



**“The newspaper for people  
who love the north”**



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**THE  
NORTHWOODS  
CALL**

*Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953*



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# THE NORTH WOODS CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953

## The North Woods Call turns 60

It's official.

*The North Woods Call* has turned 60 years old and we are now entering our 61st year.

Light the birthday candles and check out founder Marguerite Gahagan's 1954 editorial and accompanying photos on Page 2.

Thanks, once again, to all the readers and advertisers who have supported the newspaper over the years. You are appreciated more than you might realize.

It's also time for many of you to renew your subscriptions—for both the electronic and print editions—and we have been sending out renewal notices over the past month or so. Our gratitude to those who have already renewed.

To help subscribers of the print edition better keep track of their subscription expiration dates, we will now include the dates at the top right side of the mailing labels, providing that the U.S. Postal Service doesn't kick about that. It's a little more difficult—with no traditional mailing labels—to provide this information to electronic subscribers, but sending out annual renewal notices to such individuals is easier and more affordable.

At any rate, we're glad to have you all on board.



## North Woods Notes

**AIR QUALITY:** Michigan is reportedly considering loosening its air quality regulations—a move that manufacturers say will improve the state's economic competitiveness, but causes others to worry about environmental and health impacts. A work group of manufacturing representatives, and environmental and public health officials in October was finalizing recommendations to reduce the number of toxic air contaminants considered in modeling used to determine smokestack emissions and their potential impacts. They have suggested shortening the list from more than 1,200 to roughly 750 toxic chemicals, which include mercury, arsenic and cyanide. The compounds that wouldn't be included have lower toxicity levels and lower emission rates, according to Vince Hellwig, air quality chief for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

**WATER LEVELS:** Scientists of late seem perplexed as to whether Great Lakes water levels are actually going up or down. Some of them point to climate change and others to manmade alterations to the lakes as reasons the lake levels have been fluctuating. Most studies suggest that lake levels will be lower in the future, while still others predict the levels will rise with increases in precipitation in the basin. Those who remember the high lake levels during the 1980s—when beaches were eroding and houses were collapsing into the water—compared to decidedly low levels during the past few years, may have a more patient view of the phenomenon. Heck, if forecasters can't even predict next week's weather with absolute accuracy, how do they know what will happen decades into the future?

**WIND FARMS & ICE:** The Great Lakes have some of the nation's best wind resources in relatively shallow waters, University of Michigan Professor Dale Karr says, with close proximity to population centers and electrical grid networks. But winter ice is a major issue, he said, and will play a significant role in determining designs and costs. Offshore wind production is already three times as expensive as onshore wind farms, officials say. And the cost to protect wind towers against the ice is just one more reason that wind farms on the Great Lakes likely remain more than a decade away, they said—assuming that the political will for such installations materializes.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY:** A recent renewable energy report from the administration of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder reportedly shows that renewable energy is now significantly cheaper than coal and natural gas, and that costs continue to decrease. Another report from the administration confirmed that Michigan's electricity costs are some of the highest in the nation, which have led renewable energy advocates to say that the state should move to cleaner energy sources that will save businesses and households money.

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER:** A recent survey of the endangered Kirtland's warbler shows that its population remains near an all-time high, with 2,004 singing males seen during the survey period. Ninety-eight percent of the rare birds breed in Michigan.

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Town hall meeting Nov. 12

## Graymont zeroes in on Rexton mine site

A town hall meeting has apparently been set for Nov. 12 to discuss the plans and impacts of a proposed limestone mine in and around the community of Rexton in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

As of this writing, the meeting—sponsored by the Graymont corporation—was slated to begin at 7 p.m. in the Hudson Township Hall, N7961 Church Street in Rexton/Naubinway. There have been mixed messages about the actual date of this meeting, so prospective attendees may want to check with the township to confirm the details.

Presentations will reportedly be made by officials from Graymont—one of North America's

leading lime producers—and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Company officials have met privately with select stakeholders a couple of times already. About half of those who attended the sessions were said to support the proposal, while half were against it, according to one observer.

Supporters apparently believe the project will create hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs for the area. Others say that this is unlikely and have asked, "Doing what?" At best, only a handful of jobs will be created, they say.

According to a presentation put together by company officials, Graymont hopes to secure mining

rights for a total 13,000 acres. Of that, 11,500 acres are owned by the State of Michigan, and 1,500 acres belong to private and federal landowners.

The proposed mine will reportedly involve at least 8,000 acres underground, 2,000 acres on the surface and 1,500 acres for a potential limestone processing plant (if future market conditions allow).

Surface lands outside the "active operation area" will be open for public use, the company said.

Mining of two surface areas identified at Hendricks and Wilwin would reportedly progress at 10 to 20 acres per year, with

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## Nordhouse Nature

*The sky was cloudy and the winds were strong during a recent North Woods Call camping excursion to the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area south of Manistee. The 3,450-acre jewel in the Manistee National Forest features dunes that are 3,500 to 4,000 years old. Some are as much as 140-feet high, interspersed with woody vegetation such as juniper, jack pine and hemlock. In addition to Lake Michigan, there are many small water holes and marshes, and dune grass grows over many of the sandy formations.*

## Moratorium and new laws needed

### FLOW urges caution with fracking decisions

The For Love of Water Policy Center (FLOW) in Traverse City is urging "the utmost caution" at all levels in consideration of "fracking" in Michigan, particularly high-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

There is too much at stake to do otherwise when committing the state's wildlife, forests, rural landscapes, communities, lakes, streams, water, wild land and farm land to the potential damaging impacts of hydraulic fracturing, the organization said in written comments submitted to the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute.

The Institute is studying the controversial practice and is expected to conclude its examination in 2014 with an analysis and recommendations of policy options for government officials, industry experts, academics, advocacy groups and the general public.

So far, the Institute's study of related policy and law has been inadequate, FLOW officials said.

"There is simply more information and data to gather and evaluate—including synergistic effects, impacts and alternatives—that must be meaningfully considered under the principles of existing Michigan

laws and regulations, as well as under the state's common law of the environment and natural resources," said FLOW Chairman Jim Olson and Executive Director Elizabeth Kirkwood.

"These legal principles are reinforced by the Michigan Constitution, and public land and environmental law," they said, "[which] must be followed and fulfilled before any further significant and irreversible decisions are made to lease state lands, or grant permits for related unconventional oil and gas development that involves large tracts of land and natural resources."

These tracts include recreation areas, trails, state game areas, wildlife management areas and state parks—resources that have been declared to be held in the public trust for the citizens of Michigan.

Currently, Michigan's oil and gas regulations related to fracking favors industry over important broader economic and environmental or community interests, FLOW officials said. The oil and gas industry may contribute to the state's economy, they

(Continued on Page 2)



**Our 61st Year: Looking Back to Nov. 3, 1954**

## Happy Birthday

By Marguerite Gahagan

With this edition, *The North Woods Call* celebrates its first birthday.

In each of the past editions, the paper has attempted to fulfill its original promise as set forth in the first editorial: "to serve as a link between the woods and down below."

The first editorial said, "*The Call* frankly admits that it means to promote the north woods," and that is what it has attempted to do. It continues to hope, as it did then, that "it will be welcomed each week in your homes as a pleasant tie to the country you love."

Today, *The North Woods Call* believes it has made fast friends. Looking back over the year to that first edition when all it gave was a promise—and then when it rereads the letters from subscribers strung across the United States and even in far places—the "little paper" feels it has a big family to whom it has given some moments of pleasure.

To those kind people, known only by names, who have written letters of encouragement and praise, *The North Woods Call* is deeply grateful.

To those advertisers—north woods business people—who understand what the paper is attempting to do for the north country and therefore made its continuation possible with their support, the editor and publisher gives heartfelt thanks.

The paper will attempt to continue bringing news to lovers of the north country with its fishing, hunting, wildlife and conservation articles.

With its stories from old-timers, it will try to preserve for the future generations some of the rich heritage of the past in the north woods, when pine was king and the lumberjack was the man who sawed out history.

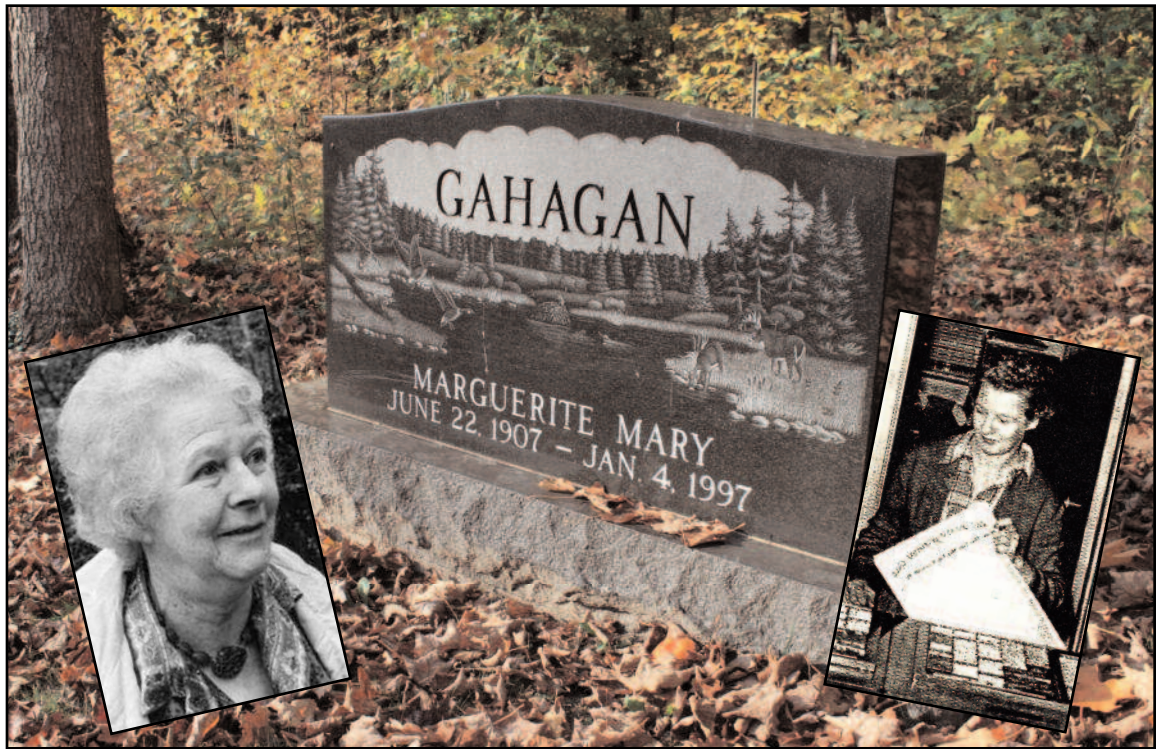
The forests, the fish, the game, the lakes and streams—our great natural resources—are precious to all humans who see in nature the miracle of the Creation.

To further the gigantic task of preserving these resources in an atomic age, the paper feels it essential to bring to its reading public valued information—released by the [Michigan] Conservation Department—[about] its plans for those resources and its accounting of its trusteeship.

The paper, in the traditional meaning of freedom of the press, will also seek the opinion of the average man, who enmass owns the resources.

Right or wrong, he and the scientists will be heard through these columns.

As the second year of its existence begins, *The North Woods Call* will continue to try [to] bring information and pleasure to its readers, and repeats its sincere thanks to its family, which today celebrates the birthday.



### Remembering Marguerite

*The late Marguerite Gahagan (insets) celebrated the first birthday of The North Woods Call in the Nov. 3, 1954, editorial at left. Gahagan founded and operated The Call for its first 16 years. When she died in 1997—nearly 29 years after selling the newspaper to longtime publisher Glen Sheppard—she was buried next to her brother, James, at rural Gingel Cemetery (above & below) in Montmorency County's Vienna Township. The Call has now been published for the better part of 60 years (see story on Page 1).*



## Caution and a fracking moratorium urged

(Continued from Page 1)

said, but it should not enjoy exemptions or privileges over other legitimate interests—such as public health, environment, water, and those economic and quality of life issues that are dependent on a healthy environment.

Olson and Kirkwood said in their written comments that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Natural Resources Commission should be restored to their full power and duties under the law and that they should embrace the full meaning of their responsibilities to consider and determine all environmental effects before special state lands are leased, or oil and gas permits related to such developments are permitted.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality should also be required "to restore notice opportunity for hearings, evidence, debate and records for decisions and review" as mandated by law, they said, and an atmosphere of openness and honest debate at all levels of government should be reinstated and improved.

"Given the lack of significant federal litigation, the shortfall and gaps in Michigan rules and procedures—mostly internal and infor-

mal within the DNR and DEQ—and the magnitude of water, chemicals and territory used in horizontal hydraulic fracturing, FLOW recommends immediate caution and a moratorium by the state on these large projects until adequate laws and/or rules and binding orders are in place," Olson and Kirkwood said.

Such updated laws and regulations should require generic consideration of all effects on land use, they said, and the creation of development plans with clear statements about the cumulative impacts on air, water, natural resources and the public trust. They should also strengthen the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool and require baseline hydrogeological studies sufficient for consideration of effects on flows and levels, as well as impact on wetlands, streams and lakes.

And they should encourage cooperation between state regulators

with regard to fracking, including disclosure of chemicals and water quantities used—as well as notices to other water users, such as farmers and residents within a five-mile radius, local governments and the general public if state lands are targeted. Nuisance prevention of odors, dust, noise, vibrations and light pollution should also be required.

"A good, open transparent policy and procedure will bring about better-informed decisions and avoid unnecessary court disputes [fostered] by the present fragmentation of various permits, approvals, easements and leases required from various agencies or their departments," Olson and Kirkwood said.

"It is deplorable that Michigan's oil and gas and environmental policy has regressed to this, when the existing constitutional and legal framework requires just the opposite."



## North Woods Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

**NRC MEETINGS:** The next Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting will be held November 7 at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing. The Dec. 12 NRC meeting will also be held at that location. For more information about starting times and agendas, visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website at [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr).

**LAND PLAN:** The final draft of the Public Land Management Strategy for Michigan has been completed and last month was sent to Gov. Snyder for review. After the review, it will go back to the state Legislature pursuant to terms of the Michigan Land Cap Bill that limits state-owned and managed land to 4.6 million acres. The land cap was scheduled to remain in place until May 2015, unless the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) developed a strategic plan acceptable to state lawmakers. The new plan reflects public comments that were gathered last spring.

**NUCLEAR THREAT:** Four of the nation's six nuclear power plants with the worst records of safety violations are located on the Great Lakes, according to a report by the U.S. General Accounting Office. The report outlines several problems with how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission enforces safety regulations at the plants. The troubled plants include the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Covert, Michigan, the Kewaunee Power Station in Kewaunee, Wisconsin, the Perry Nuclear Generating Station in Perry, Ohio, and the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

**O.B. EUSTIS AWARDS:** Nominations for this year's O.B. Eustis Awards are now open. The deadline is Dec. 13. The awards are presented annually by the Gaylord-based Huron Pines organization to an individual, organization and business in an 11-county region that have consistently represented a balanced, long-term view of reconciling the protection of the environment with the intelligent use of natural resources. For more information, contact Jill Scarzo at Huron Pines.



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For updates, t-shirts & caps, visit our website at:  
[www.mynorthwoodscall.com](http://www.mynorthwoodscall.com)



## Graymont zeroes in on Rexton as U.P. mine site

(Continued from Page 1)

concurrent reclamation of mined areas as the quarry progresses.

The limestone vein is said to be some 20 feet thick and 200-plus feet below the surface.

Among other things, opponents are concerned with the underground mine and the size of the footprint on the land above due to ventilation shafts and access roads. Company officials, however, said there will be “minimal disturbances” in the underground mine area, and the operations will be conducted in a manner to protect surface and groundwater.

Graymont strives for “world class performance,” according to the company website, particularly in the “crucial areas” of health, safety and environmental stewardship. And achieving industry leadership in sustainability involves “building meaningful relationships with communities and other key stakeholders.”

In addition, the permitting process requires environmental review and oversight, according to company officials. The project promises long-term, multi-generational benefits in local employment, they said, as well as indirect jobs and business generated for contractors, suppliers and local merchants.

The DNR has reportedly reviewed a formal proposal for the project and some opponents believe that the agency is making plans to approve the plan—even though the public has not yet seen it.

“A public hearing is nothing more than a formality,” said one observer, who accused the DNR of being “a lap dog” for mining, logging and drilling companies. “This is what happens when there are administrative paper pushers in charge of our natural resources. There are more than 100 proposed and active mine sites in the U.P., so expect much more of this dereliction of duty from the DNR hierarchy.”

DNR officials had little to say about the project when contacted by *The North Woods Call* in late October. “I know people are eager to hear about the Graymont proposal,” said Ed Golder, the DNR’s public information officer. “I’m hopeful we’ll have something to say publicly in the next few weeks. Be assured that once any proposal is rolled out, there will be opportunity for public discussion and comment.”

Company officials say they want to receive feedback about the mine project and to better understand concerns that people have. In addition to the town hall meeting, there will be other “opportunities for dialogue,” they said, such as “a dedicated project website” and “a local project information site.” The company has also established a special contact telephone number—(906) 291-0211—for inquiries and information.

As of this writing, Golder said that the DNR had not yet accepted any plan from Graymont. “Nothing will be finalized until [DNR Director Keith Creagh] acts, he said, and that will only occur in the public forum of a Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Opponents, meanwhile, have formed a group known as the Coalition Against Strip Mining and are keeping in touch via a Facebook page that features background information and regular updates. The link to that page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/401316723302145/>.

### Book Review

## A River Runs Through It

By Norman Maclean

ISBN: 0-671-77697-5

Published by Pocket Books, New York

This is one of our favorite books—and the movie based on it isn’t bad either.

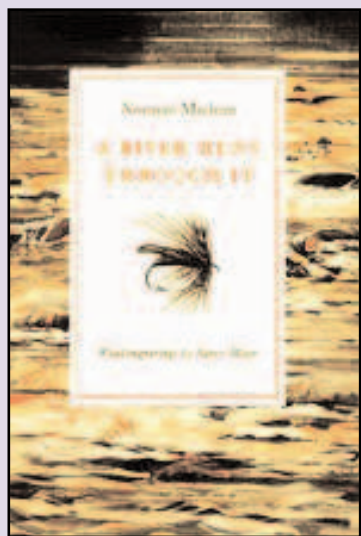
First published in 1976, the author spins a lyrical tale of family, fighting and fly fishing that is filled with vivid descriptions and raw emotion. It is both a portrait of a vanished America and a living piece of human history.

It has been called one of the most moving stories of our time and we concur.

Maclean, a former University of Chicago professor, didn’t write the semi-autobiographical “A River Runs Through It” until he was already in his 70s, but the joys and disappointments of his younger years remained clear.

“In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing,” he wrote in the opening sentence. What follows is a true American classic.

The 113-page novella recalls the experiences of a young man in frontier Montana, his minister father and his carousing brother. The father taught his sons the



ways of grace and fly fishing. Both boys came to love the icy cold waters of the Big Blackfoot River that ran from the Rocky Mountains through their lives and hearts. But the young man’s troubled brother, an amazing artist when it came to fly fishing, was not so successful at life.

Through the riveting story that Maclean weaves, it’s easy to see why the book was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and became a national bestseller.

If you haven’t read it already, you don’t want to miss this one.

### Tree stand safety

Michigan conservation officers are stressing safety for those hunting from tree stands or elevated platforms this season.

“Tree stands are popular with many hunters who want an increased advantage, but improper use of them can result in injuries and death,” said Sgt. Tom Wanless, Hunter Education Program supervisor at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Buy a safe and comfortable stand and harness that’s right for you, Wanless said, and carefully read all instructions and warnings. It also helps to practice setting the stand and safety equipment at ground level first, he said, and wear the safety harness at all times when climbing, hunting and descending.

Use extra care when hunting from a smooth-barked or frozen tree, watch for dead limbs and rotten wood, and unload your gun when hauling.



### Planned CO Memorial

This temporary sign marks the planned future location of a memorial to Michigan conservation officers. The memorial will be built outside the Department of Natural Resources’ Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on the north shore of Higgins Lake once sufficient funding is available. Donations are currently being sought. For more information, or to contribute to the construction of the memorial, visit the Michigan Conservation Officers Association website at [www.mcoa-online.net](http://www.mcoa-online.net).

## For little trees, a big move to ponder

Trees are the ultimate homebodies. And, with age, they become even more obdurate in their stability.

Season after season, their spidery, snaky roots corkscrew ever deeper into the dark womb of the earth.

Picture this when next you see a stalwart oak with a wide canopy of thick limbs and branches. In the ground beneath it, there’s actually an invisible tree of roughly the same size. This mirror image is made of fibrous roots and root hairs every bit alive as the leaves and twigs that sway above.

Such entrenchment can make trees about as unwilling to move as a 35-year-old video gamer who lives in his parent’s basement. So if you want to transplant a hardwood tree—especially with hand tools—you must do so before it’s well established. Otherwise, the operation may kill the patient.

You can imagine, then, how aghast the little clump of saplings must have been when I set upon them last Saturday. It was a still autumn day and their bare limbs had already gone to sleep for the winter.

The specimens at hand were sugar maples, all in the three- to five-foot range, still easy to move without serious injury. They were clustered like woody weeds under the hulking trunks of an Osage orange hedge across from my brother’s house. The prevailing west wind had born them there as tender green seedpods, and in anchorite fashion they’d taken up permanent residence.

It had been unusually dry. Once I dug past the leaf litter and meager humus, the soil was baked hard as clay pottery. I scraped, chipped and finally dug with my fingers to pry little musket-ball clods away from the white, veiny roots. Then, with hand pruners, I snipped off the long, rubbery laterals and wrenched the trees loose from the brown sugar-like subsoil.

By dusk, they’d all been transplanted to a new fence row that will help shelter our beehives

from the north wind. The

saplings’ spindly shanks made them seem painfully vulnerable. There was 15 feet of elbow room on either side of each tree. Overhead stretched a half-acre of open sky. A few scoops of composted goat manure, several five-gallon pails of water, and a six-inch blanket of straw for mulch finished the job rightly.

Or at least that’s my side of the story. What I saw were some sorry, stunted trees that could better reach their full potential somewhere else. Any homo sapiens with an opposing thumb and a factory-made shovel can win that argument every time.

Yet, for their part, the trees also deserve some consideration, if not contemplation. Were they really serving no useful purpose by growing where they did?

In a world duped by the fool’s promise of endless economic growth, it’s easy to project onto nature the flawed notion that all creatures must perform at peak market value to justify their existence. As if it were just the strong and straight-backed who bring goodness to the world.

But even in their diminished state, the little trees rendered some ecologic service: oxygen for the air, roots and leaves to enrich the soil. And if stoic character counts for something, then they have it in spades. Dwarfed and starved for sunlight, still they stood and still they served. In nature’s economy, even the meek can find full employment. No contribution is wasted.

Now the trees have been moved—and surely they know it. If a steel-toothed beast gouged you from your home, wouldn’t you?

Their longest roots have been amputated. All that was buried and thought safe from harm has been nakedly exposed—however

briefly—to the desiccating sun and wind. It must feel more like a violation than a relocation opportunity.

The good news is that trees, like people, have adapted to survive trauma and can even emerge the stronger for it. A tree has renewable, expandable skin (bark) and sap that can miraculously turn into protective antifreeze for the winter. They can antiseptically heal themselves from the wounds of fire, hail, insects and wind. They can, through daily feats of vegetative reasoning, dispatch new roots to the surface in rainy weather. They can plunge them deep to tap subterranean springs in times of drought.

That’s something important to remember the next time there’s a dry spell. Beneath our feet, miles and miles of new roots—spiderweb fine—wriggling like antennae to find moisture and sustain the static superstructure that we know as “tree.” It’s an image both creepy and reassuring.

In our fence row, that quest has already begun, which is why it’s best to plant trees in the fall. There’s no burden of leaf and fruit for them to support. They can root around at leisure with ample time to prepare for the energy demands of spring.

Much more astutely than I, the sightless trees will come to know their new home for exactly what it is. With weekly watering next season, I’ll do my part to ease their transition.

But such benign interventions guarantee nothing. Each tree must find its own answers, must make its own adjustments and compromises with the local world.

Anyone who’s rooted in a place, or wants to be, can surely understand that.

### The Wild Nearby

By Tom Springer





# Opinion

## Quote Box

*"God has cared for these trees; saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools."*

—John Muir

## No child left on the ground

With increased urbanization and risk aversion now part of modern American life, we wonder how many children have learned the fine art of tree climbing.

People often say that no child should be left indoors—that they should exercise, avoid unhealthy foods and breathe deeply of nature's fresh air—but many parents, educators and social engineers seem to be afraid they'll get hurt in the process.

Helmets, knee pads and elbow protectors are standard equipment for many outdoor pursuits, and youngsters with too much untamed energy are often fed mood-altering drugs to curb their hyperactivity.

Given that, it's a safe bet that many kids have never been allowed by the adults in their lives to scale a tall tree to discover the mental and physical rewards of such activity. In our culture of litigation and assault on parental rights, the little darlings might even sue their parents if anything unfortunate happens.

Not that we shouldn't protect our children from calamity. We should—within reason. But sometimes you have to let boys and girls be, well, boys and girls. If they collect a few scrapes and bruises in the process, that's just another lesson learned.

Growing up in rural Michigan during 1950s and 1960s, we didn't have the same accident-prevention worries that many children face today. Sure, mom and dad kept an eye on us and would intervene if we were about to do something blatantly foolish or life-threatening—like parachute off a second-story roof with a bedsheet and some clothesline rope.

But they didn't bite their nails over most of our playtime pursuits. We were pretty much left to explore the neighborhood within some rather generous boundaries—and without helmets or kneepads.

This, of course, led us up the trunks of the most substantial trees in the area and routinely found us perched on some sagging branch far above a huddle of envious friends on the ground.

It was an outdoor challenge many of us relished—navigating upward until we arrived as close as possible to the top of the canopy and were forced back to earth by a lack of anyplace else to go.

Maple trees were among our favorites for climbing, with their strong limbs, relatively smooth bark and opposite branching. We avoided falls by grasping the limbs tighter as we went higher and taking care to place our hands and feet in secure locations along the way. And nobody we knew ever took a tumble.

Of course, none of this is strong testimony for not keeping an eye on our kids, or ignoring general safety rules. It's merely to say that we can't insure ourselves against every possible mishap in a sometimes dangerous and unpredictable world.

We have to live a little, experience the world around us and teach our children to do the same. And it doesn't hurt to get a little exercise in the process.

Which may be as good an argument as any for leaving no child left on the ground.

## Preserving the rural mailbox

There's an ongoing battle between owners of rural mail boxes and forces intent on destroying them.

If it isn't teen-age vandals, it's wayward automobiles, or slush-throwing snowplows, that careen wildly down the road and inflict blunt force trauma on our precious letter receptacles.

Ours has been destroyed several times over the years by a variety of innovative methods. It has been smashed with baseball bats, pulled from the ground—post and all—and carried away, pushed over several days running by pranksters in a passing car and set ablaze by a makeshift molotov cocktail.

And we never knew who did it.

We probably could build a mailbox impervious to such destruction—a neighbor of ours once did so with steel plating and a welder—but the U.S. Postal Service and local road commission frown on such defenses. They threaten to fine us, or pull our mailbox out themselves, if it doesn't adhere to wimpy regulations that require "break-away" posts that won't endanger motorists who drive off the roadway and wipe out everything in their path.

It is understandable to want to protect human health and safety. We don't want our mailbox hurting anyone, either. But we also get tired of replacing the darn thing every time some careless driver or snowplow operator gets too close to it, or a carload of late-night high school punks arrives on Halloween to get their jollies at our expense.

We don't have an answer to this dilemma—except making people responsible for their own carelessness and injuries. Should we also remove every tree and bridge abutment with which they might collide—accidentally, or on purpose?

## Woodstock musings: Back to (human) nature

There's a sign along Hurd Road leading north from Bethel, New York, that says, "Drive Peacefully."

It's a nice thought to contemplate, although one wonders if we have it in us to drive—or live—in harmony with our fellow travelers.

My wife and I are in the Empire State to visit our new granddaughter in Harriman, but we have a few extra hours this morning and decided to take a drive into the country.

We have discovered many wonderful natural areas since we arrived two days ago and I'm starting to re-think my image of New York—and the entire East Coast, for that matter—as uninhabitable urban areas filled with congested roadways, crowded commuter trains and ant-like human beings scurrying back and forth between their homes and office bicycles.

There is some of that, to be sure, but large sections of the state have picturesque rural areas that rival the best of northern Michigan. There are even two of the world's largest freshwater lakes—Ontario and Erie—on the north and west borders.

So much for my midwestern superiority complex.

Just 35 miles northwest of our hotel, the landscape on Max Yasgur's fabled farm is drenched by a warm October sun. The gently rolling hills, green pastures and colorful woodlots are as beautiful as any rural America has to offer.

Nearly 45 years ago, this was the gathering spot for more than 400,000 peaceniks, flower children and back-to-nature types who thought they could change the world by partying, rejecting the values of their parents, and attempting to "self-actualize" through a host of less-than-honorable pursuits.

They succeeded in shocking the Norman Rockwell in us, clinging like zebra mussels on a Great Lakes freighter to numerous things that were supposed to be "free," but came with a heavy price—sex, drugs and rock-n-roll.

The Woodstock Music and Art Fair was held on the Yasgur farm Aug. 15-18, 1969, during a rain-soaked weekend of muddy misery

## North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



billed as "three days of peace and music." The whole affair was messy and disorganized, but it became a cultural watershed that featured landmark performances by the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Carlos Santana, Melanie Safka, Canned Heat, The Who, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Sly & the Family Stone, The Band, Joan Baez, Joe Cocker, Sha Na Na, Arlo Guthrie, John Sebastian, Richie Havens, Johnny Winter, and Crosby, Stills & Nash.

It was probably the largest mass camp-out in the history of the nation—and an interesting study in human ecology and behavior.

I was a bit too young and unhip to attend the "aquarian exposition," but most who did seemed to embrace the many rebellious pop philosophies of the day. Make love, not war, and all that stuff.

Unfortunately, the long-term reality of those ideas didn't quite fulfill the promise and dream. Turns out the younger generation was just as foolish, corrupt and dishonest as any previous ones they reviled—maybe more so.

In little more than a year, Hendrix and Joplin would be dead from drug overdoses, and the systematic breakdown of the family and civil society was racing ahead at full throttle.

The party was over, so to speak, despite efforts to "build the world a home and furnish it with love." It seems real love, responsible stewardship of resources and selfless giving was in short supply, as it has been throughout human history. Now, thanks in part to the somewhat confused Woodstock generation, our future seems more precarious than ever.

We say we want to live peacefully, save the planet from ecological disaster and care for the poor—as long as we don't have to sacrifice much ourselves, particularly our relentless lust for personal pleasure.

Even in 1969, when we were in the thick of anti-war sentiment

and laying the groundwork for the modern environmental movement, Woodstock revelers showed little concern for the neighboring crops and personal property that was destroyed during the event, the piles of trash they left behind when it was over, and even the attempted admission fee at the gate.

It is particularly amusing—to me, at least—that rebellious Baby Boomers espoused all manner self-centered freedom, eschewed government control of their lives and encouraged everyone to "question authority." Yet many have grown up to support the same liberty-squashing policies that they protested against during their younger years.

Today, the musical counterculture heroes of 1969—as well as Max Yasgur himself—have largely moved on, although several have returned to Woodstock over the years for concerts and other events at the festival site. And the ashes of Richie Havens were ceremoniously scattered over the Woodstock grounds after the singer died earlier this year.

Capitalist entrepreneurs purchased the property in 1996 and built the \$100 million Bethel Woods Center for the Arts—a beautiful campus complete with a 1960s museum, multiple concert and performance venues, a cafe, educational classrooms, paved parking lots and flush toilets.

Further up Hurd Road, several decidedly upscale homes have been constructed along the small lake where the nation's mud-covered future leaders once shed their inhibitions and peasant clothing to bathe nude in the refreshing water.

"It's your thing; do what you want to do," the old song goes. We're just getting back to (human) nature.

I really hope my infant granddaughter's generation will have some better ideas on how to change the world and preserve our natural resources.

Until then, peace.

Oh—and party on.



The rural New York site of the 1969 Woodstock Music and Art Fair as it appears today. At the top of the hill are buildings belonging to the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. Woodstock's familiar dove and guitar logo (inset) appears on a colorful monument at the site, along with a list of performers who appeared during the event.

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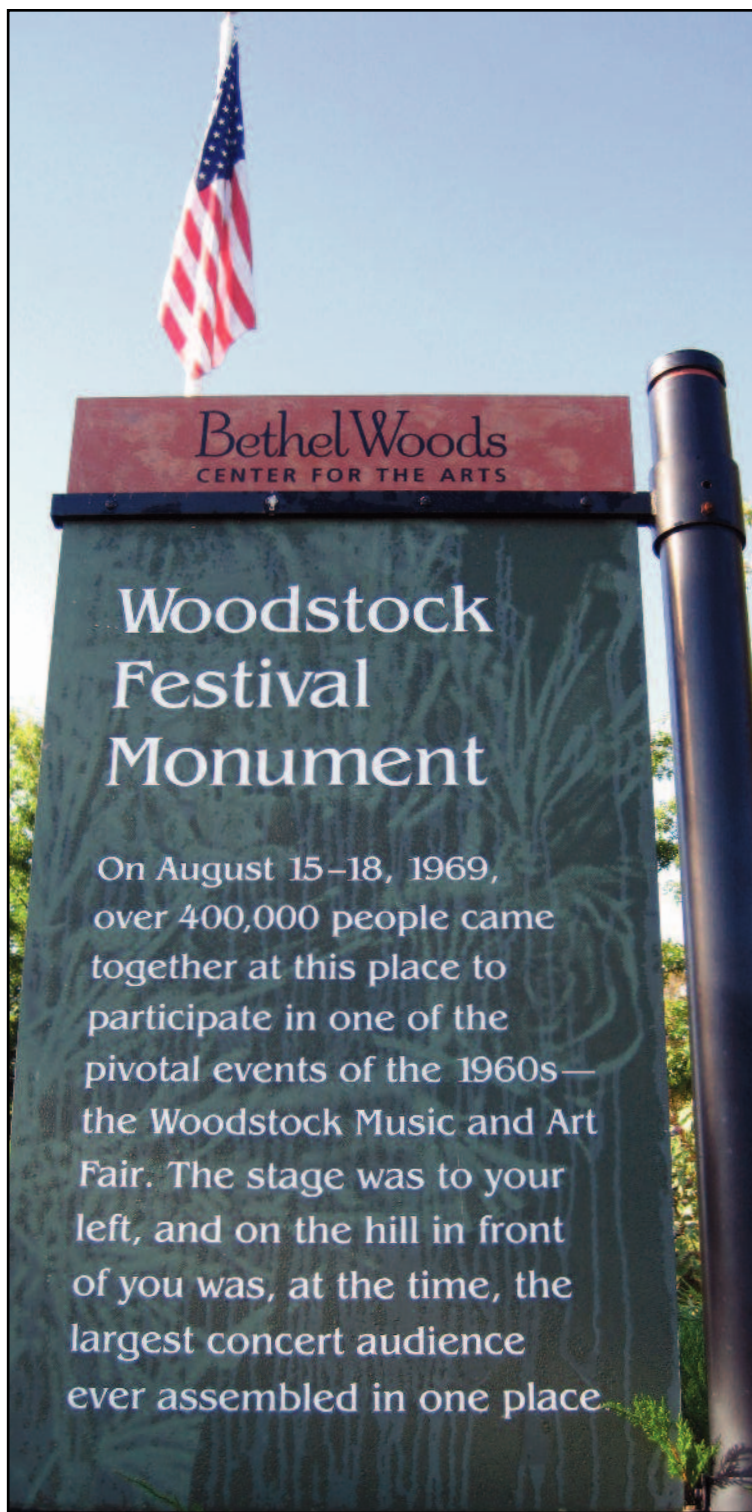
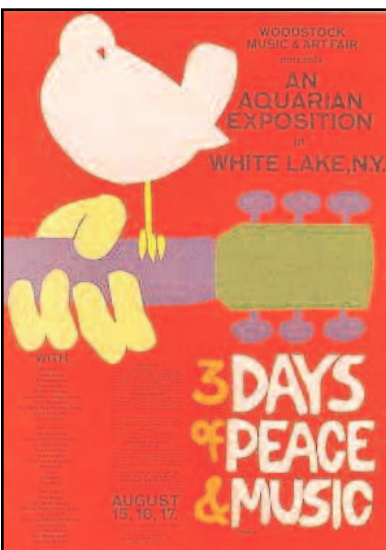
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**1969 Revisited**

A large concert stage was set up at this location (above) during the original Woodstock Music & Art Fair in August 1969, and the hillside beyond was covered by soggy blankets and mud-spattered young people. The weather was much more user friendly when The North Woods Call editor stopped by the site in early October, nearly 45 years after the last hippie climbed aboard his Volkswagen micro bus and drove away to follow the Grateful Dead to less noteworthy venues. While the events that took place here are not directly tied to the conservation of Michigan's natural resources, the social and cultural upheaval of those turbulent times have certainly influenced the nation's viewpoints and policy decisions—both good and bad—ever since. Today the site is preserved as part of the New York's nonprofit Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.



**Reader comment**

**Pete Petoskey tells it like it is**

Merrill “Pete” Petoskey’s 90th birthday roast was celebrated this past June 29th [at The Garlands resort near Lewiston].

The party was affectionately entitled, “The Grand Gala at Garland.” As predicted, well-wishers heaped their adulation on Pete Petoskey. The event also precipitated an unexpected groundswell of criticism of the current DNR, as expressed by several of the 250 guests.

Simply stated, there was a common theme of their criticism: Do we have ethical leadership being practiced within today’s Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)?

Disappointment with DNR lack of action and complacency was expressed on several issues. Frequently mentioned were “looking the other way on enforcement practices” and “capitulation on the sale of natural resources.” Without exception, the broad range of questions raised were inextricably connected. They seemed to be calling out, “where are the DNR leaders who once really led us and protected our resources?”

Since Pete’s birthday bash, a collection of the most frequently raised questions asked by friends were given to him. As a result, he agreed and has since produced an audio-visual recording of his responses to many of the questions.

Typical of Pete, he minces no words and calls them as he sees them. His non-political, straight-forward response to the questions is reminiscent of his long career as a no-nonsense man of principle.

Always devoid of self-aggrandizement and evasive word games, he repeatedly emphasized that “dollar mania” and “egocentricity factors” are barriers blocking honest solutions. He alluded more than once to decisions influenced by political favoritism, or special interest pressures that violate the trust of Michigan citizens.

Pete held numerous jobs within the DNR as a young man. His many-faceted background prepared him well to understand the importance of remaining an independent thinker. He has never lost sight, or taken for granted, all the Michigan citizens who supported him and “brought him to the dance.” To this day, he believes that his having simply said “no” to many devious schemes over the years served to save the state of Michigan from itself.

In the video, Pete remarks about his ongoing sadness that our youth are disappearing in droves from the out-of-doors scene. Like most older adults, he feels that the mystery of nature—once cherished by thousands of youth—can only be reignited when young people cut loose from the grip of technology’s over-kill.

His views are admittedly “old school,” yet plausible on issues like getting field officers to put their boots on the ground out in the woods, and away from cars and computers.

Not surprisingly, Pete is still outspoken on fundamental conservation practices he learned and has stood for since his long tenure with the DNR.

Pete seemed to sense the nature of the questions in making the video as coming from many people dissatisfied with the current DNR leadership. To his credit, however, he chose the “high ground” by responding with mostly principles in place of finger-pointing, which once again distinguish him as an extraordinary [outdoorsman].

Those of us privileged to be present for the making of the video listened to Pete and interpreted his answers as coming straight from his heart. Undeniably represented by Pete were the beliefs of thousands of Michigan hunters and fishermen. His views for saving our out-of-doors from man—yet never sacrificing historically accepted quotas for their use—remains well-documented.

Pete’s video confirmed for this viewer that ordinary outdoor users want the DNR to enforce its own longstanding regulations and to tightly control the sale of state natural resources.

Amazingly, as a young man, Pete was a hunter himself and held concert with hounds on numerous rabbit hunts. Story has it that, on more than one occasion, his fascination with the “music of the hounds” allowed free passage for the rabbit.

Nature’s tunes are still there for those who listen. But, as caretakers, we need to protect her music.

John Gunnell  
Rockford, Michigan

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Merrill “Pete” Petoskey is a retired DNR Wildlife Division chief, as well as a respected and legendary force in Michigan conservation.

**Northern Michigan paving company blamed in tar spill**

A northern Michigan paving company has been blamed for a Sept. 27 tar spill in Presque Isle County’s Ocqueoc Township.

Goodrich Paving of Alpena was reportedly resealing a driveway on Dittmar Road, when a new employee neglected to empty the application gun into a bucket prior to leaving the location. When the employee remembered that the gun had to be emptied, he did it on the ground off Dittmar Road, according to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

According to Elaine Pelc, a DEQ environmental quality analyst, it is not known how much material was actually released, but the area of impact was approximately two feet by four feet and the tar sealer penetrated three to four inches into the soil.

Local property owners Terry and Calvin Sorgatt contacted the DEQ to report the spill and the agency

in turn contacted company owner Bruce Goodrich.

“He was very responsive and wanted to remove the material that same day,” Pelc told *The North Woods Call*. “However, at the request of Mr. Sorgatt, removal was delayed until the following Monday (Sept. 30), so that DEQ staff could be present.”

Pelc said the impacted vegetation and soil were removed by Goodrich under the observation of DEQ staff and Sorgatt. The top soil and seed were also replaced, she said.

While illegal disposal of liquid industrial waste can result in a fine up to \$1,500, the DEQ determined that a fine was not warranted in this case, Pelc said, because of circumstances that include “a limited area of impact and the responsiveness of the company to immediately address the problem.”

The DEQ now considers the incident to be closed, according to Pelc.

**DNR lowers Big Creek Impoundment**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division is drawing down the Big Creek Impoundment in Crawford County.

The activity is needed to inspect and address structural issues with the outlet pipe that were identified during a routine inspection recently. The land around the 97-acre lake is entirely within state ownership.

The drawdown is being done at

a rate no faster than 12 inches of water per week.

The scope and related costs of the structural repairs needed are not known at this time, so no timeline for refilling the impoundment has been developed.

DNR officials said users of the impoundment will notice significant changes to the water body during the drawdown period, with significantly less water than they would normally experience.



# Ozz Warbach: Michigan's outdoor illustrator

Oscar "Ozz" Warbach's appealing style gained him national attention as a wildlife illustrator.

A qualified biologist, Warbach used cartoons to educate people about the habits of wildlife.

*Michigan Natural Resources* magazine, a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) publication, regularly featured his work.

Warbach was born March 21, 1913, and grew up in Elizabeth,

New Jersey. He always liked to draw, but received little formal art training. Instead, he earned a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Rutgers University in 1935 and another bachelor's de-

gree in zoology from Michigan State University in 1938.

In 1941, the Michigan Department of Conservation (renamed the DNR in 1968) hired him as a game biologist. Warbach worked at the department's Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center until the outbreak of World War II, when he joined the First Army Evacuation Hospital and became a captain. During his military training, he met his future wife, Laura, who was then a U.S. Army nurse.

After the war, Warbach worked for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland. In 1954, the Department of Conservation created a "conservation illustrator" position, and Warbach returned to Michigan. He stayed in that posi-

tion until his retirement from the DNR in 1977. Afterwards, he continued to draw on a free-lance basis.

By 1990, Warbach was living in Florida, where he passed away on March 3, 2002.

To the people of Michigan, he left one lasting gift. Approximately 500 of his original illustrations are permanently housed within the Archives of Michigan. They represent the legacy of one who used his talents to educate as well as entertain.

When asked whether he held copyrights on his illustrations, Warbach said he drew them as an employee of the State of Michigan. "All my drawings," he said, "belong to the people of Michigan."



## Hunting Lodge

—Archives of Michigan illustration

Oscar "Ozz" Warbach, a biologist and artist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, humorously captured the essence of what a "true deer hunters' cabin was like. The illustration from 1971 contains many subtleties that old-time hunters will recognize as part of their experience in the north woods. Such memories are still being made each year in the special wild place known as the Upper Peninsula.

## A special place: Deer camp in da U.P.

The Upper Peninsula is considered by many to be the true wild north of Michigan and, come November—from the 1940s through the 1970s—a whole migration shifted there.

For many in the little towns that are scattered throughout the national and state forests in that region, the economy shifted to the positive—even better than Christmas for many. Deer hunters traveled there to rent motels, hotels, and homes. They bought and built cabins, and stayed in tents (although often only one or two seasons in tents before going to something more comfortable).

This recollection is about two towns on the western side of the state in the Ottawa National Forest.

Kenton and Trout Creek are located on M-28, a state highway that runs across the entire U.P. Other towns of note are Bruce Crossing, Sidnaw, Covington, and Ewen.

The area also provides great partridge hunting, as well as fishing in its many lakes and streams. With all the state and federal land, there is no lack of elbow room for hunting, and the various locations are often not crowded. Many times, I have hunted for days and not seen another person outside of my group.

Several of the small towns were created during the lumbering era in the late 1800's and there were a good number of them. Almost every stream had a lumber mill had a small town. Most are totally gone today. Even the ones remaining are just a shell of what they once were.

Kenton had been a thriving community with two grocery stores, two gas stations, two bars, a hotel and cabins. Today, two bars are all that remain.

## The Natural World

By Richard Schinkel



Hunters in droves came into town for supplies, licenses and gasoline. Many of the locals provided hunters with dinners, and even hunter balls to make money for the local churches and organizations. Many still do.

Restaurants, such as the Ottawa Lodge and Grandma Gruders (which have since burned down), were often packed. The Ottawa Lodge was located between Kenton and Trout Creek and made of huge white pine logs. It had a large stone fireplace, 11 rooms to rent, a dance floor, restaurant and bar built during the 1930s. Many times when you mentioned Kenton or Trout Creek, a person would not know the town you were talking about, but if you said it was near the Ottawa Lodge, they knew exactly.

Many industrious residents cut timber and constructed cabins that they rented to hunters and fisherman. Among them were Harlan and Fern Smith. Harlan had a small sawmill behind the barn and cut wood to create a few cabins that he rented out. He made most everything himself, including the chairs, tables and beds. He was always happy to give advice on where to hunt or fish and often would not turn down an invitation to go fishing.

Another family built the "Northwoods Cabins" from scratch as well. Both sets of cabins exist today.

Smiths Cabins are now known as Two Rivers Cabins and they cater [exclusively] to hunters and fishermen. You can literally walk out from your cabin and hunt or

fish.

School was normally shut down for the first and sometimes second day of deer hunting season. There was a community hand pump for campers to get water.

For many families, hunting was a tradition and three generations may share a camp, or cabin. All across the U.P., cabins were built and purchased—initially for deer and bear hunting and then as fishing and summer vacation spots. Today many of the cabins have been passed down to younger generations, and emphasis has gone to snowmobiling, fishing and partridge hunting.

Today, the towns cater to snowmobilers, as well as predator hunting. Last year, the second predator roundup was held at Kenton at Hoppy's Bar. All across the U.P., predator hunts are being held. This includes coyote, fox, bobcat and now wolves.

Our past state senator would hunt in the U.P. well into his eighties, even though the place he lives in Berrien County has a more plentiful population of deer.

"I like the solitude and you seldom meet anyone (in the U.P.)," he says. "You have the whole place to yourself." His son is conservation officer Dennis Gast.

Another hunter that still hunts in the Upper Peninsula—who is well into his seventies—says, "I like the wildness and have been hunting there for over 50 years, starting with my uncles. There are too many hunters in the lower and I liken it to fishing in a mud puddle."

## Outdoor Rhythms

By Doug Freeman



## When the night fire goes out

The embers of my small but cheery campfire had faded to dull orange, and were winking out one at a time. A bright October half-moon had already disappeared below the wooded dunes of Lake Michigan, a mile from where I rested comfortably in my beat-up folding chair.

The rough, irregular pulse of freshwater surf could be clearly heard, though there wasn't any discernible wind.

Darkness was closing in, but with a sky full of stars. The amazing constellation Orion, so clearly the outline of a hunter or warrior, was well-up in the east. Beautiful, thought-provoking—a sure sign of impending winter.

There I sat, in a hundred-foot wide strip of scrubby northern savannah, amidst weeds, tall grasses, shrubs and low trees, some of which I'd planted years earlier between our horse pasture and a neighboring cornfield. The modest fire circle, made of red bricks salvaged from a long-demolished farmhouse, had grown cool to the touch.

Sadness tinged my thoughts. Most of my old "sittin' around the fire" buddies were gone; passed away or moved to places where they could find better jobs. All had shared my love of the outdoors, but with varying degrees of respect and concern. Fireside political and environmental debates between us had been frequent—moderate vs. radical, hunter opposing preservationist. Harsh words were occasionally exchanged. Still, we'd all managed to continue as friends—sometimes bruised and offended, but also with an added level of understanding.

A great horned owl voiced its deep seven-note opinion as I stirred the few remaining coals with a stick, freeing me from melancholy thoughts and providing a reminder of the precious nature of the wild areas left to us.

Then came scattered, racing clouds and gusts of wind, finally making their way inland from an agitated lake. The temperature began to fall. I doused the coals with a gallon of water from a steel fire bucket, then gave the rest to a nearby poplar still in leaf. My watch read 2 a.m. Time to go.

The path back to the garage (where chair and bucket are stowed) curves around the pasture and under a canopy of chokecherry trees. I'd carefully trimmed only enough branches to create a low tunnel through the foliage—a pleasant passage and a place of shady concealment on a hot summer's day. A habitat for multiple species of birds, from chickadees to screech owls. Skunks forage there regularly at night, rooting on the ground for fruit and grubs.

Needless to say, I moved cautiously while entering the thicket, doing plenty of snorting and throat-clearing along the way, hoping to prevent a surprise confrontation. A flashlight would have worked as well, but my years of military training caused me to avoid such an obvious "give-away" of position.

Emerging from the trees, my attention was drawn skyward by a greenish-white light that suddenly grew intense, many times brighter than a star or planet, then faded slowly to nothing.

I'd seen such phenomena before. Most probably a man-made satellite with a large reflective surface, or extended panel catching the sun just right. Why those lights eventually go invisible and don't reappear again at some further point in their orbit is a bit hard to figure, however.

It is another fascinating little mystery, similar to the pale elliptical orbs that seem to fly short U-shaped patterns amongst the stars, then likewise disappear. Other people have reported them. More study is definitely warranted.

Only a couple of vehicles had passed by on the county road during the entire period of my campfire. It has been a continuing privilege to be able to enjoy many such quiet, contemplative nights in Michigan's amazing outdoors.

I hope to have a few more of those before the snow is piled high.



## Conservation Officer Logs (9/16/13 through 9/29/13)

# Youth hunt violators, salmon snaggers, drowning victim & muddy trucks

### DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)

**CO Doug Hermanson** worked a complaint in Ontonagon County of a subject shooting a deer in a farmer's field and getting chased off the property. A license plate was obtained by the farmer. CO Hermanson tracked down a 16-year-old female with an 18-year-old male. The 16-year-old shot the deer during the youth hunt under the supervision of her 18-year-old boyfriend. The adult was charged with trespassing and possible charges are pending in probate court with the 16-year-old.

**CO Mark Leadman** responded to a complaint where a landowner witnessed a subject with a high-powered rifle shoot a goose in his field. The landowner went out and seized the rifle from the 16-year-old subject and called police. The landowner had given the 16-year-old permission to deer hunt on his property, but not to hunt anything else. Violations included using a rifle to goose hunt, unsigned federal waterfowl stamp and a safety zone violation. A neighbor stated the same youth had shot a turkey two weeks earlier in their yard next to their vehicle. CO Leadman recognized the subject from a year ago when he had seized an illegal tree stand with illegal bait that belonged to the same subject. The goose and firearm were seized.

**CO Marvin Gerlach** interviewed a subject who had hired a local company to run a tractor style "chipper" through brush on his private property to create shooting lanes for deer hunting. Unfortunately, he also cut about 500 yards of shooting lanes on state land, had built an illegal deer blind, illegally baited deer out of season, and operated his ORV through wetlands on state land. The subject finally admitted to the violations when presented with photos CO Gerlach had taken. Enforcement action was taken.

### DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

**CO Kyle Publiski** was on his way to court when he witnessed a large plume of black smoke coming from behind a house and large barn. As he stopped to investigate, he contacted a subject who was burning tires, tar paper and other garbage. When asked why the subject was burning the illegal material instead of throwing it in the dumpster he had next to the house, the subject stated it was easier to burn it than throw it away. After the subject finished wheel barreling several loads of sand to put out the fire and received a ticket for the illegal burning he realized it would have been easier to throw the trash in the dumpster.

While patrolling the Carp River for salmon anglers, **CO Kyle Publiski** came across a group of subjects who were yelling and having a great time snagging salmon. Along with snagging salmon they were also littering and standing in the middle of the Carp River urinating in public. After CO Publiski observed and documented the violations he contacted the subjects, who denied snagging and keeping any fish.

After CO Publiski explained that he had been watching them long enough to witness them urinating in the middle of the Carp River, the group had nothing to say and accepted their tickets for snagging salmon.

### DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

**CO Carl VanderWall** assisted with a domestic disturbance where a male subject took a three-year-old child and ran into the woods at night. With the assistance of a canine unit, the subjects were located. The man was arrested and the child safely returned.

**CO Nick Torsky** responded to a complaint from DNR park rangers, who were driving [on public land] when they saw numerous tire tracks going into a closed area. The rangers found several bear hound hunters with their vehicles behind a gate. The rangers locked the gate and called for officers. CO Torsky arrived and talked with the houndsmen, who admitted they knew they were not allowed to be there. Enforcement action taken.

### DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

**CO Mike Wells** received a complaint of an unsupervised youth walking the road with a firearm during the youth hunt. CO Wells contacted the hunting party and discovered the youth hunter got lost while helping track a deer shot earlier in the day. Upon checking the camp a five-point buck was being processed that was taken by the same youth and the kill tag was not validated. Enforcement action was taken against the guardian for failure to validate kill tag, allow a youth to hunt unsupervised and hunting deer without a valid license.

**Sgt. Mike Bomay** and **CO Angela Greenway** conducted surveillance of subjects snagging fish on the Pere Marquette River at Indian Bridge. Sgt. Bomay was assuming the role of an angler and was able to observe several people snag and keep fish and put them on stringers. One subject said, "the only way they bite is in the tail." The other husband and wife team were using bare treble hooks to snag fish. Enforcement action was taken by CO Greenway, including seizing the fish.

**CO Brian Lebel** was sent to a lost hunter complaint in the Haymarsh State Game Area (SGA). Upon arrival, a frantic woman was contacted who kept repeating "just go get a boat". The woman, who was the missing hunter, had just spent the night in the woods after her brother had not shown up in a canoe to pick her up after an evening hunt. After getting his boat, CO Lebel and two deputies located the canoe, which had flipped over. The body of the 61-year-old victim was located near the canoe and recovered. The subject was not wearing a life jacket and one personal flotation device (PFD) was tied around a gun wedged in the canoe.

### DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

**CO Mike Hearn** located an illegal bear bait site on state land



where the subject was using a steel barrel with a metal grate buried in the ground. The subject also had lines run through the trees with various scent rags and had set off bear bomb canisters, which he failed to clean up. CO Hearn sat covertly on the bait site for the evening hunt. After being visited by a bear at the site, the suspect arrived and was issued a ticket to address the multiple violations.

**CO Steve Lockwood** responded to a complaint of two deer that had been killed out of season. Upon contacting the suspects, it was learned that a youth had taken an 11-point buck before the youth season started. After an extensive interview, the subject's mother admitted to killing an additional antlerless deer. Enforcement action was taken.

### DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

While patrolling state land, **CO Seth Rhodea** contacted several hunters and inquired about their success. One of the hunters advised the CO they had just shot a grouse and the other guys were looking for it in the bushes. While checking the first hunter's license, the CO heard one member of the hunting party say he found the bird, then state that it was a robin. CO Rhodea then contacted the other hunters and seized the illegally killed bird. Subsequent questioning and searching of the hunters led to illegal narcotics being seized in addition to the hunting violation. Several tickets were issued.

**CO Joshua Wright** was traveling through St. Clair County when he was passed by a motorcycle in a no passing zone. The cyclist also passed another vehicle at the same time. CO Wright eventually got the motorcyclist stopped after three miles of lights and sirens and speeds over 90 miles per hour. Once the cyclist was stopped, CO Wright discovered the passenger as an 11-year-old child. The operator of the motorcycle had an outstanding warrant for his arrest and was issued a ticket for careless operation and bond was taken for his warrant.

While patrolling the Maple River SGA, **CO Jeremy Payne** observed a vehicle driving toward his location with only one working headlight. The CO pulled into a parking area and waited for the vehicle to drive by. Once the vehicle passed, the CO attempted to do a U-turn on the narrow road. The CO witnessed the driver hanging halfway out the open driver's door attempting to negotiate the turn around. The CO stopped

the driver and investigated him for operating under the influence of alcohol. The driver told the CO that he was not drunk driving, that he was only "buzzed driving." The driver was lodged at the Gratiot County Jail for operating while impaired.

**Sgt. Ron Kimmerly** received a complaint of a suspect who shot two antlerless deer during the early antlerless season. The deer were allegedly left in the field and not tagged. Upon checking the scene, the Sgt. found a gunshot, untagged doe in the field behind the suspect's home. Further investigation revealed that local deputies received a domestic violence call and arrived on the scene shortly after the deer was shot. The suspect's sister was not happy that he shot at a deer; and the suspect then tried to choke his sister. The suspect was a convicted felon and the sister advised the deputies that he had shot at a deer with a rifle. The deputies found the hidden rifle and lodged the suspect for domestic violence and felon in possession of a firearm. The Sgt. assisted the deputies with the additional evidence by providing a dead gunshot deer. The additional charge of the illegal deer will also be added.

### DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

**CO Cary Foster** responded to a snagging complaint to witness a [boy] actively attempting to snag salmon at the Portland Dam. Walking down and standing next to the angler in full uniform, CO Foster asked the 12-year-old if he knew who he was. The angler correctly identified the CO as a conservation officer and continued snagging. After a discussion about his illegal technique, the young angler advised he was taught how to do this by his uncle. A verbal warning and brief education was given to the young angler on legal techniques and ethics.

**CO Greg Patten** stopped to check a tent camper on posted private lands that also had a for sale sign placed nearby, only to learn the camper thought it was public land open to camping. While CO Patten attempted to re-direct the camper, he observed a "bong" style pipe in the vehicle, which led to a bag containing marijuana belonging to the camper. Enforcement action was taken for the marijuana.

### DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)

**CO Jason Smith** was called to a complaint of steel shot from

goose hunters coming down on a house. CO Smith contacted the hunters where the landowner was running a guide business and the hunters paid to hunt. CO Smith advised them that they were shooting into a safety zone, and also discovered that the landowner had placed out bait where they were hunting. CO Smith also checked the landowner's brother-in-law, who was hunting without a license and had an unplugged gun. Enforcement action was taken.

**CO Dan Bigger** was called at his residence on the opening day of the Liberty Hunt with a complaint that there was a subject out hunting who was not disabled. CO Bigger took the information and got into uniform. Within 20 minutes, CO Bigger was on scene at the location of the complaint. CO Bigger located the hunter who was not disabled and was participating in the early doe season. Enforcement action was taken.

### DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

Checking small game hunters at Pointe Mouillee SGA, CO Dan Walzak checked two hunters whose pickups were covered with fresh mud. When CO Walzak asked the first subject how he got so much mud on his truck he claimed that he got it pulling his younger brother's truck out from being stuck in the mud off the road. When CO Walzak asked the younger brother for his story he gave a different version. There was a third subject with them in his own vehicle and, when asked, he also told a different version of the incident. CO Walzak completed a hunting check of the third subject and checked his firearm, which had just been put into his vehicle. The CO found one .177 pellet rifle, which was not in a case, and asked once more about his friends and what really happened. The CO was told that the older brother drove off the road into a low muddy area on private property and made it through. The younger brother attempted his older brother's feat and got stuck in the process. Neither had an ORV license on their vehicle and this all occurred on private property where they were operating without permission. When presented with this version of the story, both subjects admitted to what they had done. Enforcement action was taken.

## Marketplace of the North

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## Final Shot



### Downstream Racing

This wooden monument on the south side of downtown Grayling memorializes "all canoe racers—past, present and future" who have participated in the Au Sable River International Canoe Marathon. The 240-mile race from Grayling to Oscoda on the main branch of the Au Sable—which in July 2014 will celebrate its 67th year—is noted as "the greatest of all canoe races on this, the best of all rivers." In 2013, more than 70 teams from throughout the United States, Canada and England paddled in the overnight run. It takes more than five hours for the fastest canoes to cover the distance. Such events represent just one of many competing uses for Michigan's water resources, which sometimes pit outdoor enthusiasts against one another. Meditative fly fishermen, for example, are typically not fond of "speeding" watercraft powered by people whose goal is not to contemplate the resource, but rather to get from start to finish as quickly as possible.

## DNR re-routes the Jordan Valley Pathway

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has re-routed a segment of the Jordan Valley Pathway and North Country Scenic Trail around a bridge and wetland area west of Antrim County's Deadman's Hill.

DNR staff has been monitoring the foot bridge, which sustained damage to the stringers this summer. The center span has collapsed, they said, making the bridge dangerous to cross.

The bridge, along with approximately 100 feet of adjacent pathway, is under water due to recent rains

and beaver activity. The path has been re-routed onto an old logging trail until permanent repairs to the original pathway can be completed.

The change is marked by blue triangles and other informative signs on the ground, and the original path markers have been removed to reduce confusion.

Questions may be directed to Tom Copenhaver, Young State Park supervisor, at (231) 582-9151, or to the Gaylord DNR Operations Service Center at (989) 732-3541.

—Michigan DNR

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## DNR prepares for Asian carp

If—or when—Asian carp make their way into Great Lakes waters, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) intends to be ready.

The agency's Fisheries Division recently staged a two-day exercise on the St. Joseph River to run through how it will react in the event silver or bighead carp show up there.

The St. Joseph River was chosen for the exercise because it is the first major waterway up the state's Lake Michigan coastline from Chicago. Most fisheries biologists believe that Asian carp—which are already found in the Chicago Area Waterway System—are likely to enter the Great Lakes via Lake Michigan.

If they do, it's a coin toss whether they turn left or right as they head up the lake.

Asian carp breed in rivers. If they do hit Lake Michigan, it's a safe bet they'll wind up in the St. Joe.

"The St. Joe has optimal habitat for these fish to spawn and potentially establish a population," said Tom Goniea, a DNR fisheries biologist who oversees aquatic invasive species and designed the exercise. "These fish thrive in highly productive streams like the St. Joe."

The two-day event involved 27 fisheries technicians—all but two of the field techs in the state—and a handful of biologists. The DNR brought 14 boats—12 for fisheries workers, one for conservation officers and a spare (which was pressed into duty). The crews roped off a two-mile stretch of river several miles below the dam at Berrien Springs and strung nets across the river to prevent fish from heading up or downstream during the exercise.

The crews began the exercise by electro-fishing, collecting common carp, tagging them, and

returning them to the water as part of a mark-and-recapture study to see how effective various techniques were at catching the fish.

The common carp were "surrogates for silver and bighead carp," Goniea said. "They're roughly the same size and same body shape and you're going to catch them in the same places of the river. That gives us a known quantity of fish in that closed section of the river."

After the fish had been tagged, the fisheries crews deployed stretches of large-mesh gill netting through the river.

"One of the techniques used to catch silver and bighead carp is to electro-fish and chase them into vertical walls of gillnet," Goniea explained. "Then on the second day, we'll attempt to recapture those fish with no nets in place and we can compare how effective our techniques are at capturing the fish."

The exercise went smoothly. The crews tagged a lot of fish and recovered many of them over the next two half-days. The first afternoon session included several thousand feet of gillnet set systematically so the most effective sets could be evaluated. The following morning, the electro-fishing crews went back at it without the accompanying gillnets.

As a result, biologists are formulating a strategy for what they'll do if the real deal—live silver or bighead carp—show up in a Michigan stream.

"Everything pretty much went according to plan," Goniea said. "The ideas we had for netting worked. The nets were deployable and stayed in place where we put them in the river. How effective they were, that analysis hasn't been completed, but just the fact that they worked in that habitat was a significant positive."

—Michigan DNR