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. Let us 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 wind resumed im relatively shallow waters, University of Michigan Professor Dale Karr says, with close proximity to population centers and ecological grid networks. But winter ice is a major issue, he said, and will play a significant role in determining design 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.

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

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...

(Continued on Page 2)

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 stacksmoke emission 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 Helwig, 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 ecological grid networks. But winter ice is a major issue, he said, and will play a significant role in determining design 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 costs continue to decrease. Another report from the Graham Sustainability Institute.

The sky was cloudy and the winds were strong during a recent camping excursion to the Northern Dunes Wilderness Area south of Manitou. The 3,450-acre jewel in the Manitou 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 sand 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 laws,” 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...
Happy Birthday

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 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 gigantically 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 and its accounting of its stewardship.

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 repay its sincere thanks to its family, which today celebrates the birthday.
Graymont zeroes in on Rexton as U.P. mine site

(Continued from Page 1)

concurrent reclamiation 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, loaded ore trucks, and service roads. Company officials, however, say there will be “minimal disturbances” in the underground mine area, and the operations will be conducted in a manner to protect surface and groundwater. There will be “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 commu-nity 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, suppli-ers 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 admin-is-trative paper pushers in charge of our natural resources. There are 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 in-formation 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 plans for 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 in-formation site.” The company has also established a special contact telephone number – (906) 254-6211 – for inquiries and information.

As of this writing, Golder said that the DNR had not yet accepted any plans 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/4013167238302145/.

Tree stand safety

Michigan conservation of-ficers are stressing safety for those hunting from tree stands or elevated platforms this sea-son.

“They stand popular with many hunters who want an increased advantage, but improper use of them can re-sult in injuries and death,” said Sgt. Tom Wanless, Hunter Educa-tion 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 hard wood stand, because the limbs, limbs and rodded leaves, and un-load your gun when hauling.”

For little trees, a big move to ponder

Trees are the ultimate home-bodies. And, with age, they be-come even more obdurate in their stability.

Season after season, their spi-ders, snakey roots coocrew ever deeper into the dark womb of the earth.

Picture this when next you see a stawltaw oak with a wide canape of thick limbs and branches. In the center of the tree, actu-ally an invisible tree of roughly the same size. This mirror image is made of fibrous roots and root hairs every bit as 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 hard-wood tree, you get some factory-made shovel can win that battle too—you must do so before it’s well established. Otherwise, the operation may kill the plant.

You imagine, then, how astound the little clump of saplings must have been when I set upon them last Saturday. It was too late; all summer’s day and their bare limbs had already gone to sleep for the winter.

The saplings at hand were sugar maples, all the in three- to five-foot range, still easy to move without serious injury. They were clustered like woody weeds under the builingngs of an Osage or-ange hedge across from my brother’s house. The prevailing west wind had been there as tender green seedpods, and in an autumn day and their bare limbs had already gone to sleep for the winter.

The soil was made of meager humus, the soil was baked hard as clay pottery. I scraped, chipped and finally dug with my fingers to pry little musket-ball sized hedges around with ample care and warnings. It also helps to picture 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.

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 Confer-ence Center on the north shore of Higgins Lake once sufficient fund-ing is available. Donations are currently being sought. For more infor-mation, or to contribute to the construction of the memorial, visit the Michigan Conservation Officers Association website at www.mcco-online.net.

Book Review

Riv'er Runs Through It

By Norman Maclean


Published by Pocket Books, New York

This is one of our favorite books—and the movie based on it too.

First published in 1976, the au-thor 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 liv-ing symbol of decay.

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 65 years old. The book and its movies and disappointments of his younger years remained clear.

The father taught his sons the ways of grace and fly fishing. Both boys loved to icy cold waters of the Big Blackfoot River that ran from the Rocky Mountains through their lives and hearts. But the young man’s trou-ble with learning was that when it came to fly fishing, was not so successful at all.

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

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

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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. In our culture of litigation and assault on parental rights, the little darlings might not have the same accident-prevention worries that many children of yesteryear faced 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, such as parachuting off a two-story roof with a parachute in the trees in the area and routinely found us perched on some sagging branch far above a huddle of envious friends on the ground.

The world has changed. The days when kids could be taught to avoid falls by grasping the limbs tighter as they went higher and taking care to place their hands and feet in secure locations along the way have gone. And nobody knew we ever took a tumble. Of course, 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. There are adults all around us left to 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. It isn’t a teen-age vandalism—it’s wayward automobiles, or slash-and-burn throwaways, 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—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 did once 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 joke for the year.

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—accidently, or on purpose? 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. 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 we have to let kids and girls be, well, boys and girls. If they collect a few scraps 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 worries our picknickers face today. Sure, mom and dad kept an eye on us and would intervene if we were about to do something at least foolish or life-threatening. But we could parachute off a two-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 up to the trunks of the most substantial trees in the area and routinely found us perched on some sagging branches high above a huddle of little 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 knew we ever took a tumble. Of course, 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.

There are adults all around us left to 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.
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 Osqueau 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 Sorgart 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. Sorgart, 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 Sorgart. 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 day.

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.

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 “capitalization 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 admirably “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 this 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 [outdoorsmen].

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.

1699 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 lesser noted worthy 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.

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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.

In Ewen, 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, Edwin, Crew, Conger, and Even.

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 hunters and fishermen. Many 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 and 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.

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

Restaurants, such as the Ottawa Lodge and Grandma Grudgers (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. I've heard, when many times 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 cabin exist today.

Smiths Cabins are now known as Two Rivers Cabins and they cater [exclusive]ly 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 town caters to snowmobilers, as well as predator hunting. Last year, the second predator roundup was held at Kenton at Hoppys Bar. 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 hunting there for over 50 years, starting with my uncles. There are too many hunters in the lower and I like it to fishing in a mud puddle.”

Ozz Warbach: Michigan’s outdoor illustrator

Ozz “Oz” 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.

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 an overly discernible sound.

It was dusk in the woods, with only a few small stars in the distance. The embers were glowing a dim yellow from the fire. A glittering, feathery band of fog encircled the campsite, and the ruffled leaves were taking on a golden hue. A faint scent of dampness filled the air.

The 1971 illustration from The Natural World, the Superior Biological Station’s journal, was done by Herbert Schinkel. It is an impressionist work, capturing the atmosphere of a typical deer hunting camp in the Upper Peninsula.

The illustration depicts a typical cabin in the woods, with a fire blazing inside and smoke curling up into the sky. The artist has included details such as the smell of smoke, the sound of waves, and the feel of dampness on one’s skin.

The image conveys the isolation and solitude that many hunters seek in the wilderness. The artist has also captured the beauty of the natural surroundings, with the sound of waves and the scent of dampness.

The illustration is a testament to the enduring appeal of deer hunting in the Upper Peninsula. The artist has managed to capture the essence of the experience, from the anticipation of the hunt to the solitude of the campsite.
YOUTH HUNT VIOLATORS, SALMON SNAGGERS, DROWNING VICTIM & MUDY TRUCKS

DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)

CO Doug Hermanson worked a case in which he observed a subject in the middle of a subject shooting a deer in a farmer’s field and getting chased off the property. A license plate was obtained by the farmland. Hermanson tracked down a 16-year-old female with an 18-year-old male. The 16-year-old denied the deer during the youth hunt under the supervision of her 18-year-old boyfriend. The adult was charged with trespassing and possi - ble charges are pending in pro - bate court with the 16-year-old.

CO Mark Leadman re - sponded to a call of an illegal deer hunting incident. A landowner witnessed a subject with a high-powered rifle shoot a game animal. The man and woman went out and seized the rifle from the 16-year-old subject and called police. The landowner had given the subject permission to hunt on his property, but not to hunt anything else. Violations included using a rifle to goose hunt, unsecured child in waterfowl stamp and a safety zone violation. A neighbor stated the same subject had an air rifle in his vehi - cle in their yard next to their vehi - cles. 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 firearms were seized.

CO Marvin Gerlach inter - viewed a subject who had a local company to run a tractor sled to cut brush on his private property to create shooting lanes for deer hunting. Unfortunately, he also cut 56 trees, causing dollar damage. The state land had built an illegal deer blind, illegally baited deer out of season, and operated his ORV on wetlands through on state land. The subject finally admitted to the violations when presented with photos of his illegal actions. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Kyle Pulepka was on his way to court when he witnessed a large plume of black smoke com - ing from a vicinity where a fire was reported. 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 destroyed. CO Leadman assisted with a domestic disturbance where a male subject took a three - year-old child and ran into the woods at right. With the assistance of a canine unit, the subjects were located. The man was ar - rested and the child safely re - turned.

CO Nick Torsky responded to a complaint from DNR park rangers, who were driving on public land when they saw nu - merous tires tracks going into a closed area. The rangers found several bear scat behind their vehicles behind a gate. The rangers locked the gate and called for officers. CO Torsky arrived and talked with two subjects who admitted they knew they were not allowed to be there. En - forcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a group of unsupervised young walking the road with a firearm during the youth hunt. CO Wells and a group of subjects discovered the party and discovered the hunter got lost while helping track a deer shot earlier in the day. Upon checking the point five - point buck was being processed that was taken by the young male 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 license.

Sgt. Mike Bonny and CO An - gela Greenway conducted sur - veillance of a deer and salmon fishing party on the Pere Marquette River in An - dron Bridge. Sgt. Bonny was as - suming the role of an angler and was talking to several pes - sony who were being very rude to fish and put 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 snare fish. Enforcement action was taken by CO Green - way, including seizing the fish.

CO Brian Lebel was sent to a lost hunter complaint in the Hay - ward State Forest Area (560). Upon arrival, a frantic woman was contacted who kept repeating that she had lost her gun. The officer who was the missing hunter, had just spent the night in the woods after her brother had not shown up a canoe to pick her up after an evening hunt. After getting her boat, CO Lebel and two deputies located the canoe, which had flipped over and only the body of a 16-year-old victim was located near the canoe and recovered. The subject was a 16-year-old for the earing jacket and one personal flotation device (PFD) was tied around a gun wedged in the canoe.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

CO Mike Heoar 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 stated he was using the site for unsupervised hunting with various scent racks and had set up bear bait canisters, which he failed to clean up. CO Heoar swept for the area that the site was located on for the hunting. After being visited by a bear at the site, the suspect arrived and was issued a ticket to address the multiple vio- lations.

CO Steve Lockwood re - sponded to a report about a deer that had been killed out of season. Upon contacting the sus -pect, 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 the ad - ditional antlerless deer. Enforce - ment action was taken.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

While patrolling state land, CO Seth Rhedeca observed several deer and discovered a deer with a tag. One of the hunters ad - vised the CO they had just shot a deer 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 buck hiding in a tree. CO Rhedeca then contacted the other hunters and seized the ille - gally killed bird. Subsequent questioning and searching of the hunters led to illegal narcotics being seized in addition to the dead bird. Several violations were issued.

CO Joshua Wright was trav - eling the St. Clair River County while he was passed by a motor - cycle in a no passing zone. The cyclist also passed another vehi - cle at the same time. CO Wright eventually got the motorcyclist stopped after three minutes of lights and sirens and speeds over 90 miles per hour. Once the cyclist was stopped, CO Wright discov - ered the passenger as an 11-year - old child. When the subject of the motorcycle had an outstanding warrant for his arrest and was is - sued a ticket for careless operation and bond was taken for his war - rant.

While patrolling the Maple River SGA, CO Jeremy Payne observed a vehicle driving toward his location with only one work - ing headlight. The CO pulled the subject over and questioned the vehicle to drive by. Once the vehi - cule passed, the CO attempted it to a U-turn on the narrow road. The CO witnessed the driver hanging halfway out the open dri - ver’s door attempting to negotiate the turn around. The CO stopped the driver and investigated him for operating under the influence (DUI). The driver told the CO that he was not drunk driving, that he was only “buzzing driving.” The driver was lodged at the Gra - ce County jail for operating while impaired.

Sgt. Ron Kinnemeyer arrived at the scene. The driver of a suspect who shot two antlerless deer during the early antlerless season. The deer were allegedly left in the field and not tagged. During questioning of the suspect, the Sgt. found a gunshot, untagged doe in the field behind the suspect’s home. Further in - vestigation revealed that the suspect had received a domestic vio- lence call and arrived on the scene shortly after the deer were shot. The suspect’s sister was not happy that he shot at a deer; and the sus -pect then tried to choke his sister. The suspect was convicted a female and the sister advised the deputies that he had shot at a deer with a rifle. The deputies found the hid - den 12-gauge shotgun and the suspect for domestic violence and felon in possession of a firearm. The Sgt. assisted the deputies with the ad - ditional evidence by providing a dead gunshot deer. The additional charge of the illegal deer will also be added.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

CO Cheryl Gast received a complaint from a subject who reported being robbed of his truck and his personal belongings. CO Tompall & the Glaser Brothers tickets to address the multiple vio - lations. Several tickets were accepted their tickets for snagging salmon.

The suspect was a convicted felon who had shot a turkey two weeks ear - lier and a safety zone violation. A demonstrable violation of the illegal deer will also be added.

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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 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 Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has re-routed a segment of the Jordan Valley Pathway

and Michigan conservation

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 though 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 fishermen—also known as field techs in the state—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 in three vertical walls of gillnet, taking through the river.

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The day’s two events involved 27 fisheries technicians—all but two of the field techs in the state—and a handful of biologists. The DNR brought 14 boats—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 in 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 bighhead 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 bighhead carp is 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 bighhead carp—show up in a Michigan stream.

“Everything pretty much went according to plan,” Goniea said. “The idea we had for netting was to use the various gillnet types and stay 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

“The newspaper for people who love the north.”

Published twice monthly except one issue in January, April, July and October by Newswood Productions LLC, 5411 East DE Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004. First-class postage paid at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Online subscriptions $36 per year and $60 per two years. Print subscriptions $55 per year and $95 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The North Woods Call, 5411 East DE Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004. MDOT Code: 8021-00gg