eager to lug and load all that lumber onto their truck or trailer. It's unglamorous work and if you pitch in, you can negotiate for a fair share.

The Rototiller: I've never bought one, because the big, hydraulic rear-tine models that I like costs \$5,000. So every year I rent one for a half-day to till my garden—and about every other year it breaks. Usually, it's the pull cord that snaps off. This requires a 40-minute round trip to the equipment rental store, where I'll be humiliated by an 18 year-old mechanic who can nonchalantly fix it in about 10 seconds. All that aggravation for one day; imagine the misery a rototiller would bring if I owned one for the other 364?

The Leaf Blower: I've never owned a leaf blower, but God does, so I use his. He fires it up in late October, in the guise of an exuberant gale that blows in at 30 miles-per-hour from the Great Plains. This Divine Wind sweeps the yard clean and deposits 90 percent of our leaves into the vacant field next door. Best of all, the Big Guy handles all the oil changes.

Why is it, though, that some people can't get along with power tools? It could be because power tools embody the logic and predilections of whoever designed them into being. Most likely, their inventor was someone who relishes the quirks of small machines and could happily pass a Saturday morning browsing the nut and bolt aisles of Home Depot. They're the sort who love mechanical complexity for its own sake—and that's why their progeny will forever confound the stubby pencil types of the world.

I've always assumed that my daughter would share my aversion toward steel creatures with crankcase hearts. This summer, I even begged her to try my beloved hand clippers—the ones that make a musical snip-snip when I trim grass from around a tree. But she just asked why we don't own a weed whacker.

Then, when I returned from a business trip, she dropped this bomb: "Dad, guess what? I started the mower without you!"

Like last year's MP-3 player, my services had been rendered obsolete. Yet isn't that the whole point of parenthood? We give kids the tools and let them make of the world what they will (They can hardly do worse than we did). Still, I hope my daughter will always rely more on her own muscle, and the occasional Divine Wind, than on the over-hyped promises—and treacherous pull cords—of mechanical salvation.

Letter to the Editor

A "battler's" grandson checks in

Editor:

I am Guy Kistler's grandson.

It was quite a surprise and pleasure when I stumbled upon the story (*Guy Kistler: An Insistent Voice for Better Water Quality*, Late January 2013). Excellent.

I have many fond memories of fishing with my grandfather. Thank you for such a great write-up.

Kindest regards,
Patrick Devine
Charlotte, North Carolina



In memory of
Shep & Mary Lou

Publishers of
The North Woods Call
from 1969 to 2011

Glen Sheppard: 1936-2011
Mary Lou Sheppard: 1933-2012

The Natural World

By Richard Schinkel



Night hikes and the joy of fireflies

As you may already have surmised, I firmly believe that our children should get in the outdoors as often as possible.

This should be done when they are very young, as it will build an appreciation that can't be taught. Whether you take them fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, biking, canoeing, or any other outdoor adventure, the time is extremely well spent.

Night hikes are especially important as many kids have never experienced a night without street lights, or some other artificial lights. Its hard even for all of us today.

One of my first real experiences with lightning bugs, or fireflies, was visiting our cabin in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. We owned a cabin (and still do) between Kenton and Trout Creek on old highway 28. Some of you in the older generation may remember the Ottawa Lodge. It is near there.

Well, in the grassy old pasture behind the barn of Smith's Cabins were literally thousands of lightning bugs in early July. It was a sight to see and a reason to be out at night.

In Michigan, we have several species of fireflies. I cannot tell which is which, but if you were to study them, you can detect differences by the color of their light, and the pattern and length of time they glow. There are studies being done across the United States, taking census of the different types, habitat, and numbers.

The glow in fireflies is due to a chemical reaction called bioluminescence in the lower abdomen of the insect. Scientists have isolated the chemicals that produce the light and we understand more about the process.

Fireflies are interesting insects. They are beetles and belong to the family Lampyridae. They are most noticeable because of their ability to glow. The males glow to attract a mate, or some type of prey. Females may not fly, but do give off a soft glow to tell the mate she is available.

This glow light may be yellow, green, or even pale red and of different wavelengths. They also have specific patterns of glowing. The larva also glow and are often called "glow worms."

Most often they live in moist wooded areas where they have a good source of food. Both the adults and larva eat other insects, snails, slugs, earthworms, and even other fireflies. They inject a poison into the prey to immobilize it and then eat the meal. Some females have the ability to mimic the response glows of other species of firefly, thus luring a male to be eaten by the trickster.

As we already know, most lightning bugs are nocturnal, which allows them to show off the glow to attract a mate. The life cycle goes something like this: After mating, eggs are laid in the ground and hatch in about four weeks. The eggs themselves give off a soft glow. The larva, after it hatches, spends about two years in moist areas around streams and wetlands, feeding on its prey. After the larva matures, it creates a chamber in the soil, where it undergoes the process of metamorphosis, turning into an adult lighting bug beetle. This process takes about two weeks. Most adults only survive the summer.

If you were to capture some lightning bugs, which is a fun activity, it is best to keep them in clear jar with a bit of moist soil or mulch. This keeps the insects from drying out. You should not keep them for more than a few hours and then release them where they were captured.

Studying these creatures can be exciting and I guarantee that the kids will remember.

Diversity in Lake Michigan fishery?

John Janssen, a professor of fisheries ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences, stimulated a somewhat controversial debate on the merits of adding more diversity to Lake Michigan's fishery during a spring meeting of the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum in Cleveland, Ohio.

While there has been much success in managing for chinook salmon, brown trout and coho salmon in recent years—along with controlling aquatic invaders such as lamprey and alewives—efforts to battle more recent intruders such as zebra and quagga mussels might have greater success if more native fish species were encouraged, he said.

"We've been in the mind-set of a fish farm," Janssen said, acknowledging that many anglers dislike lake trout and other native species. "We have more of a salmon monoculture in terms of sport fishing. I'm suggesting it would be helpful to rethink our management of the lake as a whole ecosystem."

Bill targets offshore wind projects

A handful of Michigan lawmakers have proposed legislation to block offshore wind projects in Lake Michigan.

Introduced by Republican representatives Ray Franz, Greg MacMaster, Tim Kelly, Jon Bumstead, Patrick Somerville and Bob Genetski, House Bill 4778 would prevent the state from entering into a lease, or deed, to site and

build any offshore wind research structures, or any wind turbines on submerged lands. It also blocks leasing of sub-lake land for transmission lines.

Wind energy proponents have criticized the proposal. Hugh McDiarmid Jr., spokesman for the Michigan Environmental Council, called the bill "foolish beyond description."

DNR lawsuit in Barry court July 2

As reported in the last *North Woods Call*, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lawyers will be in Barry County District Court July 2 to argue for the "summary disposition" of a lawsuit filed against the agency by a local citizen's group.

Michigan Land Air Water Defense (MALWD) is seeking to nullify the previous sale of oil and gas leases within Barry and Allegan State Game Areas, as well as in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area.

"The DNR has asked the court to dismiss the case, because they say it is premature and claim that there is no public trust legal protection for state parks, and recreation, game and wildlife areas," said Jim Olson, a Traverse City based attorney representing MALWD. "Why, then, do they say that the land was set aside for public trust and spend federal money for fish and game management under that purpose?"

Under the Michigan Environmental Protection Act and other relevant case law, the DNR has a duty to consider the likely impact on natural resources and the public trust of the state, according to Olson. The agency needs to do a cumulative impact analysis on the overall project *BEFORE* they sell leases, he said.

"The burden is on those wanting to do the project [to show that the resource and public trust will not be harmed], Olson said. "It's not up to the citizens to do this. It's all about good government—not faulty government."

The DNR, meanwhile, says the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will do such an analysis before any permits are approved, and any actual oil and gas development occurs—thus providing a line of defense for natural resources.

The agency is asking for the lawsuit to be dismissed because, state officials say, it depends on "hypothetical future events which have not occurred and may never occur."

In its request for summary disposition, the DNR also says that claims of MALWD are based on the common law public trust doctrine, which they say applies only to the public's right to use navigable bodies of water—not to prevent the lease of state-owned mineral rights. The doctrine, officials said, merely provides members of the public the right to fish and navigate on navigable waters in Michigan. It does not apply to all lands owned by the state, or "any land owned by the state unless that land underlies navigable water, or is adjacent to navigable water below the ordinary high-water mark."

Further, the DNR says, the request for an injunction on leases already classified as "non-development"—meaning that there will supposedly will not be any drilling or other activity on the surface of on those parcels—is irrelevant, because it "does not

present a claim upon which relief can be granted."

Also, the claim by MALWD that the lease auctions in question violated the DNR's statutory duties is "without merit," the agency's lawyers say. "Michigan law is clear that the DNR has the authority to auction and lease state-owned mineral rights," they said. It invades "the agency's decision-making process" and effectively dictates "matters of policy to the executive branch."

Besides, this is beyond the jurisdiction and purview of the courts, they claim.

The DNR says that the only way the harms alleged by MALWD could ever occur would be if a mineral rights lessee were to obtain all necessary drilling and environmental permits from the DEQ, actually begin drilling, employ hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," techniques and conduct those activities in a manner that causes environmental harm.

To date, there haven't even been any applications for such permits on the land in question, so any alleged harm at this point is "hypothetical," they say.

"The mere auction, or lease, of mineral rights does not itself harm natural resources," the DNR says. "The potential action that concerns the plaintiff—fracking—has not even been proposed on any of the lands referenced in the complaint. ... At present, there is no indication that the lessees have any intention of fracking."

"When the state makes a decision to transfer oil and gas leases, they are introducing incompatible impacts to these state game areas," countered Olson. "They are doing so without any consideration of the basic impacts that occur with this type of change. Secondly, they are not even estimating the quantities of water involved in these incredibly rich and diverse wildlife areas in Barry and Allegan counties—if these quantities were to be removed [and used in fracking operations]."

While some conservationists seem content with allowing "experts" in state agencies such as the DNR to make such decisions, others say that citizen voices should be heard.

Indeed, many past and current Michigan environmental protection laws say that resource protection issues are "of paramount public concern" according to Olson, "and that we are no longer going to just rely on the expertise of an agency, because an informed citizenry is an important part of our environmental protection in Michigan."

"The courts do not defer to agencies," he said. "They make independent decisions. The courts are supposed to get the facts, debate the issues in a good way and make good decisions. [Too often] we're going backward from what the laws require."

Book Review:

Ann Miller's Hatch Guide for Upper Midwest Streams

By Ann R. Miller
Illustrated by Jonathan Higgins
2011: Frank Amato Publications
Portland, Oregon
ISBN: 978-1571884817

Most naturalists don't write books for the fishing and hunting trade. But as I may have said previously, most hunters and fisherman make the best naturalists.

One of the best fly-tying guides has been written by a naturalist/aquatic biologist, Ann Miller. She has written "Hatch Guide For Upper Midwest Streams." I believe this book is the state-of-the-art for fly tying enthusiasts across the country—not just the midwest.

Miller spent more than three years traveling across the upper midwest, capturing aquatic insects and photographing them in the different life stages. In the book are about 50 species of aquatic insects and aquatic life forms imitated by wet and dry flies.

The author soon learned that the aquatic stages are very fragile and soft, thus making it difficult to get good photographs in the field. Because of this, she created a whole array of aquatic habitats in her home and garage, including streams and tanks.

While Miller traveled extensively across the upper midwest, there was a particular emphasis on Wisconsin and Michigan.

This guide is a must for avid fly tiers, as well as the beginner, but it is aimed at all fly fishers. Figur-

ing out what is hatching on a river is often the most difficult aspect of the sport. Using this guide should allow anglers to understand which insect is hatching and the cycle stage on which the fish are feeding. Knowing this part of the puzzle allows anglers to select the appropriate flies and catch fish.

A thorough explanation of the life cycle of aquatic life is included, as well as effects of different rivers, streams and habitats. Tips are given as to what season different hatches occur and what type of streams produce which insects.

What is most remarkable about the book is the unbelievable color pictures. Each species is pictured in both the aquatic larva stage and adult. On the facing page is the correct artificial fly that fly fisherman would use. In most cases, multiple flies are shown.

What is more incredible for the avid fly tier is in the back of the book—each individual fly has basic instructions on what it takes to tie that particular fly.

The author is very involved in teaching the art of fly tying and promoting fly fishing, especially for women.

The 348-page book retails for around \$30 and can easily fit in a pocket. Anyone who enjoys Michigan streams must have this book, even if not a fly fisherman—just for the great pictures of our aquatic life.

—Richard Schinkel

Please do your part to support conservation efforts

Conservation Officer Logs (5/13/13 through 5/27/13)

Alcohol, drugs, a water-logged truck, a turtle for sale and lots of excuses

DISTRICT 1

CO Ryan Aho pulled into a remote fishing access site and observed two vehicles, and two male subjects who were acting in a suspicious manner. The subjects claimed to not know who the second vehicle belonged to. Further investigation revealed two female subjects hiding behind an out-house. The subjects were all under 21 years old and were all friends. Alcoholic beverages were open in plain view inside one of the vehicles. Prescription pills were observed next to another vehicle and appeared to have been tossed into the woods by the subjects. A search of the subjects and their vehicles produced pills that matched the pills tossed into the woods. A glass pipe and jar containing an additional controlled substance was also located. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marvin Gerlach was in the City of Menominee when he was almost hit by a careless driver weaving in and out of traffic and traveling at a high rate of speed. A traffic stop was made and the driver was lodged on an outstanding warrant for cocaine possession. He was also ticketed for the careless operation. His passenger (brother) did not have a good day, either. While talking to **CO Gerlach**, the passenger accidentally dropped the marijuana pipe he was hiding in his pants. Enforcement action was taken involving the brother as well.

CO Dave Painter reported that a condemnation hearing regarding a subject who shot a deer with a bow out of season was successful. The subject shot a buck that was eating in his garden before the October 1 opening of bow season. The bow used in the incident was forfeited to the State of Michigan.

CO Brian Bacon contacted two kayakers on the Groveland Mine Ponds. While approaching the kayakers, **CO Bacon** observed one of the kayakers nearly tip over. While talking with the subjects, one person stated that he was glad he had not tipped over because he was not a good swimmer. A check of the kayakers found neither to have life jackets. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Jeff Panich was on marine patrol near the Brevort Lake boat launch when he heard a series of screams as a father and son team tried unsuccessfully to stop their truck, boat and trailer from going uncontrollably into the water. The **CO** ran for his patrol truck and towed the now submerged truck from the water. The truck reportedly lost its hydraulic brakes as they were trying to launch their boat. The truck sank up to the windshield, but due to the sharp incline was still running when the **CO** pulled them out. The two were grateful that the **CO** was

there and acted so quickly to save their truck from further damage.

CO Jeff Panich was working on Drummond Island when a call for help came in for a missing man. The **CO** conducted a search and rescue for the missing grandfather and was able to locate him. Upon returning the man to his family safe and sound, it was discovered that the subject's daughter and son were now lost after they went out to search for him. The **CO** conducted another search and rescue and after several hours located the lost mom and her son. All were safe and extended their heartfelt thanks to **CO Panich**.

DISTRICT 3

COs Andrea Erratt and **Mark DePew** assisted in another school lock-down at a Charlevoix County School. A report of a subject on a roadway near the school with a gun and covered with blood was received. An extensive search of the area failed to locate the subject.

CO Andrea Erratt had three separate groups of ORVs drive by several "No ORV" signs on state land prior to being stopped and ticketed for the violation. One group stated they were too busy looking for mushrooms to see any signs.

A subject arrested in December by **CO Andrea Albert**, Antrim County, for shooting two turkeys out of season while his hunting privileges were revoked, pled guilty to all three counts. Court fines and costs totaled \$1,180 with an additional \$2,000 charged for restitution for the two turkeys. The subject forfeited his rifle to the DNR and is not eligible to hunt until 2016.

DISTRICT 4

While on patrol, **COs Sam Koscinski** and **Holly Pennoni** located a pile of garbage bags dumped on state land. The **COs** searched through the garbage and was able to identify the possible suspects. The individuals were contacted and they admitted to placing the garbage on state land. They advised that they only placed the garbage "temporarily" and were going to go back and pick it up at a later date. A ticket was issued for littering and the subjects did indeed pick the garbage up.

CO Brian Brosky issued a ticket to a charter boat captain who was fishing too many lines. The boat was running nine total lines with only two subjects on board. The charter boat captain stated he was only trying to locate some fish for his future clients.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and **CO Brian Lebel** were transporting a utility vehicle when they experienced a blowout on one of the trailer's tires. The **COs** went to a nearby residence and asked to leave the trailer there until they could return with proper tools.



The resident insisted on changing the tire for the officers as he relayed a story of how, approximately 10 years ago, **Sgt. Bomay** had stopped and helped him change a flat tire. The **COs** thanked the gentleman and were appreciative of him repaying the good deed.

DISTRICT 5

While on patrol, **CO Chris Bowen** passed a motor vehicle and observed the driver wave to him with an opened beer in his hand. **CO Bowen** stopped the vehicle and found others in the vehicle with open intoxicants. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling state land in Clare County, **Sgt. Jon Wood** stopped an ORV for illegal operation. A ticket was issued with an explanation of rules and regulations. On the same day, approximately 10 hours later, **Sgt. Wood** decided to check the same area. To his surprise, he found the same ORV with a different operator. The earlier operator was a passenger this time. Both subjects were very surprised to see the **CO** back in the area. The owner of the ORV complained that he had just bought the ORV last week and it had already accumulated two tickets. According to him, the temperature was just too great.

DISTRICT 6

CO Jason A. Smith found a couple of young anglers bow fishing from shore, one of whom did not possess a fishing license. They were also in possession of a cooler full of beer even though they had not yet celebrated their 21st birthdays. Enforcement action was taken.

A recent manure spill at a local farm resulted in a large fish kill that involved eight miles of the Pinnebog River and a small portion of a local drain. The initial fish kill was discovered in the Port Crescent State Park area of the Pinnebog River. Initially it was believed that the two issues were not related. **CO Bob Hobkirk** assisted the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with the investigation by locating numerous dead fish from the manure release to the area that the dead fish were first located. The DEQ is handling the incident and told the **CO** that fines would be assessed to the farm responsible for the fish kill.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly was reviewing **Craig's List** when he came across an ad that offered a turtle for sale for \$50. The **Sgt.** made a phone call to the seller,

who advised that he would drop the price of the turtle to \$40. The unsuspecting seller told the **CO** that the turtle would be sold at a garage sale. The **Sgt.** then contacted the seller at the garage sale and found out that the snapping turtle was taken from the wild. Violations involved selling a turtle taken from the wild and possessing a snapping turtle out of season. Enforcement action was taken and the turtle was released.

CO Jeremy Payne was working the Coldwater Lake area and was stationary when an ORV sped by him an estimated speed of 65 MPH. The **CO** gave chase and finally made contact as the subject pulled into his driveway. As the **CO** was dealing with the subject, his wife came out screaming at her husband. It turns out that the operator was issued a ticket three days ago by a local deputy for the very same thing. The subject's wife then started throwing his clothes and other property off the porch and told him not to come back.

DISTRICT 7

CO Greg Patten was contacted to investigate an eight-acre fire in Muskegon County that was started by a subject burning brush. The fire was originally spotted by a DNR aircraft flight working that day near Allegan. Fire equipment was dispatched to contain the fire and the investigation led to an admission from the homeowner, who left the fire unattended to go to a local store. Fire danger was high that day and no burn permit had been secured. The property owner is to be charged with the fire, and suppression costs of \$3,600 will be sought.

COs Greg Patten and **Chris Simpson** conducted a patrol on Lake Michigan from Muskegon to Whitehall and were able to locate and obtain coordinates for an abandon trap net off Whitehall. This information will be turned over to the Commercial Fish Section and tribal enforcement officials. During this patrol a trolling boat was checked and found to be trolling too many lines. Enforcement action was taken for the violation.

DISTRICT 8

While patrolling the railroad tracks for ORV activity, **CO Damon Owens** encountered several individuals fishing and trespassing on Consumers Energy property. One adult subject stated he was only helping his sibling fish and was not fishing himself. After getting all of the stories from each person, **CO Owens** asked the group collectively about the largemouth bass they failed to mention, hidden in the tall grass by their fishing gear. Everyone's story quickly changed and the violator was identified by his own family. Violations included fishing without a license, recreational trespass, railroad trespass, and possession of a bass during closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens and **Sgt. Troy Bahlau** conducted a marine

patrol for the Memorial Day holiday and issued a ticket to a subject fishing without a license who was "testing" his pole. A license check showed he last purchased a fishing license in 2008. A consent search revealed he had an entire trunk of well-used fishing gear. After a short conversation, he admitted he has been "testing" his fishing gear since 2008, and getting caught was overdue.

DISTRICT 9

COs Kris Kiel and **Ben Lasher** were on marine patrol on the holiday on Lake St. Clair, and stopped 14 vessels in the course of the patrol. One of the subjects fishing without a license had four warrants for his arrest. Due to the holiday, however, no one was able to pick him up. The subject was advised and released.

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint regarding a subject who was in possession of three baby Canada geese. **CO Kiel** arrived on scene and located the three geese inside a small fenced-in area. In the enclosure was a dish of water and a plate with beans and rice on it. When the **CO** asked the subject where he got the baby geese, he indicated he received them as a birthday gift. **CO Kiel** had looked at his driver's license and determined that his birthday was in February. However, the geese were only a few weeks old. **CO Kiel** finally got the truth out of the subject, who admitted he had taken them out of the wild when he was fishing. **CO Kiel** transported the baby geese to a licensed rehabilitator and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Arthur Green and **CO Mike Drexler** worked a Memorial Day marine patrol on the Detroit River. One vessel was stopped for failing to display registration numbers or decals. The occupants stated that they had been operating the vessel for approximately three weeks and they were planning on ordering the numbers soon. The vessel was also missing some important safety equipment. Enforcement action was taken.

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Final Shots



Fishin' for Memories

Here (above) are just a few of the numerous fishing reels that the late *North Woods Call* editor and publisher Glen Sheppard collected at his home near Charlevoix. Many of Shep's personal effects—along with those of his wife, Mary Lou—have been offered for purchase during a recent series of estate sales. Some of old fisherman's smoking pipes and a well-used manual typewriter (below) were also among the items on display. See pages 4 & 5 for additional details and photos.



For a limited time only!



If you didn't get a copy of this fine book earlier, now may be one of your last chances.

The collection of writings by long-time *North Woods Call* Publisher Glen Sheppard is out-of-print, but we picked up a handful of new copies from Shep's estate and are offering them to the first 25 people who speak up.

Check our website for availability and ordering information:

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What's that? Squirrels that fly?

By Chris Hoving
Adaption Specialist
DNR Wildlife Division

Michigan may be the best state in the country to see flying squirrels.

It has more forest areas open to public recreation than any other state east of the Mississippi River. In fact, Michigan has the largest system of state forests in the country.

Forests are the places to find flying squirrels and the forest needs to be mature enough to have at least a few snags, or dead standing trees. Many different animals benefit from snags, including flying squirrels.

Flying squirrels aren't particular about the kind of forest they live in, although they prefer trees with nuts—such as beech, oak and hickory.

Not only does the state have abundant habitat, but Michigan is home to two species of flying squirrels—the northern flying squirrel and the southern flying squirrel.

Don't let their name fool you. These squirrels don't actually fly. They glide.

They have a loose fold of skin along each side of the body, from ankle to wrist, which extends to form a kite-like surface that allows the squirrel to glide from tree-to-tree.

To anyone but an expert mammalogist—or another flying squirrel—northern and southern flying squirrels are nearly impossible to



Flying squirrels are nocturnal.

tell apart.

Until recently, you could be pretty sure which species you had seen just from where in Michigan you spotted the squirrel. They were in the northern and southern parts of the state, respectively. However, as the climate in Michigan has warmed over the past three decades, northern flying squirrels have become increasingly rare and southern flying squirrels now can be found statewide.

The large eyes of the flying squirrel are adapted to seeing in the dark. They are almost entirely nocturnal, meaning they are only active at night and few people ever see them.

When we do venture outside at night, most of us tend to look down to avoid tripping over obstacles in the dark. Stop for a moment sometime and try looking up.

You just might catch a glimpse of a flying squirrel gliding overhead.

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