“The newspaper for people who love the north”

Merry Christmas To All!
It’s time again for The Call’s winter break

The new year is fast approaching and it’s time once again for The North Woods Call to take its traditional winter break.

That means that the next edition is slated for late January 2014.

There’s no travel or general recreation on our agenda during this short sabbatical—just attempts to deal with the aftermath of a terminal illness that struck the editor’s mother and to assess the financial health of the newspaper.

Many subscribers have generously renewed their annual commitment and a good number of you have extended your subscriptions to two years. For that we are grateful.

Yet we are still lagging behind where we need to be in terms of increasing our readership base and attracting advertisers. Unfortunately, this has been a problem for many years—even during the legendary Glen Sheppards years—as fewer people seem interested in reading newspapers and even fewer seem to want to pay for that privilege.

And it doesn’t help that the current editor seems—like Shovel—to be much more interested in reporting and storytelling than in accounting and marketing.

Still, we are trudging along, thanks to the loyalty (Continued on Page 2)

Au Sable “Holy Waters” escapes new threat

Just when conservationists thought they might be able to breathe a little easier, the Au Sable River was once again under threat of new oil and gas drilling.

Fortunately—for after meeting with Anglers of the Au Sable President Bruce Pregler and First Vice President Tom Briard, and receiving hundreds of e-mail messages from concerned citizens—Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Keith Creagh de- cided there would be no oil and gas exploration along the revered “Holy Waters” corridor anytime soon.

The outcry began in late Octo- ber, when the DNR auctioned nearly 2,800 acres in and near the Au Sable’s sacred Holy Waters area for potential oil and gas de- velopment. Most, if not all, of these leases were purchased by Encana, the Canadian company which is using massive amounts of water for deep hydraulic fracturing in the Manistee River basin, ac- cording to information released in early December by the Anglers of the Au Sable group.

The Holy Waters corridor in- cludes part of the Au Sable River east of Grayling to Thendara Road, between North Down River Road and East M-72.

In an announcement at the Dec. 12 Natural Resources Commission meeting, Creagh reversed the DNR’s initial plan to allow devel- opment on several parcels in the corridor, changing them to “non-development” status. In addition, Creagh said he would not enter the leases as originally auctioned and will further tighten the leases to specifically prohibit any reclassi- fication for the full five-year lease period. Any such reclassification— if requested by lease hold- ers—would reportedly require public notice and a new auction. Creagh also pledged to assign a DNR task force, with stakeholder input, to identify “special places” akin to the Holy Waters, where mineral leases and future oil and gas development will be off-limits in the future.

“Michigan has special places that deserve careful attention and thoughtful protection” Creagh said. “The Au Sable River is one of those places. A non-develop- ment lease lets us protect an area’s valuable surface features. This, in turn, protects Michigan citizens against the loss of revenue if pub- lic-owned minerals are removed without a lease in place.”

“This is a huge win for Anglers of the Au Sable,” Pregler said. “Only through intense, yet ra- tional, public input from hundreds of Anglers members and our friends in the conservation com- munity were we able to convince the DNR to make this change.”

“Keith really listened to us,” said Briard. “It took guts to make this change and vision to pledge to identify other special places where these kinds of controversies would be avoided in the future.”

A number of the previously pro- posed leases could potentially have allowed surface wells, pump- ing stations and pipelines, the Anglers group said in a Dec. 2 memo to members. Many of those parcels are in the Rayburn Tract, “a wonderful piece of state land” that was once private and slated for development. Only the efforts of dedicated conservationists pre- vented contaminants on the par- cel, they said, and allowed it to become public land accessible to all.

Anglers of the Au Sable had previously urged the DNR not to lease these lands, but the agency reportedly did so anyway. The or- ganization had met with Creagh as late as Nov. 25 to request that he not authorize the new Holy Water leases. During the meeting, Creagh asked for letters from the Anglers membership supporting the group’s position. At the height of the controversy, Creagh said, he was receiving e-mail messages every four minutes.

As with other such leases around the state, the DNR said it would be able to “protect the valu- able surface features” of the area. The Anglers organization, how- ever, has had little faith in that as- surance.

“We don’t buy it,” the group said in the Dec. 2 memo. “You ei- ther think it’s a good idea to have oil and gas development along the Au Sable River, or you don’t.”

(Continued on Page 3)
The Upper Peninsula is replete with old farmsteads that remind us of its settler past. My Upper Peninsula: Beauty, but disturbing changes

By Jan Corey Arnett

When a long-ago boss referred to the Upper Peninsula as “The Appalachia of Michigan,” I cringed. As a native “Yooper,” the inferences were offensive. In the worst sense, we were allegedly uneducated, impoverished, unemployed and isolated.

When I left the U.P. to attend college in the Lower Peninsula, it was a complete shock when fellow students would ask, “Where was it from?” and I would proudly say “The U.P.”—only to be met with, “What does U.P. mean?” I am not talking about immigrant students who would ask where I was from and I would consider Michigan’s lower east side another country. But that’s another topic.

Questions were asked in seriousness and in jest—“Is it true you only get around up there in the winter on snowmobile? You still pretty much have one-room schoolhouses, right?”

Perhaps I should not be too hard on suburbanites from the 70’s, considering that a recent map produced by someone in our nation’s Capitol, (presumably well-educated), “forgot” to include the Upper Peninsula.

I love the U.P. My parents were dairy farmers in Menominee County, then the dairy capital of the state and still home to some of the state’s largest and best dairy herds. And, before you ask, cows in the U.P. are milked in modern computerized parlors, not individually by milkmaids hunkered on three-legged stools.

Be careful, however, if you question a Yooper these days about his or her education or level of sophistication, because unconsidered in the high rate of unemployment is the fact that an increasing number of residents have chosen to live in the U.P. to escape other parts of the state or country in their retirement. They might not take kindly to assumptions about their intellect or level of ambition.

I can handle the joking. What riles and grieves me is the callous manner in which a multitude of companies, some of which are owned by other countries, are devouring and destroying the beauty of my U.P. and poisoning her water.

I am not denying that we need the various ores that are mined there. But I am convinced that reclamation of what exists (i.e. metals in computers, dismantled structures, appliances, cell phones, and the like) is far preferable and more sensible than the decimation of what remains in its pure form.

The U.P.’s greatest treasures are not minerals beneath the ground, but the rivers, lakes, forests, fields, and wildlife above it. It is water that gives us life, yet too many of us are willing to compromise it to produce things we can often live without.

The very suggestion that oil be shipped on or under any of the Great Lakes should have been denied without debate long ago. Fracking is a curse word. Each time I cross the extraordinary Mackinac Bridge and admire the exquisitely beautiful scenery below, a sickening dread comes over me having nothing to do with the fear or hatred, and everything to do with a fear of the loss of that life-giving water to recklessness from many sources both industrial and individual.

As a writer, I have sought solitude beside a small lake in the U.P.’s Mackinaw County, but have had to adjust to the sound of explosives from a limestone quarry nearby and the rumbling of massive equipment. To my dismay, another quarry is now under consideration just miles away.

The U.P. is changing. My hope is that the savviness of its own reputable institutions of higher education, the influx of influential people with disposable income, and the fierce determination that characterizes native Yoopers, will ensure that my U.P. is both respected and protected in the years ahead.

Jan Corey Arnett of Battle Creek is an author and respected and protected in the years ahead.(Jan Corey Arnett photo)

Winter break

Weyerhaeuser Co. lessees were expected to begin building cabins along undeveloped, splendidly wild, stretches of the Au Sable and Manistee rivers. The DNR was still ignoring the over-canoering of our top-quality trout streams. Michigan citizens were hamstrung by laws that made it impossible for them to seek legal protection for the environment. People who talked about population control were still heretic monsters.

The oil drillers are still in our forests, but they are nervous and the DNR brass who gave them free rein have admitted their mistakes. The department has adopted new oil leasing and drilling guidelines, which—if they are closely watched by citizens—will prevent future development.

There is still a chance that the wild areas previously leased can be saved. The Natural Resources Commission has confessed that it was a tragic blunder to have leased these lands by declaring a total drilling moratorium from Gaylord north. This moratorium, ordered on the grounds that the environment was threatened, may hold up. If it doesn’t, citizens now have the Environmental Protection Act, which gives them the authority to sue the state for injunctive relief.

Passage of the Environmental Protection Act may prove to be the greatest victory ever won by conservationists.

On Christmas Day 1969, Au Sable and Manistee river lovers, and all who sensed the magic of a wild river, were confident that Consumers Power Co. would lease 25 new cabin sites along unmonitored stretches of these rivers. The company had turned a deaf ear to the pleas of nature lovers. But the battle was only starting. Hundreds, then thousands, expressed their outrage.

The feeble hope of passing a wild rivers bill suddenly caught a spark of this anger, then it burned into a bright torch.

As with the oil drillers, the battle to save Consumers’ undeveloped stream frontage and to implement the natural rivers law was not finished. Consumers could still, legally, lease the land. The DNR has the natural rivers law bogged down in a committee, which may turn a few hours work into weeks and months of bureaucratic stalling.

After ignoring the tidal wave of canoes on Michigan’s finest trout streams for 15 years, the DNR this year was bludgeoned into admitting there is a critical problem. A citizens’ committee—under the DNR’s direction—is now working on the issue at Grayling. It has been blessed with a report finding a solution by which, but getting the department to publicly admit that over-use is destroying the rivers and that it has a responsibility to reverse the trend is progress.

This Christmas, thousands of young couples have accepted population control as a matter of survival. They are determined to limit their families to no more than two children, as an essential sacrifice if they are to have any quality for future generations. Not enough people recognize and understand the population crisis. But the number is growing, hopefully faster than the population.

Of course, much of the north woods has been lost in the last year. More cabins, roads, parks, power lines, impoundments, etc. have been built in the forests. More will be built. But there is also increasing acceptance of land-use zoning, which can preserve some quiet, beautiful spots in the northland.

There is much we could foster and fret over this Christmas. New expressways are eagerly sought by north country businessmen and highway builders. Litter monsters are spreading. And, much of the north woods has survived another year and prospects are even better for the coming year.

Christmas 1970 is much more joyful for the natural wonders of the north woods than Christmas 1969. Back then, a year ago, things indeed looked bleak.

Oil drillers, literally, had the run of the publicly-owned forests. Consumers Power Co. lessees were expected to begin building cabins along undeveloped, splendidly wild, stretches of the Au Sable and Manistee. The DNR was still ignoring the over-canoering of our top-quality trout streams. Michigan citizens were hamstrung by laws that made it impossible for them to seek legal protection for the environment. People who talked about population control were still heretic monsters.

The oil drillers are still in our forests, but they are nervous and the DNR brass who gave them free rein have admitted their mistakes. The department has adopted new oil leasing and drilling guidelines, which—if they are closely watched by citizens—will prevent future development.

As with the oil drillers, the battle to save Consumers’ undeveloped stream frontage and to implement the natural rivers law was not finished. Consumers could still, legally, lease the land. The DNR has the natural rivers law bogged down in a committee, which may turn a few hours work into weeks and months of bureaucratic stalling.

After ignoring the tidal wave of canoes on Michigan’s finest trout streams for 15 years, the DNR this year was bludgeoned into admitting there is a critical problem. A citizens’ committee—under the DNR’s direction—is now working on the issue at Grayling. It has been blessed with a report finding a solution by which, but getting the department to publicly admit that over-use is destroying the rivers and that it has a responsibility to reverse the trend is progress.

This Christmas, thousands of young couples have accepted population control as a matter of survival. They are determined to limit their families to no more than two children, as an essential sacrifice if they are to have any quality for future generations. Not enough people recognize and understand the population crisis. But the number is growing, hopefully faster than the population.

Of course, much of the north woods has been lost in the last year. More cabins, roads, parks, power lines, impoundments, etc. have been built in the forests. More will be built. But there is also increasing acceptance of land-use zoning, which can preserve some quiet, beautiful spots in the northland.

There is much we could foster and fret over this Christmas. New expressways are eagerly sought by north country businessmen and highway builders. Litter monsters are spreading. And, much of the north woods has survived another year and prospects are even better for the coming year.

Christmas 1970 is much more joyful for the natural wonders of the north woods than Christmas 1969. Back then, a year ago, things indeed looked bleak.
The Au Sable River is considered one of the best trout streams east of the Rocky Mountains. It is also unique: the river has the most stable flow of any river in the state, primarily because it sits atop a rare geological feature which was deposited by glaciers that carved the Great Lakes thousands of years ago.

The Au Sable’s watershed—a complex of rivers, lakes and streams that drains 1,952 square miles—sits atop a massive bed of sand and gravel that is hundreds of feet thick in some areas. The gravel acts like a giant sponge and a filter, soaking up precipitation, filtering it and then slowly feeding the river and its tributaries a constant flow of cold, clean water through streamside springs.

The Au Sable gets 85 percent of its water from underground springs, which is why the river’s water level doesn’t fluctuate very much. Sand and gravel levels may vary more in those that get most of their water from rain and melting snow draining off the surface of the land.

Stable flows of cold, clean water provide ideal conditions for trout and other coldwater fish species in the Au Sable. In its natural condition, the river was a haven for one of Michigan’s most spectacular fish: The Au Sable grayling.

But logging in the late 1800s, which denuded the landscape and turned the Au Sable into a conveyor belt for logs that were headed to sawmills, caused widespread erosion that sent excessive amounts of sand into the river, where it smothered rocky stretches of river bottom where trout thrive. Logging drove Au Sable grayling from the Au Sable and left much of the river system with the human equivalent of clogged arteries.

The construction of 109 dams in the Au Sable’s main branch and its tributaries from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s fractured the river’s ecosystem into a series of smaller, somewhat dysfunctional systems. Even today, government agencies, conservation groups, property owners and businesses have been working to stitch together the torn fabric of the Au Sable’s sprawling ecosystem.

It is a daunting and costly endeavor.

But just as stocking trout in the river in the late 1800s created a valuable new fishery, more modern river restoration work is producing results. The Au Sable River in 2013 was quantifiably healthier than it was a century ago.

Steve Sendek, a retired fisheries biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources who studied and worked on the Au Sable for three decades, said the river is in great shape. But he added that conservation groups and government agencies charged with protecting the Au Sable must remain vigilant to prevent water quality and the trout fishery from backsliding.

“The Au Sable is a crown jewel, but you’ve got to keep polishing it,” Sendek said. “I’d say we’re about 80 percent of the way toward making this river perfect.”

Despite the progress, which has been slow and challenging as the challenges in the future. Those include: Excess sand; the loss of trees and woody debris along the river’s edge; altered fish habitat and cool water temperatures; and dams and poorly designed road溪 crossings that fracture the river’s ecosystem into a series of smaller, ecologically disconnected units.

Which is why more development—fracking for deep shale oil and natural gas, the proposed expansion of the Grayling Fish Hatchery, or mansions crowding the river—pose the greatest threat future to the Au Sable.

It depends on who you ask. Sendek said he worries most about the Grayling Fish Hatchery and manufactured housing that threatens the river’s entire trout fishery. Josh Greenberg, owner of the Gates Lodge, believes the massive, gas wells near the river, the mansions with fracking pose the greatest threat to the river’s health.

“It’s like a big fish hatchery, but I’m one thousand times more concerned about fracking than I am about the hatchery,” he said.

Karen Harrison, assistant director of the Anglers of the Au Sable Board of Directors, said her top three concerns are: The proliferation of docks and large homes along areas of the river that were supposed to be protected by the Natural Rivers Act; water quality problems from oil and gas lease auctions; and invasive species, particularly non-native plants such as purple loosestrife. Breegere Pregler, president of Anglers of the Au Sable, said he worries about politicians sacrificing Michigan’s best natural resources for short-term economic gain.

“It is my hope, through the efforts of Anglers, we can educate our legislators and others about the threat from this ‘exploit the resource and then move on’ mentality does not work anymore,” Pregler said. “It is the Anglers’ goal to promote the economic approach to conservation—protecting our waters and our lands is good for Michigan and the economy.”

Angel’s of the Au Sable report assesses health of river

**Au Sable “Hot Waters” corridor escapes latest threat—for now, at least**

(Continued from Page 1)

We emphatically do not.

Our movement is not in the effort to cancel the auction of the Hot Waters parcels by the Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association, Northern Michigan Audubon, Au Sable Watershed Restoration Committee, Michigan Trout Unlimited and its Mason-Griffith and Headwaters chapters, the Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Grayling Township. Local residents also fought for the preservation of the river’s entire trout fishery.

And considering the River’s past, the Anglers of the Au Sable Board of Directors believes the DNR should never have put a development designation on any parcel near the river corridor, nor leased such parcels for oil and gas development.

We fear the DNR is saying the Au Sable corridor is “open for business” to oil and gas developers.

“The only industry which really stands to benefit from these leases is oil and gas. Their potential gain comes at the risk of too many others,” Sendek said.

Except for the leases impacting the Hot Waters corridor, the leases remain intact, which are affected by Cream’s decision—were initially proposed to allow for restricted development, according to the DNR, along with additional restrictions, such as limited surface disturbance and a quarter-mile buffer zone for protection of Kirtdall’s warren habitat management.

“Anglers of the Au Sable appreciate the willingness of Director Cream to take special steps to protect this special place,” said Pregler. “The Hot Waters section of the Au Sable is a vital part of Michigan’s cultural heritage, as well as the epicenter of angling activities that have been the economic engine of the Grayling area. In addition, riverfront property owners in Crawford County have a combined property market value of $275 million and pay more than $3.3 million in annual property taxes—nearly a quarter of all property taxes paid in the county—said the Lansing-based Public Sector Consultants Inc. in a recent study conducted for Anglers of the Au Sable. “We appreciate that DNR’s move to safeguard the river was a win-win for the economy—a hallmark of good government policies,” he said. “It also demonstrated the value of the Au Sable to the local economy.”

“We appreciate that the DNR’s move to safeguard the river was a win-win for the economy—a hallmark of good government policies,” said Sendek. “I don’t think we’d get such protections for such places nationwide.”

We appreciate that the DNR’s move to safeguard the river was a win-win for the economy—a hallmark of good government policies,” he said. “I don’t think we’d get such protections for such places nationwide.”
Close call for the “Holy Waters”

What’s going on in Michigan, anyway? While we accept that a certain level of oil and gas development is necessary—even desirable—to help fuel our economy and improve our standard of living, we are concerned that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNr) has appeared determined to allow drilling—even hydraulic fracturing—in such areas. Is this the right thing to do and will we applaud the director for that action?

Yet we wonder why it always seems to take ever-vigilant citizen action to prevent public lands and government resources from being sold to the highest bidder? Is this what “scientific management” by the “experts” is all about? If so, maybe we should pay closer attention to the “will of the people” and support those elected to represent our interests.

As we have said previously, we support the wise and careful use of fossil fuels, which—currently, at least—power the engine of our economy. But we also support the protection of those natural resources from being sold to the highest bidder. We believe that public lands and government resources should really be headquartered somewhere other than the corporate offices of large multinational oil and gas companies.

Amazon’s drone delivery notion

So now the chief executive officer of Amazon.com says the company is looking at unmanned drones as possible delivery systems for the millions of products they sell each year. While that might be technically feasible and good for the company’s bottom line, it seems like a silly and unworkable idea to us. And it doesn’t show much respect for the natural world.

Imagine a whirling legion of GPS-guided crafts flitting here and there across the earth’s urban and rural landscapes, landing and taking off from random locations in a scheme that would put spiriting Federal Express and United Parcel Service drivers to shame. What happens when the remote-controlled devices hit power lines and trees, or collide with flocks of birds and the growing number of birds being killed by bullets?”

“Mary Breasted Women,” explores the myth of the ancient mother, the spiritual parent of the human race. It is a profoundly moving piece of scholarship. I believe she was. — Irene VanBuren

Requiem for Mom: A gentle spirit flies away

Irene VanBuren: 1927-2013

Happy Holidays—and thanks

At this special time of year, we want to thank all of you who have supported The North Woods Call with your subscriptions, advertising and good will.

We are grateful for your continued patronage and very much appreciate all our readers from coast to coast—and especially those who know us, as we do, that The Call should really be headquartered somewhere in the far north woods.

While we are not yet in a position to make that happen, we nonetheless remain committed to accurately reflecting the lives and concerns of those who reside in the region we cover.

We particularly admire—and are somewhat envious of—those who are “living the dream” in the rural northern Lower and Upper peninsula of Michigan. You have exotic names like Fred and Dave, or have come to love during the days of your youth. Some of you are in the woods and fields nearly every day, keeping watch over our natural areas and holding those charged with managing those resources accountable for their policies and actions. That is one of the great gifts you can give to your fellow citizens and we call you for your conservation commitment.

May each and every one of you have a blessed holiday season filled with the bountiful joys of family, friends and nature. Deck the halls with boughs of holly, but don’t forget the true meaning of Christmas and carry that spirit forward into yet another new year.
I'm getting off your clown train

In my opinion, you have gone too far on the Affordable Care Act. Apparently, you watch Fox News and are in the same bubble as they are. You've entitled to your own opinion, but not your made-up facts. I'm not going to contribute to your cause anymore, so cancel my subscription and send me a refund. Don't send me a renewal notice, either. I am getting off your clown train. You are NO Glen Sheppard.

Rich Hamen
Lakeview, Michigan

Sorry, Rich, but you must watch Fox News more than we do. More importantly than where we get our news, however, is what kind of gobbledygook we are willing to believe and defend. It's curious why so many left-minded people are intolerant of other viewpoints and prefer personal disparagement to debate in a free marketplace of ideas. Who says we have to accept wanton deception and general incompetence in our leaders as standard operating procedure in a representative government? To challenge such corruption and ineptitude is the sacred duty of all free citizens.

—Mike

Big Torch Lake Catch

The summer of 2013 was a good season for many Michigan anglers, as evidenced by this huge brown trout caught at 8:25 a.m. June 29 by Nick Leto of Reston. The fish—which weighed 19.5 pounds and was 34 inches long—earned Leto a Master Angler Award from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

I'm still salty about the dis- wildife officials? This is the lan- when speaking of the goal of species here in Michigan. It angers me to caught at 8:25 a.m. June 29 by Nick Leto of Reston. The fish—which weighed 19.5 pounds and was 34 inches long. Do these same people do their own electric work on their home, or work on their own car? Or do they leave this type of work to someone who is trained in that field and they trust? Should wildlife management be any dif- ferent? Really?

At no time in my following the Michigan wolf debate have I ever been led to believe that the intent is to eradicate the wolf from the Upper Peninsula. If that were so, I would rally against that. I believe the management plans for the wolf in Michigan are based on the total carrying capacities of their environment and the balance necessary to insure the actual fu- ture of that species. Wolves eat deer. They eat moose, rabbits, mice and any other mam- mal that presents itself. They kill dogs and cats, too. Look at the FACTS!

I am a hunter. I am a bird watcher. I fish. I care about na- ture and conservation, and support groups that promote sound man- agement of wildlife. I look at the facts. If you are someone that hunts and signed the petition to stop the wolf hunt, you, my friend, are a hypocrite. This movement is backed by the Humane Society of the United States. That's right. Fact: They want to stop all hunting of any type of animal.

The way I see it, if a person— whether [he or she hunts] or not—enjoys the wildlife of the great state of Michigan, they owe the hunter, for [hunters] are directly supporting the science of manag- ing the wildlife we ALL enjoy, whether we harvest or not!

Hunter money supports non-game species, as well as the game managed to hunt.

In closing, let me say I want the wolf to continue to howl in the Upper Peninsula—in managed numbers.

Mark Karaba
Marshall, Michigan

Don’t drill near Au Sable River

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following letter was written by a North Woods Call reader to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Keith Creagh and was published in the Michigan Nat- ural Resources Commission during the recent fight to protect the Au Sable Holy Waters corridor from oil and gas drilling.

I am writing to express my dismay that the DNR auctioned min- eral leases on parcels near the main stream of the Au Sable River near a segment known as the Holy Waters.

The Au Sable River is precious. Five generations of my family have been coming to the cabin built by my grandfather on the North Branch. We do not want the area to be despoiled by energy develop- ment.

It seems to me to be a mistake to allow energy development, es- pecially hydraulic fracturing, so close to such an important and sen- sitive area. I support development of natural gas, but I think it should be prohibited from highly significant and sensitive areas such as the Au Sable River watershed.

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

Big fan of The North Woods Call

I have been a big fan of The North Woods Call for many, many years. Shap always did a terrific job of sharing and highlighting the many land conservation projects of the Little Traverse Conservancy (www.landrust.org). I will be sure to send you some of our recent press releases.

Ty Raff
Land Conservation Specialist
Little Traverse Conservancy
Harbor Springs, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Jay Copeland
Grayling, Michigan

I strongly urge you to remove these areas from consideration for energy development.

Sincerely,
Michigan Owls Part I:
Great horned, screech and barred owl calls

By Mark Karaba

EDITOR’S NOTE: Oops, we messed up and ran Part II of Richard's owl trilogy last time, so we're backtracking slightly and running what was supposed to be Part I in this edition.

Nothing is more exciting than to be sitting in a blind at dawn or dusk, waiting for that allusive black bear or the last remaining elk. Or maybe you’re hunting over a bait pile, waiting for that monster black bear to show up. There are dark times of special.

Dawn and dusk are transition times from the daytime creatures to those that prefer the night. One of the most exciting is to hear the calls of the owls as they begin to search for prey.

The most common owls we have here in Michigan are the great horned owl, the eastern screech owl, and the barred owl. Of course, the screech owl is the smallest (about eight inches tall) and most abundant.

Great horned owl and screech owl have “ear tufts,” feathers that appear to be ears extending above the head, but they are not really ears. The great horned owl lacks the ear tufts. All our owls hunt by sound and sight, but sounds are obviously the primary method to locate prey.

Screech owls are found across the Lower Peninsula, but are most common in the Lower Peninsula. Its habitat is that of mixed fields and mixed forested areas—even suburban where numerous nest boxes exist within some open park areas. They nest in tree cavities and take well to roosting in them. They may feed on insects, but change to mice and small birds during winter months.

The call of the screech owl is an unmistakable “screech.” It sounds like a jackal. It sounds very similar when the owl is right next to you.

Screech owl is easily called into range by playing a tape of its call, or you can even try playing its own call, which is relatively easy. It will even answer during the day, but won’t permit itself to be sighted during the daytime.

The great horned owl is found across the state, but is most prevalent in the Lower Peninsula. It probably is the heaviest of our owls and stands at just under a foot. It is commonly called the “hoot owl,” because it gives a “hoot” call. The first “hoo” is longer, while the next two are quick and shorter and often followed by a longer “who.” It can be heard for a distance of about half a mile. Often when the air is calm.

We start hearing these calls in the fall as the great horned owl becomes a very early nester. The nest is usually an abandoned hawk or owl nest, and the eggs are often laid in February and early March.

When you hear the calls in the fall, you will often hear repeats one in a deeper tone than the other. These are the male and female taking back and forth. The female has the deeper tone as the larger of the two. They prefer mixed habitats in some extensive woodlots, but will adapt to farmland areas. Often nests are near human habitation.

Great horned owls—sometimes called the tiger owl—seem to be the fiercest of our owls and will capture an array of small rodents, along with rabbits, skunks and opossum. Often when we smell a skunk at night, it actually is that a great horned owl has killed a skunk.

During mid-summer through the fall, you may also hear what I call a hoarse scream, along with the hoarse scream, this would be the young that are hungry and want the parents to feed them. Because the young seem to be so dependant on the adults for so long into the season, a good number of people do not make the effort to see it the first winter. Often, as the winter sets in, we’re saying someone hears a cougar or bobcat call, which turns out to be that of a young great horned or barred owl.

The smaller (about 21 inches) barred owl is found more uniformly across Michigan, although it’s not nearly as abundant. This owl prefers mature forests of hardwoods or conifers, as well as river bottoms. They also like to nest in trees and, if you’re lucky, can be lured to a large roost box with an entrance hole on the side. They like river bottoms, because they feed on some aquatic species such as frogs, snakes, and crayfish. Because of this, they do hunt often during some daylight hours.

Nests begin in March. Hatchings and fledging occur during May and June. This owl’s call is quite recognizable, being a se- quence of hoots that the old timers say it sounds like “who cooks, who cooks for you all.” They also will give a single “hooahh.” When an encounter occurs with another barred owl, often the ex- change results in a whole bunch of calls that like to a bunch of chimp’s “caw-cawing.” The great barred owl is probably the easiest to bring into a call, either by tape or by mouth. If you try it by mouth, listen to the “who cooks” or deep baritone type of “whoosh” and give the “who cooks for you all” and that it doesn’t hurt to just do a few single “whoos” to start.

Even during the daytime, you may get a response, but be pa- tient. It may take as long as fifteen minutes or longer for them to come within sight.

As a naturalist, I would esti- mate at least 50 percent success- ful audio response in correct habitat and another 25 percent of the birds coming within sight of the caller. We even have had as many as five owls come at the same time.

If you are going to call screech owls and barred owls, call the screech owl first. The great horned and barred owls eat screech owls and they will not re- spond, but a barred owl may re- spond.

Enjoy the nighttime hours—whether hunting, skiing or just star gazing—and maybe you’ll be lucky enough to hear one of our many owls.

The natural world

Great horned, screech and barred owl calls

Ode to back-breaking snow jobs and the frigid joy of winter

A little shoveling probably wouldn’t hurt me, I reasoned. Six fresh inches had covered the land during our hours of sleep. Rather than making a quick phone call to nephew John (who owns and operates an excellent snow-plowing rig and does our clearing for free), I decided to set off on my own. No need to pull our already overworked relative away from his family on a Saturday morning.

Global warming, a.k.a. “climate change” has not adversely affected this part of the world yet. I don’t doubt that the North Pole region is less icy than in previous centuries, but I can’t understand why none of that warming seems to have made it down this far.

Now winter and the technology is hovering at nineteen de- grees, with a bitter wind from the northwest at a steady twenty miles- per-hour. It’s been like this for a week, with no forecast of improvement. Oh well, as a native Michigander, I’ve tackled more than a few snow removal jobs. I reluctantly decline to use a snow blower, partly be- cause of the large carbon footprint, but also due to the sticker price at- tached to the kind of unit I’d need out here in the rural heartland of northern Muskegon County.

I first cleared two sets of tire tracks for the entire length of the driveway. In the event of my sudden incapacitation, my dear wife would still be able to pull her car out to the main road, should she wish to buzz into town to buy orange juice or something.

Then the real fun started. Cross-shoveling the snow from garage to roadway, taking care not to miss much, and without scooping up the sur- face gravel. Good thing I’m an expert at this.

I kept an eye out for the barn cats to finish their meals so he (she) could enjoy the scraps. For the barn cats, it was much easier to move the snow than to stuff it inside the apartment from the roof above the garage. I definit ely wasn’t feeling the “who cooks for you all” at this point.

The familiar call of a Canada goose caught my attention as I trudged across the snow. It is a common occurrence in our area—a Canada goose can be heard even in the coldest of winters. I was easily able to spot the fox tracks by the barn door. These lit- tle tracks were made by a young adult fox.

They were just sitting quietly, their faces pointed into the harsh wind. I was easily able to track the fainter tracks for the barn cats to finish their meals so he (she) could enjoy the scraps. For the barn cats, it was much easier to move the snow than to stuff it inside the apartment from the roof above the garage. I definit ely wasn’t feeling the “who cooks for you all” at this point.

Foxes in this area tend toward politeness, I guess. This one had come around an hour after our driveway was opened. I stood back to do some brown mapping and to blow my nose into a soiled blue bandana, all the while admiring my handwork. Enough. Barn chores were the next order of business. Critters must be fed.

One small issue. Throwing snow around can be exhilarating, but the repeated extension of arm and back muscles can also lead to problems. As I trekked toward the barn, I noticed a pronounced leftward tilt to my upper body. (“Leftward, of course,” my more conservative friends would say with measured exasperation.)

With head and eyes forced slightly downward due to stiffness and pain, I was easily able to spot the fox tracks by the barn door. These lit- tle tracks were made by a young adult fox.

I kept an eye out for the barn cats to finish their meals so he (she) could enjoy the scraps. For the barn cats, it was much easier to move the snow than to stuff it inside the apartment from the roof above the garage. I definit ely wasn’t feeling the “who cooks for you all” at this point.

The familiar call of a Canada goose caught my attention as I trudged across the circuitous route back up to the house. Thirty or 40 of the big birds—quoted in rough numbers—can be found exploring around in my backyard. A few chunky sparrows showed up immediately. Everyone’s gotta eat.

Yet another of nature’s mysteries. I’ve had to ponder those geese in a storm, as well as our barn-visiting foxes, over a mug of hot tea in the kitchen. There’s so much more to learn, to understand.

And maybe—in a day or two—my back will stop hurting. 
DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)

CO Ryan Aho located a deer carcass that had been chewing on a wooded area surrounding the area. The carcass was a buck with the head cut off. CO Aho located an illegal deer stand nearby with the illegal ORV trail back to a camp with several hunters. One of the hunters claimed to have shot the buck several nights earlier. The hunter located the buck the following morning, but coyotes had chewed on the carcass. The hunter cut off the head and left the remainder of the animal for the coyotes. CO Aho found numerous overtime tickets and a complaint for the remaining hunter’s stands’ trees.

Several tickets were issued along with a ticket for the violations.

While on patrol, CO Jason Wicklund located two illegal blinds on public land. Later in the day, he responded to a complaint for checking activity on the blinds. While walking into the blinds, three hunters were contacted regarding trespass before being instructed to clean out the blinds. CO Wicklund found that neither one of the blinds was going to be removed for a week and wanted to make sure there was enough bait to last the week. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Kevin Postma responded to a complaint of a deer being dragged out of a field by a man and a woman. CO Postma was able to contact the suspect via a warrant for a violation. On arrival, the suspect explained that the deer was dragged out of the field because the property owner advised the suspect that a group of hunters would not be returning for a week and wanted to make sure there was enough bait to last the week.

Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ricky Gustafson

CODE: 415

Sgt. Arthur Green

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

CO Jon Skiba received a complaint of a deer being dragged out of a field by a man and a woman. CO Skiba was able to contact the suspect via a warrant for a violation. On arrival, the suspect explained that the deer was dragged out of the field because the property owner advised the suspect that a group of hunters would not be returning for a week and wanted to make sure there was enough bait to last the week.

Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Skiba

DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

CO Rich Stowe reports that the District Court Judge for Grand Traverse County confirmed that with the angler who had retained a fouled hooked fish; and while dealing with that another observer was intoxicated and the angler committed the subject fall into the river attempting to net a fish. The angler then proceeded to head back to the vehicle and contacted the Alpena City Police Department that the subject had been in contact with the license plate information provided by the complainant. The suspect advised that he and his girlfriend were hunting to have fun and they noticed a dead deer lying in a field. They decided that it would be a shame to see the deer go to waste and decided to go get it. CO Stowe expressed his skepticism about a respondent who both the suspect and another who also agreed that they were trespassing and shot the deer.

Warrants were issued.

CO Anthony Smith

CO Joe Jeffrey Panich and Brett Gustafson were on patrol on a remote area of eastern Mackinac County. They were on vehicle approach and the two occupants, who had been out cutting firewood, stopped to talk to the COs. A file check revealed that one of the subjects had a warrant, with full extradition, out of the State of Minnesota. The subject was the court warrant in the Mackinac County Jail.

CO Peter Petersen

DISTRICT 5 (Rosecommon)

CO Mike Hearn received a complaint of a subject hunting state land who had shot a deer and discarded it in an area that had no trespassing signs. The landowner of the private property had advised the subject several times to stay out. On this occasion the subject tracked his deer right under one of the hunters from the private property. Upon returning to the subject and explaining the subject couldn’t understand what the landowners were so upset about. “We are taking the violations and was delivered to a family in need.

Angela Greenleaf was on patrol when they observed a pickup truck driving down a rural road with three subjects in the truck’s bed. Upon noticing the mismatched license plates and these men exclaimed they were looking for a deer. CO Greenleaf stopped the vehicle and explained that the subjects were attempting to zip up a case containing a bow. Upon further inspection of the vehicle, it was discovered that a bow was located in the back seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Conner

POINTS: 5

Buck Lake Ranch: Nashville of the North

Classified Ads

Sgt. Greenlee

CO Jerry Mshar

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

COs Phil Hudson and Nick Atkin assisted local depiltes with locating and recovering the body of a missing hunter. The body was found in the Shiawassee River with the use of kayaks and canoes, officers battled high, fast and dirty water, and located the body several miles downstream from where he was reported missing. It’s unknown if the angler was swept out past 11 p.m. The subject then said, “You remember me don’t you, you gave me a break last night when you stopped me for shining and I had my bow in the truck.” This year a ticket was issued for the violation.

CO Mike Hearn

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

CO Gary Rank responded to a littering complaint in the Barry SGA where a subject was spotted dumping carpet. The complainant was able to supply CO Rank with a license plate number which resulted in the location of the subject. A confession was obtained and the subject was issued a ticket for littering.

CO Mike Mshar

DISTRICT 8 (Southfield)

CO Mike Mshar responded to a report of a group of hunters who were planning to take a goose in progress and was able to locate the subjects. They claimed that they thought they were on commercial land, because the landowner’s name where they were illegally hunting was the same as that listed in the guidebook they were looking at. CO Mshar advised that this was a different landowner and that the manager of the land was on the other side of the county. Enforcement action was taken per the landowner’s request.

CO Dan Lee

DISTRICT 9 (St. Ignace)

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Mike Drexler responded to several RAP complaints of someone taking a fish line along the Huron River in Flat Rock. Within a three day period, the COs issued more than 15 tickets amidst charges from the local law abiding anglers. In one case, Sgt. Greenlee seized 84 fish and charged the subjects with resisting an officer and landed in the middle of a boat and pulling his happy face out past 11 p.m. The subject then effectuated the seizure of the boat and landed in the middle of a fish and dirty water, and located the body several miles downstream from where he was reported missing. It’s unknown if the angler was swept out past 11 p.m. The subject then said, “You remember me don’t you, you gave me a break last night when you stopped me for shining and I had my bow in the truck.” This year a ticket was issued for the violation.

CO Kyle Bader

DISTRICT 10 (Newaygo)

CO Kyle Bader responded to a vehicle with three subjects in the vehicle. The subject also agreed that they were trespassing and shot the deer.

Enforcement action was taken.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Dan Lee were contacted by a hunter in his yard with a bow and arrow in the woods. The COs assisted the senior hunter drag out and load his deer, and then issued a ticket for failure to immediately valid and attach a kill tag.

CO Kyle Bader stopped a vehicle and found a group with a bow and arrow in the woods. The subject was issued a ticket with a hunting knife. After a few questions, he showed CO Bader where the untagged six pounds of fish at $5 per pound.
Natural Resources Trust Fund projects recommended for 2014

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) board of trustees has recommended to the state legislature $7,167,600 in development grants and $8,644,600 for acquisition grants went to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for projects totaling $9,183,200, while nine acquisition grants were awarded $7,167,600 in development grants be awarded to 39 local units of government, while five DNR projects garnered a total of $1,477,000.

“Michigan’s communities are home to unique, natural spaces and offer great potential for quality outdoor recreation opportunities—both of which play a big role in regional placemaking for our state,” said DNR Director Keith Cregagh. “Communities that actively engage in placemaking have strong recreation plans as part of their long-term planning processes, making it easier for them to compete for and leverage these important Trust Fund dollars. In addition, these recommendations illustrate a strategic investment in trails, furthering Michigan’s reputation as the Trail State.”

The MNRTF is a restricted fund that was established in 1976 to provide funding for public acquisition of lands for resource protection and outdoor recreation, as well as for public outdoor recreation development projects. It is funded through interest earned on funds from the development of minerals.

Over the past 37 years, the Trust Fund has granted nearly $1 billion to state and local units of government to develop and improve recreation opportunities in Michigan, according to state officials.

The Trust Fund board’s recommendations have now gone to the Michigan Legislature for review as part of the appropriations process. The Legislature then forwards a bill to the governor for his approval.

A list of the final recommendations made by the Trust Fund board is available at www.michigan.gov/mnrtf.

—Michigan DNR report

There’s still time!

If you don’t already have your copy of this collection of writings by longtime North Woods Call Publisher Glen Sheppard there are a few more left. Order yours today.

The book is out-of-print, but we picked up a handful of new copies from Shepp’s estate and are offering them for sale until they are gone.

Check our website for availability and ordering information:

www.mynorthwoods.call

Support The North Woods Call and Michigan conservation

Advertise your business here!

Contact: editor@mynorthwoods.call

Electronic subscriptions: $35 per year, or $60 for two years

Print subscriptions: $55 per year, or $95 for two years

Details at www.mynorthwoods.call.com

Final Shot

Bill aimed at creating state wildlife council

A bill has passed the Michigan Senate that would provide about $1.6 million a year for “wildlife management public education—an action critics fear is a veiled attempt to thwart wolf-hunting opponents at the ballot box.

The bill—which previously was approved by the state House and would shift a portion of Michigan license fee money paid by hunters and anglers into the new education fund—would create a Michigan Wildlife Council that would determine how the money is to be spent.

Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) objected to the possible use of taxpayer dollars and state resources for this purpose “when we all know there will be at least one referendum on the ballot next November related to the controversial issue of the wolf-hunting season.”

“The whole idea behind this fund and the Council is to support wise scientific management of game species,” countered Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayfield), “and if a referendum attacks those principles, then the use of the fund becomes even more important so that our citizens truly understand what they might be voting on.”

—the whole idea behind this fund and the Council is to support wise scientific management of game species.”

“project aimed at creating state wildlife council

The bill—which previously was approved by the state House and would shift a portion of Michigan license fee money paid by hunters and anglers into the new education fund—would create a Michigan Wildlife Council that would determine how the money is to be spent.

Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) objected to the possible use of taxpayer dollars and state resources for this purpose “when we all know there will be at least one referendum on the ballot next November related to the controversial issue of the wolf-hunting season.”

“The whole idea behind this fund and the Council is to support wise scientific management of game species,” countered Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayfield), “and if a referendum attacks those principles, then the use of the fund becomes even more important so that our citizens truly understand what they might be voting on.”

—the whole idea behind this fund and the Council is to support wise scientific management of game species.”

U.P. Artistry

It seems that Michigan’s Upper Peninsula has a colorful illustration of nature’s beauty nearly everywhere you turn. This autumn shot taken at Milakokia Lake in western Mackinac County is merely one example. But these pristine natural areas are consistently threatened by development and assorted other pressures as the state’s population increases and greater demands are placed on natural resources. For an editor’s perspective from a native “Fooper,” turn to Page 2.

—Photo by Jan Corey Arnett

Support The North Woods Call and Michigan conservation

Advertise your business here!

Contact: editor@mynorthwoods.call

Electronic subscriptions: $35 per year, or $60 for two years

Print subscriptions: $55 per year, or $95 for two years

Details at www.mynorthwoods.call.com

The newspaper for people who love the north.