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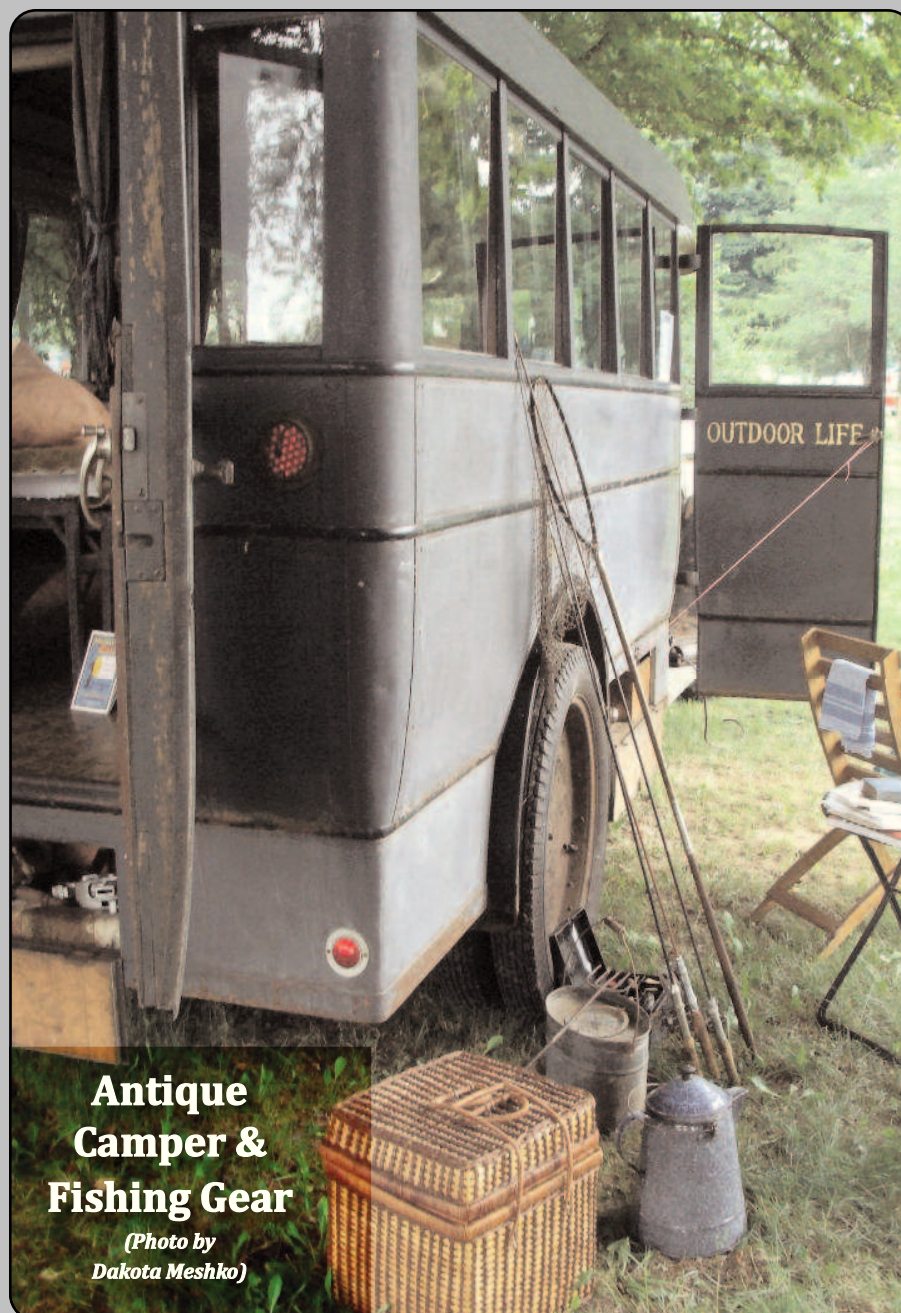


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THE NORTHWOODS CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



Antique Camper & Fishing Gear

(Photo by Dakota Meshko)

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THE NORTHWOODS CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



North Woods Notes

GREAT LAKES HEALTH: Despite the giant strides made in recent decades toward improving their overall health, the Great Lakes are once again in serious trouble. That according to Michigan environmental writer Jeff Alexander, who recently penned an essay on the subject for the July/August edition of *Illinois Issues* magazine. The problems are both old and new, Alexander says, and include toxic algae blooms, aquatic invasive species, new pollutants, rampant sewage overflows, climate change and coal ash pollution from the S.S. Badger car ferry. “Imagine the uproar,” he writes, “if corporations and cities were allowed to dump tons of fresh trash and billions of gallons of untreated sewage into the Grand Canyon.”

PLASTIC POLLUTION: Tiny plastic particles have reportedly been proliferating in the Great Lakes—as they have in the earth’s oceans—which researchers say could be damaging the environment and entering the food chain. “Microplastics”—tiny beads from consumer products such as toothpaste, facial cleansers, mouth washes and other sources—are so small that they are not filtered by wastewater treatment processes and make their way into lakes and oceans. They have been found in all five Great Lakes, with the greatest concentrations in Lake Erie. Researchers studying the phenomenon are trying to determine whether microscopic phytoplankton and fish are eating the plastics and introducing them to the food chain.

PIPELINE PROTEST: Twelve people were reportedly arrested during a July 22 protest against Enbridge Energy, which is replacing and increasing the capacity of about 160 miles of its crude oil and petroleum pipeline through 10 Michigan counties. Protesters from the Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands stopped construction for several hours after four of them locked themselves to pieces of machinery near Stockbridge in the southern Lower Peninsula.

TRUST FUND: It looks like the annual assaults on the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) will continue apace, with new ideas being bandied about by legislators who reportedly are looking for ways to raid the fund, which is constitutionally protected for specific purposes. Last year, legislators failed to tap the NRTF for dredging Great Lakes harbors when Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette nixed the plan. Defenders of the NRTF urge citizens to tell elected officials to keep their hands off the money, except for the purposes for which it was intended.

SPORTSMEN’S ACT: A new sportsmen’s act has been introduced into the U.S. Senate by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) as an alternative to similar legislation that failed last year. Ostensibly to “protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting,” as well as other purposes, the revised bill excludes reauthorization of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. But it includes reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. In addition, there is a proposed amendment to the Federal Duck Stamp Act, as well as a Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp. It also proposes greater use of Pitman-Robertson funds to create and maintain shooting ranges, and abolishes the Environmental Protection Agency’s role under the Toxic Control Act in regard to oversight of lead in both fishing tackle and ammunition. Bipartisan support reportedly exists for key elements of the bill.

DUCK SURVEY: North America’s spring duck population is down slightly from record levels, but pond counts are up 24 percent over last year, according to the 2013 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey released in late July. The binational annual survey—conducted since 1955 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service—puts the breeding duck population at 45.6 million, the second-highest level ever recorded.

DARK SKY PRESERVE: The Dark Sky Preserve at Port Crescent State Park will be dedicated from 8 p.m. to midnight Sept. 6. The preserve was officially designated in 2012, giving stargazers a place for unobstructed views of naturally dark skies. The free dedication event at the day-use unit of the park (1775 Port Austin Road in Port Austin), will include an in-depth presentation about astronomy, a tour of the night sky and telescopes for attendees. Light refreshments will also be provided.

PETCOKE: State Rep. Rashida Tiaib (D-Detroit) is leading efforts to address the hazards that petcoke piles pose to clean water and the health of Detroit residents. The Michigan League of Conservation Voters is urging citizens to encourage Tiaib’s efforts to clean up the piles.

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BUSTED: Team Services lays Benzie County brine

Team Services LLC—a Kalkaska-based oil services company with offices in Manistee, Pennsylvania and North Dakota—has been identified as the culprit in an incident where toxic solvents were sprayed on Benzie County roads near the Platte River Estuary.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in late July sent a notice to the company that it had violated state law by dumping brine containing 1,000,000 parts per billion toluene, 130,000 parts per billion ethylbenzene, 750,000 parts per billion xylene and 28,000 parts per billion benzene—far above the legal limits. The material, DEQ officials said, “was not managed to prevent discharge to the environment.”

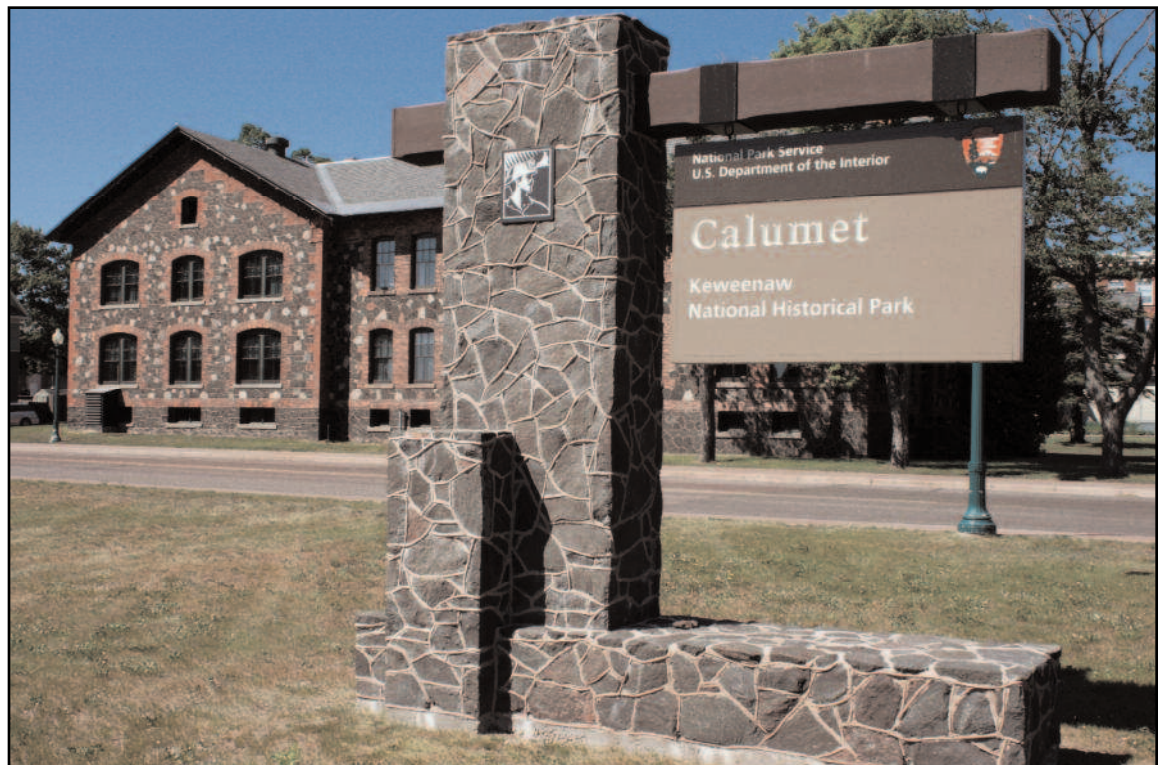
The company was told it must take immediate action to achieve and maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of its groundwater permit and

“all parts of the Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act.”

Company officials were asked to respond to the charges—in writing—by August 31 with a description of what occurred, along with assorted details about brine storage and the truck used to spray the brine in question on the roads. They were also asked to outline future practices that will eliminate such incidents from occurring and to provide a work plan with information about the quantity of waste discharged and how testing will show that there is no further hazard to groundwater.

Originally, the story was broken by Ban Michigan Fracking, a grassroots group dedicated to eliminating hydraulic fracturing in Michigan. A Benzie County resident reportedly saw an oil services company truck

(Continued on Page 6)



History and Natural Resources

What better place to study history and contemplate the impact of human activity on the natural world than in the environs of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Here, the National Park Service’s Calumet headquarters welcomes visitors to the Keweenaw National Historic Park in the northwestern Upper Peninsula.

Academic scientists oppose “anti-biodiversity” bill

More than 130 Ph.D.-level academic scientists representing at least 13 Michigan universities have reportedly signed a letter urging Gov. Rick Snyder to veto the so-called “anti-biodiversity” bill if it reaches his desk.

The Michigan Legislature left for its August summer recess without taking up Senate Bill 78, which would redefine the term “biodiversity” in state law and prohibit state agencies from designating public lands to protect biological diversity.

Opponents of the bill shouldn’t celebrate, yet, however, because Lansing observers say the bill—which has already passed the full Senate—will likely reappear sometime after the recess.

In anticipation of that, the conservation and environmental communities are continuing to marshal opposition, including the letter to Gov. Snyder, which reads as follows:

“As a group of academic scientists who have expertise in the conservation and management of natural resources, we are writing to urge you to veto Senate Bill 78.

“SB 78 modifies Michigan’s Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit state agencies from managing state land for the purpose of maintaining biological diversity. The bill subsequently alters the definition of conservation, emphasizing the need for more extraction and economic gain from public resources, and it eliminates a requirement that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources [DNR] manage ecosystems like forests in a manner that ensures their recovery.

“SB 78 ignores a large body of scientific evidence that has shown conservation of biological diversity is crucial for maintaining healthy, sustainable ecosystems. Ecosystems with a greater variety of species are generally more effi-

cient and productive, are better able to resist invasions and outbreaks by economically damaging pests and disease, and are more stable in the face of environmental change.

“For example, recent summaries of the scientific literature show that forests with a greater variety of tree species produce significantly more wood than forests with fewer species. Diverse forests may also be better able to resist invasive species, and minimize the frequency of outbreaks of economically damaging pests and diseases—pests and diseases much like the Emerald Ash Borer, or Sudden Oak Death that kill commercially important trees here in Michigan.

“Biodiversity is so fundamentally important for healthy forests that both independent organizations that certify Michigan’s forestry practices (the Forest

(Continued on Page 5)



Tidying Up the Rivers

Just a reminder of two important river cleanup activities coming up in September. The 19th annual Au Sable River Cleanup is scheduled for September 7 at Gates Au Sable Lodge near Grayling. Volunteers are needed for the event, organized by Anglers of the Au Sable. It begins at 10 a.m. with a brief meeting and group picture, before cleanup teams head to various spots on the river at 10:15 a.m. The work will end around noon and participants are invited to the George Alexander Memorial Luncheon, where they can relax, and enjoy entertainment and food. To pre-register, call Josh Greenberg at (989) 348-8462, or send him an e-mail a josh@gateslodge.com. A similar event will be held Saturday, September 21, on another northern Michigan river. As with the Au Sable cleanup, volunteers are being sought for the annual Manistee River Cleanup. It begins at the Old Au Sable Fly Shop in Grayling. For more information about that event, or to pre-register, contact Andy Partlo at andy@oldausable.com.



North Woods Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

NRC MEETINGS: The next Michigan Natural Resources Commission meeting will be held Sept. 12 at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing. The November 7 and December 12 meetings will be held at the same location. 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.

DYING BEES: Local beekeepers in Ontario, Canada, said they found millions of their bees dead shortly after corn was planted near their hives. They blame insecticides known as neonicotinoids—manufactured by Bayer Crop Science Inc.—that are used to coat corn seed, as well as new air seeders that blow the pesticide dust into the air. Purdue University scientists have analyzed dead bees in similar circumstances and said the bees had traces of chemical compounds which are only found in seed treatments for field crops (primarily corn).

BOTULISM AND WATER BIRDS: Type-E botulism, which has been linked to the presence of invasive zebra mussels, has been blamed for the deaths of hundreds of water birds last fall along the Lake Michigan shoreline near Gulliver in Schoolcraft County. Nearly 700 dead water birds—nearly 100 per mile—were discovered in September and October 2012, including common loons, and horned and red-necked grebes. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources said the disease has been associated with several water bird and fish die-offs along Lake Michigan over recent years.

PUSHING BACK: The Associated Press (AP) reports that about four-fifths of states have enacted local laws that reject or ignore federal legislation on gun control and various other contested issues. The states' rights movement has been spreading across the country in response to what is perceived as an overreach by federal officials into matters that many believe are legally assigned to state and local governments under the U.S. Constitution. States are increasingly adopting laws that purport to nullify federal laws, according to the AP, setting up intentional legal conflicts, directing local police not to enforce federal laws and—in rare cases—even threatening felony charges against federal agents who enforce certain firearms laws.

GREAT LAKES PROGRAMS: In the seesaw battle over federal Great Lakes programs, the U.S. Senate was reportedly considering a bill that restores funding to such programs at “pre-sequestration” levels. The bill was introduced days after a House funding bill slashed core Great Lakes programs by nearly 80 percent.

MARQUETTE PARK CLOSURES: The parking lots for Little Presque Isle Recreation Area and Wetmore Landing on County Road 550 in Marquette County will be closed for improvements Mondays through Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 5 through Aug. 29.

STURGEON STUDY: The DNR is conducting a three-week study of the juvenile lake sturgeon population in Cheboygan County's Black Lake during mid-August. The goal is to assess the success of recent stocking efforts, DNR officials said.

CAMPING 101: Several Michigan State Parks are teaming with The North Face company to offer “Camping 101” lessons on the basics of camping. It includes a two-night stay with all the necessary gear for \$20. Contact the DNR for a list of participating parks.

Dave Dempsey & Bob Andrus feted

Two champions of Michigan's Great Lakes and the streams that feed them were honored last month with the Michigan Environmental Council's (MEC) annual awards for outstanding work in protecting the state's natural resources.

Dave Dempsey received the Helen & William Milliken Distinguished Service Award July 10 at the Ann Arbor City Club and Bob Andrus received the Petoskey Prize for Environmental Leadership.

Dempsey is an author, historian, policy expert and activist with decades of experience fighting for the Great Lakes. Andrus is a retired Grayling schoolteacher who devotes thousands of volunteer hours to organizing hands-on habitat improvement for Michigan's nationally known cold water trout streams.

The Milliken Award—named after former Gov. William G. Milliken, who attended the event—is given annually to a person who has made extraordinary contributions to protect Michigan's natural resources.

The Petoskey Prize is presented to an individual, nominated by an MEC member organization, whose commitment, creativity and courage have inspired others to safeguard Michigan's air, land and water for future generations.

Corrected sentence

Drats!

The last two words of the “Conservation Conversation” with Tom Bailey in the previous *North Woods Call* somehow got clipped during final production.

That parting sentence about Tom's son should have read: “He's got another year or so to finish up at Central Michigan University with a double major in biology and environmental policy, so that should tell you something about our family.” Our apologies, Tom.

Our 60th Year: Looking Back to August 25, 1954

Pioneer bear hunter recalls hunts of the past

By Marguerite Gahagan

You have to outwit them and they're pretty smart,” said the mighty old hunter, brown eyes flashing, white hair crowning his leonine head.

I'd get a track and keep going, trying to jump him,” said 78-year-old Jean LaPoint. “If he knew that I was following, then I'd quit. No use following any more.”

Born in Alpena and raised in the north country, his life was that of a woodsman—a hunter for the lumber camps. In his home in Atlanta, where he now lives, the fabulous old hunter discussed bear hunts in the old days.

“There's going to be a bear hunt around Atlanta in October,” he said. “I'd like to get one more bear, but I can't walk much anymore. Keep hoping I can maybe get just one.”

He guesses that he shot about 22 bears in his lifetime and trapped between 75 and 100.

In the old days—50 years ago—the hunters hunted bear for meat and for the fur. Buyers would come from Alpena.

“We'd get more money out of the meat than the fur,” he remembered. “A lot of folks liked that meat. Furs were used for coats and rugs. Rugs were real popular back in them days. I used to like bear meat—like a good steak, or roast. Not now, though. Got splenched against it.”

He recalled the days of hard bear hunting.

“We used to figure a bear run, same as you do on a deer. I'd get wild honey and I'd use some scent. I'd build a little house. I'd put a log in front of the house and I'd measure from my elbow to the tips of my fingers into the house. That would be about his step length. I knew he'd put his foot on that log before going into the house, and the next step would be on the pan.

“Always used a clog, a guard tree, so that bear—after he was trapped—couldn't walk away with the trap. I've had some [bears] get eight or ten rods away before the clog would get caught on trees and brush, and slow a bear down. Once he got away with my trap. I followed him into a swamp and he was trying to break the trap by smashing it against a big log. He was making so much noise he didn't hear me and I shot him.”

The biggest bear he got weighed about 250 pounds, LaPoint guessed. He remembered the job of getting the big animals out of the swamp.

“You have to have help. Hang them on a pole, hoist the pole onto your shoulder. You'd start going, fall down, get up and keep going,” he said. “If a bear knows you're after him, might as well stop tracking right then. They'll go through the dirtiest swamps, the roughest places. It's about impossible to keep up with one when he knows you're after him. He'll climb a little sapling pole and he'll swing to get you off that trail. A bear's ten times sharper than a deer.

“It used to be rough going through them slashings. I did it too many times. And then I just stopped following them anymore when I knew they was on to me.”

One time at a camp around Rainy Lake, north of Hillman, a bear came visiting.

“It was fifty years ago,” said LaPoint. “Joe Ross was cooking and he'd been throwing slop out not far from the cook cabin. We saw that bear feeding off the slop and Joe just opened a window and shot him. I remember his paw weighed seven pounds.

Baldy, who was white in color, was the best bear dog the old hunter ever owned. “He'd run a bear in preference to anything,” LaPoint said.

But bear are scarce today and bear hunts must be staged.

“After we lost our beech nuts, we lost the bear,” he said. “Fun trackin' them. I could outwit and outwalk any deer. Deer can't stand pressure. If they know you're behind them, they get nervous. Bear never get bothered. I'd like to get just one more. It was great sport.”

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Bob Barr to retire from Au Sable Institute

After 36 years of service, Bob Barr will retire at the end of this year from the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies near Mancelona.

Barr, who first set foot on the Au Sable campus 47 years ago, is director of support services.

Barr's life and work track the growth and development of the Institute. He first attended Au Sable as a biology student at Taylor University, taking summer courses under Au Sable founder Harold Snyder. Snyder and Barr developed a deep bond that brought Barr back to Au Sable after his service in the U.S. Marine Corps and a stint as a resident hall director at Taylor University, where he met his wife, Rebecca.

Barr returned to Au Sable in 1977 to serve as its first director of support services. In addition to maintaining and developing the facilities on Au Sable's campus, he led wilderness expeditions with youth at the camp. When Au Sable became an Institute and expanded into offering college courses to a wider number of Christian colleges and universities in 1979, Barr taught outdoor survival and orienteering courses for



Bob Barr will exit Au Sable at the end of this year.

the undergraduate semester program.

Colleagues say that Barr is unique in the best way. He is resident jack-of-all trades—plumber, builder, electrician, roofer and snow removal specialist, to name a few—but he is also resident hospitality, medical support, mentor, philosopher and storyteller. All of this is done with a servant's heart and determined Christian commitment, they say.

Barr has been an important fixture at the Institute and it is impossible to calculate the impact he has had on everyone who has ventured onto the Au Sable campus.

He has been a living example of the "place-based" life Au Sable teaches its students.

Fortunately, his permanent home remains close by—across Louie's Pond, a short walk from the home of the man who invited him on this long journey, Harold Snyder.

And if he continues to follow in his mentor's footsteps, colleagues expect to see Barr popping up around the Institute often.

Au Sable Institute was first established by Snyder as the Au Sable Trails Camp for Youth. As a professor at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, Snyder realized that the Au Sable site would be an ideal venue for field experience for Taylor biology students. Thus Au Sable began its evolution from boys' camp to educational enterprise for college students. Soon students from Greenville College and Spring Arbor University began coming to Au Sable in the summers as well.

The Institute is dedicated to equipping students with the environmental knowledge, skills and ethics to "faithfully and fearlessly pursue the Christian vision of a flourishing earth."



Mute swans are apparently viewed as "ugly ducklings" to those who want to reduce their numbers in Michigan.

Swans seen as invasive nuisance DNR hits the mute button

In southern Michigan's rural Barry County—where citizens are fighting to protect land, air, water and wildlife from what they see as the dangers of hydraulic fracturing in oil and natural gas exploration—a controversial management plan is under way to kill thousands of mute swans.

The Barry County Board of Commissioners recently gave the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permission to cull the swans, beginning as early as August 1. The move gives the DNR access to the county's 60-plus lakes and additional waterways to eliminate the swans.

The effort is part of a larger plan to reduce the state's mute swan population by some 15,500 to fewer than 2,000 over five years. It wasn't immediately known exactly how many swans would be targeted in Barry County. Individual townships can reportedly opt out of the program within 60 days, and the DNR will apparently not begin eradicating the swans until the agency has addressed questions and concerns from each of the 16 local units.

DNR officials say the birds are an invasive and non-native species with a "voracious appetite," and have a destructive impact on vegetation. They are also quite aggressive and have even been known to attack humans, they said.

Typically, the swans are eliminated by shooting, because destroying eggs and nests is costly and difficult, while relocation is seen as merely moving the problem elsewhere. The swans have been in Michigan for the past century, but their numbers have nearly tripled since 2000.

Opponents of the eradication plan complain that the swans are majestic creatures that aren't harming anyone and say that county officials are inappropriately surrendering local control to the state. Canada geese, some have pointed out, are a much bigger problem and that's where culling efforts should be focused.



Au Sable Restoration

The Huron Pines Au Sable River Watershed Project has received a \$560,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Milwaukee, Wisconsin-based foundation awarded the grant under its Sustain Our Great Lakes Program, which helps enhance and improve the Great Lakes and streams that feed into it. The funding will kick off Huron Pines' \$1.2 million effort to address a variety of issues facing the Au Sable watershed, including stream bank erosion, invasive species control and restoration of habitat. The project will also remediate some of the most critical road/stream crossing sites, which are known to restrict the movement of fish and add excessive amounts of sediment to the river. The Gaylord-based Huron Pines group is working with additional partners and the public to raise money to fund the remainder of the project.

Bills aimed at better monitoring of fracking activities

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) is touting a new package of bills aimed at the controversial oil and gas exploration method of "fracking."

"The bills would take practical steps to better monitor oil and gas companies, which currently get a free pass on measures that fully evaluate the real impact of high-capacity water withdrawals and chemical additives used in the drilling process," the organization's political director, Jack Schmidt, said in the mid-July edition of his news blog, *Political Week In Review*.

"Recent reports show that Michigan is on the brink of unprecedented water withdrawals, with applications in place to build more than 500 new wells that would suck up more than 4 billion gallons of water from northern Michigan's watershed—the same place known for blue ribbon trout streams and pristine beaches," he said.

Schmidt said it is time to face fracking (hydraulic fracturing) head-on, close the loopholes for oil and gas companies and tighten regulations to ensure that the Great lakes, rivers and streams that the state's environment and economy rests on do not go dry.

The eight-bill package would increase transparency and accountability from gas companies that practice hydraulic fracturing. The goal is to make the fracking process more transparent and protect water supplies, they said. Among other things, the legislation would require disclosure of the chemicals and amount of water used at each site if it exceeds 100,000 gallons and make gas companies liable if chemicals get in water supplies. It would also allow local governments to have more control and request public hearings when fracking sites are proposed.

Rep. Tom Cochran (D-Mason) is lead sponsor of one of the bills. Reps. Andy Sohor (D-Lansing) and Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) are among co-sponsors.

Climate change and violence

Feeling hot under the collar, or shivering from ice in your veins?

Blame climate change.

At least that's the conclusion of a recent study published in *Science Magazine*, which claims that shifts in climate are strongly linked to increases in violence around the world.

A team of U.S. scientists reportedly found that even small changes in temperature or rainfall correlated with a rise in assaults, rapes and murders, as well as group conflicts and war.

The researchers looked at 60 studies from around the world with data spanning hundreds of years. They found a "substantial" connection between climate change and conflict, according to reporter Rebecca Morelle of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Examples cited include an increase in domestic violence in India during recent droughts and a spike in assaults, rapes and murders during heat waves in the United States. The report also suggests rising temperatures correlated with larger conflicts, including ethnic clashes in Europe and civil wars in Africa, Morelle wrote.

"We want to be careful," said Marshall Burke of the University

of California at Berkeley. "You don't want to attribute any single event to climate in particular, but there are some really interesting results."

Among the main things at play, the study says, are changes in economic conditions. This can affect people's decisions about whether to join a rebellion, according to Burke.

With projected levels of climate change, the world is likely to become a more violent place in the coming years, the researchers said.

Some other researchers have questioned these findings.

"I disagree with the sweeping conclusion [the authors] draw and believe that their strong statement about a general causal link between climate and conflict is unwarranted by the empirical analysis that they provide," Dr. Halvard Buhaug from the Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Norway, is quoted as saying. "I was surprised to see not a single reference to a real-world conflict that plausibly would not have occurred in the absence of observed climatic extremes. If the authors wish to claim a strong causal link, providing some form of case validation is critical."

Opinion

Quote Box

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."
—Aldo Leopold

Horse sense in the north woods

Conflicts among the users of Michigan forest lands seem to multiply as more-and-more people take to the woods for a variety of recreational pursuits.

Some like to race through the woods on dirt bikes, four-wheelers and snowmobiles, while others prefer the much-slower travel associated with walking, canoeing, or wading a favorite trout stream.

We're on the side of the slowpokes.

People on foot have much less impact on the landscape than those straddling machines powered by internal combustion engines. And they don't make nearly as much noise.

Better yet, there's much less wear and tear on the environment.

These may be personal choices, but they also make sense when it comes to long-term conservation of natural resources. If an area is to be set aside for the enjoyment of this and future generations, we need to be concerned with the cumulative impact of human activity.

These days, those in charge of managing our natural resources seem to be trying to please everyone—especially if they can collect additional fees for government coffers. But is that really possible?

Good stewardship means good choices, self-control and appropriate limits on use. Some activities are simply not suited for pristine natural areas. But it's not always easy to decide what those are.

Take horseback riding, for instance. Horses are majestic creatures with a symbiotic relationship to their riders. At first glance, they seem to belong on the wooded trails of northern Michigan's Pigeon River Country and elsewhere. What possible harm could they cause?

Very little, perhaps, if we're talking a handful of equestrians and responsible ridership. But what about the hundreds of horses that might be present when a riding club caravans into a forest campground with Peterbilt tractor-trailer rigs and takes to the trails in small mounted armies?

Choosing low-impact activities in eco-friendly numbers might not be as easy as one thinks, but it's something we must do.

Maybe the answer can best be found in the title of E.F. Schumacher's classic book on economics, "Small is Beautiful."

Smart environmental policy

A friend of ours once wrote a song based on the old saying, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions."

We feel that way about many so-called "progressive" environmental policies that often seem to cause more harm than good.

After all, what did the "Cash for Clunkers" program really accomplish, other than waste taxpayer dollars, remove from the market vehicles that a considerable amount of energy was expended to make, drive up the prices of used cars and deprive low-income people of access to affordable transportation?

What good does it do to spend billions funding "green energy" companies with no viable customer base that will be bankrupt in a few months when there are no buyers for their far-too-expensive products?

And why try to destroy the fossil fuel industry before we have the appropriate technology to replace it with something equally effective at powering the nation's economy?

Then there are those new-fangled light bulbs—the ones that cost many times what we have spent on Thomas Edison's old incandescent variety, but aren't nearly as bright and contain hazardous mercury that can't be disposed by conventional means.

We're all for innovation and finding new and more energy-efficient ways to do things. And we agree that ongoing research and development into these areas is necessary and appropriate.

But there must be a more efficient and cost-effective way to go about it. Far too much money is going into the pockets of politicians and their business cronies (ie. financial donors) under the guise of protecting the environment, and far too little into legitimate pursuit of technologies and products that will better serve the needs of mankind at prices we can afford.

We want a cleaner, safer environment as much as anyone and concede that some past environmental policies have helped bring that about. But we could do much better if we kept the greedy bandits away from our public treasury and let market forces play a more substantial role in solving our energy problems.

A lot of viable solutions are probably being overlooked because the short-sighted power brokers in control of the money can't figure out how to enrich themselves and still find cheaper and better sources of energy.

We need solid answers that benefit us all—not just those with enough green in their pockets to buy the American dream.

Algoma country and the "singing wilderness"

The spirit of the north woods lives in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of northern Minnesota and the Algoma Country of northern Ontario.

I haven't actually seen the Boundary Waters—they're on my list of things to do—but I've read about them often in the writings of Sigurd Olson and others.

Olson, a back country guide for more than 30 years and tireless advocate for protection of the wilderness, was influential in saving the Boundary Waters and helped draft the Wilderness Act of 1964. President of The Wilderness Society from 1963 to 1971, he helped establish Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska and Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

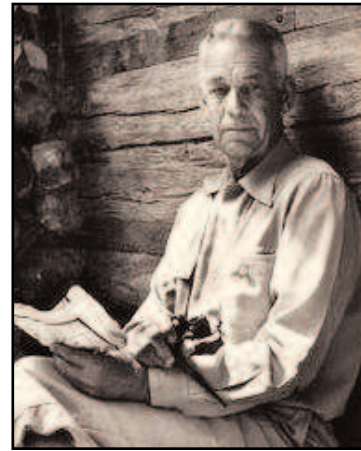
Olson called the Quetico-Superior country northwest of Lake Superior "The Singing Wilderness." It has to do, he said, with the calling of the loons, northern lights and the great silences of the land. "It is concerned with the simple joys, the timelessness and perspective found in a way of life that is close to the past," he wrote—noting that he has "heard the singing in many places."

I heard it for the first time myself nearly 40 summers ago when I accompanied three high school friends on a journey into the wilds north of Sault Ste. Marie. It was supposed to be a quiet week-long canoe outing, but we found a bit more adventure than we had anticipated.

To begin with, the drive north became somewhat less than melodious when the large Oldsmobile 88 in which we were riding flew over an embankment and into a stand of small trees at a dark, fog-shrouded T-intersection less than 50 miles from home. We managed to extricate the car—with the help of a nearby resident and his tractor—and reattach the two canoes on top. But the trip appeared doomed 20 miles later when all the motor oil had leaked out and the V-8 engine seized up.

Not to be deterred, two of my companions hitch-hiked home to get other vehicles and we were again on our way several hours

North Woods Journal
By Mike VanBuren



Sigurd F. Olson

later. We finally crossed the International Bridge into Canada and reached the Algoma Central Railroad station early the next morning.

Although none of us were expert canoeists—me in particular—my friends wanted to challenge the Batchawana River, which in Ojibwe means "turbulent waters." Fortunately, I read about the dangers that the Batchawana posed to inexperienced canoeists and talked them into the more serene Sand River—which is a good thing, given what came later.

We loaded our canoes into a baggage car and settled in for the 140-mile train ride to Sand Lake. Within a few hours, we launched the canoes into the large lake several yards from the railroad tracks.

Ah, peace at last.

We paddled effortlessly across the calm water in search of Sand River, but didn't find it that afternoon. Instead, we camped on a small rock formation—which someone had dubbed "Whiskey Island"—one of several such havens dotting the pristine lake.

That's when the wilderness began to sing, even though it was difficult to detect any audible sounds. There was music in the silence itself, punctuated by the occasional call of a loon, splash of a fish, or unnatural cannonballs of four weary compadres jumping into the cool, fresh water.

The next several days were like

that—lots of silence, occasional banter between occupants of the two canoes, welcome physical activity and the indignant snorts of moose that were surprised by human invaders while foraging along the Sand River.

In many ways, it seemed like heaven on earth. Plenty of time to paddle, portage, fish and fry up the day's catch over an open fire. Time to reflect on life, absorb the relaxing sounds of nature and scribble notes about things I wanted to remember.

Sadly, the time came for my canoe mate and me to return to Central Michigan University for the start of fall classes, so we bid adieu our traveling companions, who had decided they wanted to follow the Sand River all the way to Lake Superior. We paddled back upstream, across Sand Lake and flagged down the next train that passed by on the tracks to Sault Ste. Marie.

Our erstwhile friends, meanwhile, pointed their canoe toward Gitchee Gumee. But instead of portaging around some of the dangerous whitewater further downstream, they decided to shoot the rapids, bending the aluminum Grumman around a large boulder and stranding themselves in the singing wilderness. If not for a Canadian Forest Service helicopter happening by and discovering their plight, they might still be there today.

But all is well that ends well and our search for the music goes on. It may be in the soft guttering of an open fire, Olson said, or in the beat of rain on a tent.

"It seems to be part of a hunger we all have for a time when we were closer to lakes and rivers—to mountains and meadows and forests—than we are today," he wrote, "Because of our almost forgotten past, there is a restlessness within us, an impatience with things as they are, which modern life with its comforts and distractions does not seem to satisfy."

A look back at Michigan's Environmental Protection Act

EDITOR'S NOTE: During the past few years—ever since the Michigan Supreme Court overruled its own earlier opinions in a couple of cases that initially held the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) accountable for violating the Michigan Environmental Protection Act (MEPA)—conservationists have said the right of state citizens to sue over environmental harm has been significantly impeded. Recently, longtime conservation battler Joan Wolfe of Frankfort—one of the individuals instrumental in getting MEPA passed in 1970—shared some history and lessons learned from that effort with The North Woods Call. Here are a few observations gleaned from a report she wrote on the subject shortly after the legislation was approved:

On June 26, 1970, Michigan conservationists won an outstanding and unprecedented victory when the Michigan Legislature voted overwhelmingly to pass—in strongest form—the "Environmental Protection Act." Citizens, agencies and governments in Michigan were thereby given the right to go to court to stop the pollution, impairment and destruction of their environment.

Without the hard work, cooperation and imagination of many, many groups and individuals, the Michigan Environmental Protect-

(Continued on Page 6)

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The Natural World

By Richard Schinkel



Croaking with the bullfrogs

In exploring a lake near Baldwin, I found a creature I hadn't seen or heard in awhile.

He is the bullfrog—one of 13 frogs and toads that make their home in Michigan. It is the largest of the true frogs and is often sought after for the large legs that are very tasty (although most frog legs on most menus today are farm raised). Michigan's bullfrogs—as with many amphibians—have declined in population during recent years, because of hunting and loss of proper habitat.

In the spring, the bullfrog lays thousands of eggs that hatch rather quickly—in about four days—to tiny tadpoles. The tadpoles then grow into the adult frogs, but this can take as long as three years. I have come across a large number of tadpoles in winter when ice fishing. It may take another few years to become fully mature.

The birds of prey that feed on frogs primarily are the herons and kingfishers, and they do like bullfrogs. Fish also spurn them, as they don't appreciate the taste of either tadpoles or adults.

Bullfrogs are good predators themselves. They basically will try to eat anything that moves in front of them. Their hunting style is to sit and wait for something to come within range of their tongue. The bullfrog then flips out its tongue and draws the morsel into the mouth. If it is a larger morsel, it will grab it with its mouth.

The bullfrog has a hard time swallowing, but has an aid in that it has cilia—a type of hair—in the throat that slowly moves the item into the throat much like a conveyor.

A lady I know had a water garden feature that had American Goldfinches drinking and bathing. There seemed to be fewer and fewer goldfinches as the weeks went by, which mystified her—until she noticed yellow feathers in the bullfrog droppings. Bullfrogs will eat snakes, insects, other frogs, tadpoles, salamanders and even their own kind if small enough. Some observers have said that they even eat bats.

In late spring and early summer, when the water gets warm enough, you can hear the booming call of the males, in many cases over a half-mile away. The sound is a low rumbling, as if they are repeatedly saying “jug-o-rum.”

The yellow-throated males (females have white throats) will defend their territories and huge “pushing” or “wrestling” fights can ensue. Being a true amphibian, they live in and near water, usually quiet, warm, shallow pools—as in the back waters of any lake, or large pond.

Many people, especially kids, confuse the bullfrog with the more common green frog. The best way to tell them apart is that the green frog has a fold that extends from the eardrum all the way down the back, whereas the bullfrog's fold curves down behind the eardrum and stops.

In Michigan, you need an all-species fishing license to take amphibians and reptiles. The season for frogs is from the last Saturday in May until November 15. There is no size limit, but the daily and total possession limit is 10. As with all game, you may not buy, sell, or offer them for sale.

The bullfrog is the only frog that really has any attraction to capture, as the others are too small. In addition, at least two frogs here in Michigan are totally protected as species of concern or endangered.

Give The North Woods Call to that special person on your gift list

Barry citizens await judge's decision in anti-fracking suit

A Barry County Circuit Court judge at this writing was yet to issue her opinion on a Michigan Department of Natural Resource (DNR) request that a lawsuit brought against the agency by a local citizens' group be dismissed.

DNR officials and members of Michigan Land Air Water Defense (MLAWD) were expecting a written ruling by Judge Amy McDowell any day. The judge heard oral arguments from both sides on July 29 and said she would share her ruling within three weeks.

“This is obviously an issue both sides feel strongly about,” she said after the hearing.

The plaintiffs are opposed to the sale of oil and gas leases in the Barry and Allegan State Game Areas—and are asking that the leases be set aside at least until environmental impact studies can be done—particularly in regard to impacts of the controversial process known as horizontal hy-

drofracturing. DNR attorneys, meanwhile, said there is no genuine issue for trial, because the lawsuit depends on “hypothetical events which have not occurred and may never occur.” Furthermore, if they do occur, the state Department of Environmental Quality will do a review and impact assessment before any actual activity is allowed.

Jim Olson, an attorney representing MLAWD, said the judge was “prepared, diligent and open to hearing as much as she could to decide the questions presented” and the arguments showed a trial is required.

“It seems to me that the DNR's arguments ... are so intertwined with factual assertions on the part of it and its staff that the only way to resolve the arguments ... is through full factual development,” he said.

The DNR has declined public comment on the suit.

Ph.D.s and the biodiversity bill

(Continued from Page 1)

Stewardship Council, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative) explicitly require biodiversity conservation to be included in state management plans. SB 78 not only puts the sustainability of our public lands at risk, it puts state forestry certifications, and the economic gains that are realized from these certifications, at risk.

“We share concerns of other groups who have emphasized additional social and cultural values of biodiversity, such as for tourism and recreation, both of which are major economic forces in our state.

“We also echo concerns that passing SB 78 will be widely perceived as banning the use of solid science in management, and has potential to discredit Michigan's recent progress towards becoming a leader in environmental stewardship. In doing so, we will negate much progress we've made towards balancing the desire for short-term economic growth verses longer-term goals and other valued uses of state land. Because biodiversity is the ultimate source for all renewable natural resources, maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems should continue to be a fundamental goal for our state. Doing so enhances our promise of prosperity for future generations.

“This letter has been signed by 133 Ph.D.-level scientists. Collectively, we have thousands of years of professional experience in natural science and resource management, have published thousands of peer-reviewed scientific articles, and we practice at every major research institution in the state of Michigan. Despite our varied backgrounds, research interests, and political affiliations, we are unified in our concern about the negative consequences SB 78 would have for managing Michigan's natural resources sustainably. We urge you to veto Senate Bill 78.”

Surplus land sale

More than 20 parcels of surplus state-owned land in nine Michigan counties—ranging in size from less than an acre to 40 acres—are being offered for sale in sealed-bid auctions running from Aug. 7 to Sept. 4. For details, michigan.gov/landforsale.

Team Services busted for Benzie County brine dump

(Continued from Page 1)

spreading liquid wastes with an “obnoxious odor” and “oily sheen” on a county road.

Michigan blogger Chris Savage of Ann Arbor—in a post on his *Eclestablog* site Aug. 5—chided the DEQ for what he said was a weak response to the incident that amounted to “a stern wag of the finger.”

“[Team Services actually gets] to come up with their own plan to prevent it from happening again,” Savage complained.

Savage said that the Benzie County residents who reported the violation in the first place sent a letter to the DEQ demanding that Team Services be fined and take steps to ensure that their groundwater has not

The Wild Nearby

By Tom Springer



Was it us, or a little green bug, that kissed our ash goodbye?

We are an accomplice to this crime, you and me: to these dead trees, now sad, stark, and gaunt as woody skeletons along a river otherwise alive with the Jurassic squawk of blue herons and the staccato chatter of kingfishers.

They are, or were, black ash trees, a signature hardwood of lowland deciduous forest—in other words, about two-thirds of Michigan. When you're alone on the water, as I often am, a big ash makes for a silent but noble companion. The trees I like best rise ramrod straight from the riverbank. Their trunks, round as a soda straw, are often 18 inches across at the base. They'll soar upwards of 30 feet before the first set of branches.

Since the emerald ash borer was first discovered near Detroit in 2002, (likely in a wooden crate imported from eastern Asia), many of us have seen plenty of dead ash trees. With their handsome form, upright and tidily symmetrical, they'd been planted widely—too widely, it now appears—as a landscape, park and street tree. It's a cruel irony that they were touted as replacements for American elms, which were felled by Dutch elm disease, another imported menace.

For three years I've watched with morbid curiosity the ash tree in my own yard. Then last spring I found the fatal, d-shaped holes that are the ash borer's autograph. Beneath the bore holes, the insects eat through the cambium (inner bark) in a spaghetti-noodle pattern that eventually blocks the flow of sap and nutrients. From there the crown dies out and leaves a broom thicket of leafless branches. Finally, and most piteous of all, the doomed tree sends out a last array of green shoots. They sprout with frantic energy from the trunk, a last-ditch, Prague-spring display of false vigor that can only end in defeat.

A single dead tree in a yard doesn't constitute a tragedy. But to see a mighty ash and its lesser brethren barren and forlorn along my favorite river, their bark fallen away in tattered wisps, was an unexpected grief.

We humans blame all this on the emerald ash borer itself. We rage, with xenophobic uncton, against this exotic alien that has ravaged yet another native species. First it was the chestnut blight that decimated up to 25 percent of the Appalachian forest. Next came Dutch Elm disease, followed by the woody adelgid (kills hemlocks), gypsy moth (gorges on oaks), the Asian long-horned beetles (loves sugar maples) and the blandly named but deadly beech bark disease.

I've seen emerald ash borers and they're pretty as bugs go; a lovely green, just as their name suggests. And yes, they kill ash trees, and across the United States have left behind a vastly altered and diminished ecosystem. But weren't they created to do that? Do we fault the turkey vulture because its tastes run toward putrid venison?

These were dark thoughts indeed for a penny-bright July day on the river, where I'd just caught two fine smallmouth bass on a No. 2 Mepps spinner. Even as I sloshed home in my soggy sneakers, I couldn't shake the haunting specter of all those dead trees.

But it was in my kitchen, of all places, that I tripped over the true reason for this desolation. The culprit came disguised as a cardboard box that held a new comforter for my daughter's bedroom. It was bright red, reminiscent of the cardinal flowers I'd admired in the woods an hour earlier, and was spangled with white poppies; just the thing to gladden a 14 year-old's heart.

The poppies were what you'd expect from a piece of bedding made in Pakistan. And that's the crux of the matter. In our global economy, price and convenience trump everything. We want the world on time—the slogan on the FedEx truck that brought the box said as much. In less than a day, everyone and everything that fits on a plane can be delivered to anywhere. It's inevitable that some winged hijacker, or lesser pathogen, will hitch a ride in the cargo hold. It will find few natural enemies in its adopted home, just a virgin ecosystem with no evolutionary defenses to stop its onslaught.

Nature, ever even-handed with her children, will set things right in time. The emerald ash borer may get too big for its britches and suffer a die-off from disease or famine. An ash tree or two that survives may raise-up a new strain of borer-resistant trees and the comeback will begin. Yet this re-balancing may take centuries and will happen on the earth's timetable, not ours. Regardless of what we've been told, “free shipping” is never exactly that.

been compromised.

When confronted by Savage's comments by Anne Woiwode, state director of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, DEQ official Brad Wurfel said that critics were jumping the gun.

“[They're] missing the fact that this is an “ongoing investigation,” he said in an e-mail response to Woiwode. “Team Services will pay for a qualified third-party environmental company and the work will be done at the [DEQ's] direction. The DEQ believes it is important to get a firm understanding of what happened and what the actual environmental damage is before we decide on next steps. It's a standard part of the process.”

More Opinion

Outdoor Rhythms

By Doug Freeman



New friends from behind the barn

They're not being treated as pets, and I didn't covet the honor of their presence in and around my single-story barn at all hours of the day and night. My wife isn't happy with the situation and is threatening to cease doing her share of outside chores.

For the past several weeks, three juvenile striped skunks have taken up residence in an abandoned woodchuck den just behind our place. They've been ranging all over the property, digging in our garden and wandering through the outbuildings whenever they please. Trees laden with mulberries and pears may be one of the attractions, along with whatever bits of feed grain and dry cat food they can find strewn on the barn floor.

I've gotten to know these little critters quickly, as they seem to be everywhere I need to work—in the horse shed, by the water buckets, on the well-worn paths leading to house and woods.

What to do? My time is limited, and they're forcing me to make many detours, not to mention causing major delays.

Perhaps oddly, I've come to look forward to our encounters. The skunk-kids are probably from the same litter, judging by size and the way they stick together. Each, however, has a distinctive coloration and temperament. Naturally, I've named my new acquaintances.

"Blondie" is mostly white, including an impressive snowball of a tail. She (he?) is the first to disappear when I'm nearby, slipping quietly away in the tall grass.

"Stinky" is black-furred everywhere but at the tip of his tail, which contains a hint of a white stripe. He stands his ground when people approach, chuffing loudly, while holding his body in what could be called "firing position." He hasn't actually sprayed anyone, but does tend to leak a bit. He'll take off when given a chance.

Pepe' (yet another original name) is the skunk least perturbed by human contact. He forages for grubs, bugs and berries almost at my feet, oblivious to words and throat-clearings. Possibly he's hearing impaired. Anyway, he's a regular two-striper, a handsome fellow right out of the pages of a field guide to North American mammals. I feel like he's one of my buddies, though I won't push our relationship too far.

No longer classified as members of the weasel clan, skunks have been genetically determined to constitute their own separate family, Mephitidae, all with defensive spraying glands. Adaptability is one of this animal's key traits, according to the Wikipedia entry.

Having experienced so many interactions, it's still unnerving when a skunk pops out from behind a feed drum, or pile of skids, late at night and brushes against your foot while walking past. The dogs we've had couldn't contain themselves around these slow-moving "country kitties," and have paid the price, with nary an injury to any skunk.

Barn cats are smarter in this area. They'll sit passively, simply watching these visitors to their domain. I once observed a full-grown skunk and our alpha cat sharing a doorway with no conflict. The skunk seemed indifferent, and the cat was only mildly curious. A study in coexistence.

According to their nature, my little skunk group will break up in another month or so, moving out to feed heavily in preparation for the coming winter months. Eventually, they'll establish their own families. I'm pretty sure we'll run into each other again on path or pasture, and I'll definitely recognize them.

I hope they'll remember me fondly.

Encana cited for spill at fracking site

Encana Oil and Gas Inc., a Canadian energy company, has been cited for spilling up to 400 gallons of water, brine and fracking fluids onto the ground at the site of a well in northern Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a violation notice for a July 15 incident in Kalkaska County's Garfield Township.

Encana crews were reportedly drilling out the plug and cleaning out the well hole to prepare for production testing, but water

pumped back to the surface inadvertently leaked from a steel tank.

DEQ officials said the spill was quickly cleaned up and there was no lasting environmental damage, although testing continues.

"We're [issuing the violation notice] because it was a preventable accident," DEQ spokesman Brad Wurfel said.

Apparently no fine was issued, because it was Encana's first violation, DEQ officials said. Company officials said they are confident that the spill was contained on location.

A reader recalls business with Shep

Mike,

I advertised and sold the *Call* every year Shep had it. We traded merchandise all those years—neither ever sending the other a bill, or statement. We never even added anything up.

He was close to my dad "Jack" for a long time and I miss them both.

Thank you for keeping the *Call* alive.

Dan Doherty
Jack's Sport Shop, Kalkaska



The cleanup and conservation of natural resources throughout Michigan was significantly boosted by the Michigan Environmental Protection Act of 1970, as illustrated here by the pure blue waters of Lake Superior near Whitefish Bay in the state's Upper Peninsula.

Michigan's Environmental Protection Act

(Continued from Page 4)

ion Act would not be a reality today. The history of this hard-won victory deserves attention as an example of how bills that have "no chance of passage" get passed, and what conservationists must do to create necessary laws.

* * *

As [West Michigan Environmental Action Council] chair, I asked [Dr. Joseph Sax, environmental law authority at the University of Michigan Law School] if he would draft a bill that would be a new tool to help protect the environment. ... After Dr. Sax accepted our request, I called Rep. Peter Klok (R-Grand Rapids) to ask if he would introduce our "model bill for the environment." ... Rep. Klok generously recommended that it would get further ahead if introduced by someone in the then-majority party and suggested the highly respected Thomas Anderson, Democratic chairman of the conservation committee. ... That summer (1969) Rep. Anderson sent the bill to the utilities and other industries for their reaction. Opposition grew and he was well aware of the bombshell he held.

* * *

We decided that wide coverage was necessary. Therefore, we reprinted a thousand copies of the bill and its 13-page explanation to send to our members, organizations and newspapers. Later, we reprinted another thousand for legislators, citizen requests and more newspapers.

* * *

By December 1969, good things began to happen. *The North Woods Call* published a huge editorial saying, "This could be the most important piece of conservation legislation ever to pass the Michigan Legislature." *Science Magazine* ... discussed conservation law and the Sax bill in particular. As time went on, other columnists and editorial writers began mentioning it enthusiastically.

* * *

At Christmastime, we received word that we were on our way—a hearing on the bill would be held in the committee room on January 21, 1970. Rep. Anderson told us there was powerful opposition to the bill, so we knew our first job was to show overwhelming citizen support.

* * *

Two things especially impressed us [at the hearing]: the tremendous outpouring of support by such a wide variety of groups and the response of students who testified. ... The newspapers carried the story of the hearing in detail and further support gathered. The college students, stimulated by the approaching Earth Day activities, became more and more involved... Citizen groups of all kinds ... began to make the bill a matter for study and decision. Editorial writers discussed and promoted the bill.

* * *

Although opposition was rarely obvious, the state Chamber of Commerce published a potent, critical analysis of the bill. The Chamber's view was:

"This proposed act would supercede every established procedure now being followed and would shift all of this to an individual action on each individual case in the court of law, sitting as a court of equity ... [It] would create a serious threat to the operation and

growth of business and industry ... a complete bar to the current method of voluntary and workable cooperation between industry and government..."

The state Chamber's analysis didn't impress a large majority of people. After all, even industrialists at their cottages—seeing the effluent from the local paper mill, or canning industry—were aware that "voluntary and workable cooperation" isn't always effective.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is much more to this story and numerous other anecdotes that could be shared about the commitment of individuals and groups, contentious hearings that were held, various amendments that were debated and strong counter-arguments from those who opposed the legislation—but you'll have to research the full report for that. Space here is limited, so suffice it to say that the result of all this effort and activity was passage of the bill and its signing into law on July 27, 1970, by then-Gov. William G. Milliken, who had also supported the legislation in many public speeches. Below are some of the lessons that were learned.

* * *

After enactment of Michigan's Environmental Protection Act, several important environmental acts passed in rapid succession. Citizens had created a momentum and legislators had learned that environmental protection was important to more than just the traditional environmental activists. More importantly, all the leaders of that ensuing legislation used the lessons of MEPA's success.

The ingredients of success are obvious as one reads the history of MEPA ... Certainly, one ingredient is to disseminate information (including answers to questions) to as many people as possible, including friends in the media, and to keep in touch personally as much as possible.

Two ingredients may not be obvious. One is the importance of a coalition agreeing on one priority at a time and the other is to persist until the ink is dry.

But the lesson I want most to emphasize is the need for the leader/coordinator to reach out and actively encourage a diverse spectrum of individuals and groups to adopt the issue as their own and take some initiative—so the information and work are shared and grow at an exponential pace—and imaginative ideas and help that can make a pivotal difference are more likely to happen.

Think of the woman who went to Lansing just to help swell the crowd and ended up persuading [a state representative] to vote for a crucial amendment that passed by one vote. Think of the creative idea and initiative by two Earth Day leaders that—when publicized at a critical point—defused a powerful report [against the bill] from the attorney general's office. Think of the parts so many individuals played.

To me, the greatest lesson is [found in two quotes preceding this report—one from an unknown source and the other from American theologian and ethicist Reinhold Niebuhr]: "None of us is as smart as all of us" and "Nothing we do can be accomplished alone."

—from a report by Joan L. Wolfe

Conservation Officer Logs (7/8/13 through 7/21/13)**Summertime drunks, recklessness, "longest wheelie" & canine sea burial****DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)**

COs Trey Luce and Mark Leadman patrolled the Lake Superior shoreline around Marquette over the weekend. Numerous boats were contacted during the hot afternoon. One boat was observed near the mouth of the Chocoy River and appeared to swerve away from the patrol boat as it was approached. Several expired registration stickers were observed on the side of the boat with the most recent one expiring in 2005. Upon contact, two subjects were found on board with no Personal Flotation Device (PFD) of any kind in the vessel. The operator explained that the boat was just taken out of storage and he wanted to run the motor. He did not think the PFD was that important as they had oars to row back to shore if the motor stopped running. The operator was informed of the numerous risks that he was taking and he quickly realized he made a bad decision. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Miller received a complaint of shooting in the Porcupine Mountains State Park. CO Miller along with two park rangers located a group of campers who were in possession of firearms in the park. The campers were notified of changes to the current law, making it illegal to carry guns in the park.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Kyle Publiski was on marine patrol when he observed a small 14-foot boat almost crash into a pontoon boat and then just barely miss the CO. The CO yelled at the operator to stop; the operator then yelled back obscenities. Contact was made and CO Publiski determined that the operator was extremely intoxicated. During the contact he tried to start his boat and run, but the CO quickly grabbed the safety lanyard so the boat wouldn't start. The subject then passed out and was taken to shore for medical attention. Once at the hospital he regained consciousness and was transported and lodged in the Chippewa County jail. The subject was charged with operating a motor boat while intoxicated, which wasn't his first drunk driving arrest. The next morning he was released on bond and later that night he was again arrested by local deputies for drunk driving, this time in a motor vehicle.

COs Kevin Postma and Brett Gustafson were on marine patrol when they encountered a subject using too many fishing lines. The angler asked for a break simply because he had been issued so many tickets in the past. It was explained that one is supposed to prevent getting tickets by obeying the law. The subject was again issued a ticket.

CO Kyle Publiski was using his binoculars and observed a subject who appeared to be using too many fishing lines. As the CO proceeded to make contact, the subject spotted him and attempted to pull in the extra line before the CO could see it. As the subject reeled in the extra line a fish took the bait, which hampered his at-

tempt to hide his activities. A ticket was issued for too many lines.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

Near a road ending at the south end of Torch Lake, a citizen waved down **CO Andrea Albert** to assist with a highly intoxicated female subject who had just walked in from the sand bar area. The subject stated a friend was going to get her car and pick her up. CO Albert located the friend driving around the area. Unfortunately the second subject was driving with a blood alcohol level of .18 percent and was arrested for driving while intoxicated and operating while suspended.

CO Kelly Ross arrested a subject on a felony warrant that stemmed from an investigation of timber theft from this past spring. The defendant paid over \$8,000 in restitution and damages.

DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

CO Brian Brosky was working at Silver Lake Sand Dunes and stopped a motorcycle operating recklessly in a designated no-exhibition driving area. The operator became belligerent with the CO for stopping him from riding a wheelie the entire length of the beach area. The operator was upset because it was his longest wheelie ever and he had been practicing all day in the closed area. The motorcycle was unregistered and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky, while working Silver Lake Sand Dunes, responded to a personal injury accident where the operator of a rented jeep climbed a dune too fast and rolled over at the crest of the hill. All occupants in the vehicle were seriously injured.

CO Mike Wells assisted the Newaygo County Animal Control Department with a search warrant of subjects conducting veterinary medicine without a license that resulted in felony arrests for animal cruelty. The individuals were also in possession of spotted fawns, skunks and raccoons. Warrants were sought for multiple charges.

CO Mike Wells was working with local deputies attempting to keep the peace at the Thornapple Public Access Site on the Muskegon River when multiple arrests were made for assault and disorderly conduct during a large tubing event. The yearly event had hundreds of tubers converging onto the access ramp at the same time, which resulted in various enforcement issues, including parking violations, open intoxicants, minors in possession of alcohol, urinating in public, and recreational trespass.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

CO John Huspen received a complaint regarding people fishing with live bait and lures in the "flies only" section of the Manistee River. CO Huspen located a camp along the river with no registration card, an unattended fire, and several people fishing without licenses. The subjects had also been target shooting using trees as backstops. Enforcement action



was taken.

While on marine patrol, **CO Mark Papineau** observed a pontoon boat pulling several subjects on a tube. Seconds after one of the subjects fell from the tube, CO Papineau observed a personal water craft (PWC) travelling at a high rate of speed directly toward the person in the water. Before CO Papineau could stop the collision, the subject in the water was able to dive below the surface as the PWC sped over his head. CO Papineau quickly made contact with the subject in the water to check his well-being and determined he had not been struck. CO Papineau then apprehended the PWC operator, who advised that he was attempting to jump the wake and did not see the subject in the water. The operator was educated about the near catastrophic collision and a ticket was issued for reckless operation.

While on marine patrol, **CO Mark Papineau** observed a subject operating a PWC at a high rate of speed near several rafted pontoons. As the CO approached, he observed the subject on the PWC intentionally chasing waterfowl swimming in the lake. After the PWC sped through the middle of the flock in an attempt to run over the ducks, the operator was stopped. The PWC operator denied attempting to run over the waterfowl until he was presented with the observations by CO Papineau. The subject then confessed and a ticket was issued for careless operation.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a call of a vehicle fully submerged in the water at the Hubscher County Park. Upon arrival the CO contacted the owner, who stated he was in his tube out in the water when he saw his vehicle begin to roll toward the lake and go in. After interviewing other people at the park it was determined that his vehicle must have slipped out of gear. When asked if he put the parking brake on he said no and that he never does. The CO advised him that parking brakes were meant to be used on any type of incline and hopefully he will use it next time. The truck was totaled.

CO Scott Brown assisted local deputies with the search for an elderly woman with dementia and her dog that had wandered off her campsite into the woods. After about six hours of searching, she was found in a large area of Phragmites hiding from rescue personnel. The woman told a rescuer that she thought she was better at hide and seek than that.

Luckily for her and rescuers, the dog she had with her started barking when it saw the rescuers.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

While patrolling in the Fort Custer Recreation Area, CO Chris Holmes observed a suspicious male park his vehicle and leave the area. Several minutes later CO Holmes was speaking with a local deputy who was handling a complaint in the same area. The deputy relayed "be on the lookout information" to CO Holmes for an attempted murder suspect wanted out of Battle Creek for a shooting the prior evening. The subject whom the CO had seen park his vehicle was the wanted suspect. With assistance from the MSP, local deputies, and city officers, the area was searched for several hours with additional assistance a MSP helicopter. The suspect was not located and further investigation revealed he was picked up by a family member and left the immediate area. The suspect is still wanted and at large.

CO Chuck Towns responded to a complaint on a local inland lake in Allegan County of a subject illegally taking a turtle with the use of a compound bow. CO Towns searched the area on foot and located a subject grilling fresh turtle meat with his bow sitting beside him. A confession was obtained and the turtle meat was confiscated.

CO Cary Foster heard a dispatch call of a vehicle towing a trailer which appeared to be on fire. CO Foster spotted the vehicle and trailer and it did in fact have flames reaching 10 feet above the trailer. The CO was able to contact and stop the vehicle and route fire equipment to the scene. The fire appeared to start within a pile of scrap aluminum.

DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)

While docking their patrol boat on Woodland Lake **COs Daniel Prince and Rich Nickols** observed a man backing his trailer down the boat ramp. The man backed his vehicle into the lake and did not stop until all four tires were under water and the vehicle was flooding. CO Prince and Nickols stopped the man, who was intoxicated. He was arrested and turned over to local deputies

for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. The COs assisted the wife of the intoxicated man and helped her load the boat safely onto the trailer and tow it out of the lake.

CO Kyle Bader attempted to stop a mini-bike operating on the roadway. The subject didn't stop for lights, siren or verbal commands over the PA, but he did stop when the CO positioned his patrol truck in front of the subject's view. When asked why he didn't stop, the subject said he was on his way to babysit and didn't want his employer to think he forgot about the babysitting job. The subject was in possession of a large quantity of marijuana and was operating an ORV with a suspended license. The subject was lodged at the county jail and charges are pending.

DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

CO Ben Shively testified in a jury trial for a second suspect in an animal cruelty/neglect case from last summer. The suspect and another subject had left two ranch foxes in a garage with no food, water, or bedding for at least three days in 100-degree heat. After listening to testimony from witnesses and CO Shively, the jury found the subject guilty of animal cruelty/neglect. The first subject had already pled guilty to animal cruelty/neglect during a pre-trial.

CO Ben Lasher was first on scene to a suspicious call of dumping in the St. Clair River. The U.S. Border Patrol, using their camera system, picked up a Canadian vessel dropping off a large suitcase in the water. CO Lasher responded and, with the help of a citizen, pulled in the large suitcase that was dumped in American waters. Not knowing if the suitcase was full of narcotics, or other items, it was opened carefully. When the suitcase was opened a decomposing body of a dog was discovered. Apparently, the suspects were attempting a burial at sea for their canine friend. No registration numbers could be obtained off of the Canadian vessel. **CO Ken Kovach** met CO Lasher on site and helped dispose of the animal; it was taken to the St. Clair County Animal Control for incineration.

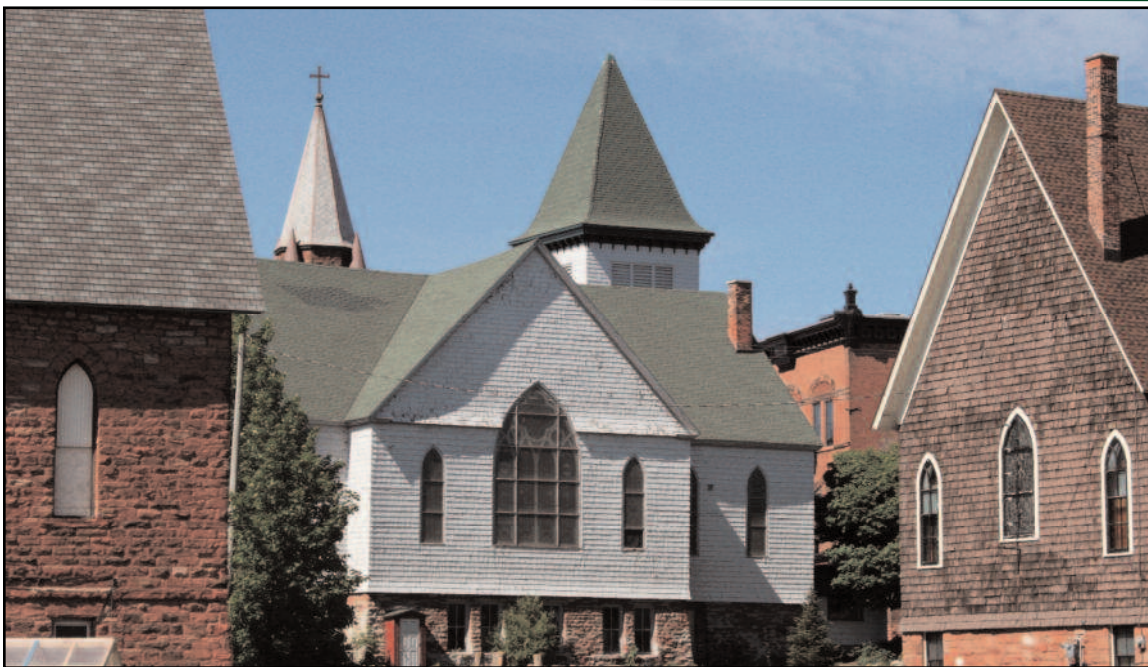
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Final Shot



Foundations of Faith

America has been called "the land of many churches" and that fact is illustrated in this photo taken at the historic mining community of Calumet in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. It's trendy these days to deny the moral and spiritual undergirding of the United States—particularly as it relates to Christianity—but the architectural evidence in towns and villages across the nation proclaims otherwise.

Backpacking with southern Michigan osprey

Once nearly absent from much of Michigan, due to the effects of DDT and other pesticides, Michigan's osprey population continues to rebound.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is monitoring this comeback and now has a new tool to track the revitalization.

Historically, osprey chicks have been banded with aluminum leg bands as part of a national effort to monitor the species. This year, in addition to banding, the DNR will outfit several birds with GPS tracking—"backpack" satellite telemetry units.

A cooperative venture of the DNR, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, the Detroit Zoological Society and Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan—funded by grants from DTE Energy and American Tower Corporation—the units will help scientists track the young birds' movements and seasonal migration patterns.

"This will provide the DNR with information on what migration routes the birds take," said Julie Oaks,

a DNR wildlife biologist, "and also give us insight into what perils they must endure on their migration."

Because osprey often nest on cell phone towers, staff from American Tower Corporation, Verizon Wireless and other cell phone companies will be invaluable partners in this program, the DNR said. The cell phone companies alert the DNR to osprey nests, assist with the retrieval of chicks during the banding process and delay tower repair projects until after the nesting season.

The DNR says anyone can follow along and find out where the birds are at any time just by looking at a special website—www.owsem.org. Schools will also be able to use the website to educate youth and bring wildlife into the classroom.

Anyone who sees a nesting pair of ospreys is asked to contact Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan (osprey@owsem.org) to report the sighting.

—Michigan DNR report

Hemingway history marker dedicated

A historical marker celebrating the nearly 100-year-old fishing trip that Nobel Prize-winning author Ernest Hemingway turned into one of his most famous short stories was dedicated Aug. 14.

The marker is located on the East Branch of the Fox River in Schoolcraft County's Fox River State Forest Campground, seven miles north of Seney on M-77. It is near the site where Hemingway camped in 1919—an experience that he later wrote about in "Big Two-Hearted River."

The two-part story features a single protagonist—Hemingway's recurrent autobiographical character Nick Adams—and explores the destructive qualities of war, countered by the healing and regenerative powers of nature. Nick Adams appears in two dozen Hemingway short stories and was largely inspired by Hemingway's experiences in northern Michigan. Taken as a whole, the stories chronicle a young man's coming of age and are grouped according to major time periods in Nick's life.

The historical marker reads:

Author Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)—then 20 years old—and two friends camped and fished for trout near here on the East Branch of the Fox River in August 1919. They arrived at Seney by rail and then walked north to their campsite. Hemingway still favored his right leg as a result of being one of the first Americans wounded in Italy in World War I. The fishing trip allowed him to take his mind off the horrors of war and formed the basis for his famous short story "Big Two-Hearted River." He said he borrowed the name of another Upper Peninsula river for the title, because it had more poetry.

The marker is the latest in a series of Michigan Heritage Memorials provided by the Michigan



Ernest Hemingway in 1923, two years before "Big Two-Hearted River" was published.

Outdoor Writers Association (MOWA).

"[Our] members think it's pretty special that a story about fishing on the Fox River 94 years ago is still one of Hemingway's best-loved stories," said MOWA President David Graham. "Placing this marker here has been in the works for a long time."

Other MOWA historical markers memorialize MOWA's founding in 1944 at Blaney Park in the Upper Peninsula; the birthplace of the Adams fishing fly next to a Boardman River pond in Mayfield; the starting point for Verlen Kruger's longest distance canoe expedition, which began on the Grand River in Lansing; Great Lakes shipwrecks at a park in St. Ignace; the origin of the Au Sable River fishing boat in Grayling; "Operation Mooselift," the reintroduction of moose in the western Upper Peninsula at Van Riper State Park west of Ishpeming; and the reintroduction of elk to the Pigeon River Country State Forest near Atlanta.

MOWA is a nonprofit organization comprised of outdoor communicators in a variety of fields. To learn more about the Michigan Heritage Memorial program, visit www.miowa.org.

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