### Mining recyclables: Digging those landfills

The Clarkston-based TerRenova company reportedly wants to buy a Genesee County landfill and possibly mine it for buried recyclables.

Such an operation would be unique in Michigan, state officials said.

TerRenova offered $1 million for the closed Richfield Landfill in Richfield Township about 30 miles northwest of Detroit, according to a recent story in The Flint Journal.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality officials said the proposed mining operation hasn’t been detailed in writing, but it has been discussed in meetings with the company. TerRenova is also considering a waste-to-energy operation on the 272-acre property, they said.

The company has been negotiating with a U.S. Bankruptcy Court trustee to purchase the landfill, according to The Journal, and recently applied for a license to operate the landfill. The application is said to be under review by DEQ officials.

The planned mining operation has reportedly prompted concerns among area residents and township officials, who are worried about the possible impacts of disturbing the buried waste on water resources such as the Holloway Reservoir, Buttercup Beach and the Flint River.

The plans call for reopening the landfill for garbage and mining during breaks in sorting out fresh material, a Richfield Township official said.

If the project doesn’t materialize, the DEQ said it is prepared to move ahead with a closure plan for the landfill—a process that has apparently already started. The $4.4 million cost to permanently close the landfill would be covered by a fund that was established by former operators of the landfill.

### Wolf Hunt Petitions: Opponents of Michigan’s wolf hunt have turned in a second round of petition signatures to get the issue on the November 2014 general election ballot.

About 225,000 signatures have been collected, they said, which is about 64,000 more than the minimum valid signatures required. If the state’s Board of Canvassers approves enough of the signatures, a new law allowing the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to set a hunt would be put on hold until the public vote.

Supporters of the wolf hunt have until May 20 to submit more than 250,000 valid signatures to reinforce the NRC’s authority to designate game species and issue fishery orders. If enough signatures are collected, a bill would go to the Legislature, which would have 40 days to act and could neutralize the ballot efforts of hunt opponents.

### OIL & GAS LEGISLATION:

A four-bill package that was making its way through the Michigan Legislature during late March would give oil and gas companies tax breaks for re-using carbon dioxide to tamp capped wells and have more power to obtain land for pipelines.

The state Senate approved the measures and sent it back to the House for concurrence. Supporters reportedly argue that the tax break—a 4 percent rebate on the gross cash market value of total production (reduced from the previous 5 percent for gas and 6.6 percent for oil)—would only apply to extractions that would otherwise be impossible, but critics say it benefits big oil and gas companies that are doing fine already.

### SCRAP TIRES:

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has announced $357,450 in grants to clean up several scrap tire sites around the state and fund 27 community cleanup days. The grants will help clean up the equivalent of more than 283,538 passenger car tires, according to a report by the M-Live Media Group. Michigan alone generates an estimated 10 million scrap tires every year. As of last spring, more than 2 million scrap tires were stored at outdoor collection sites and some 450,000 were being illegally stored, a DEQ report says. The state has banned whole scrap tires from landfills since 2004.

### ENERGY HEADACHES:

The Lake Wences Energy Park south of Ludington has been online for about 15 months now and the promise of green energy is giving way to resident complaints and legal disputes.

Seventeen plaintiffs in Scottville and Ludington who don’t have turbines on their property have reportedly signed onto a lawsuit complaining of sleeplessness, headaches, dizziness, nausea, stress and fatigue, according to a recent Detroit News story. In the meantime, Mason County and Consumers Energy officials are looking for a way to deal with the noise issue and a court is deciding whether the utility has violated local zoning rules, writes News reporter Jim Lynch. Nearly 60 tall wind turbines dot the rolling hills and farmland, one of 17 operating wind farms in the state.

### Hamlin Lake:

The process of raising Hamlin Lake in Ludington State Park to its summer level will begin once all ice has melted off the water. It is expected to take two to six weeks to complete.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Spring break time: Is winter really over?</th>
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| It’s time for the Call gang’s annual spring break and—after this past winter—a respite is sorely needed. |}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early April 2014</th>
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<td>Michigan’s Conservation Sentinel Since 1953</td>
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<th>St. Mary’s claims benefits of land swap</th>
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| St. Mary’s Cement Inc. says a land swap between the company and Fishererman’s Island State Park in Charlevoix County would benefit the community. But, however, says the public stands to lose much more than it would gain. The company would pick up a more consolidated “quarry footprint,” officials said, which means a shorter property boundary that is more isolated from residential areas. That means less fuel would be consumed hauling materials to the main plant, they said. There would be less of an environmental impact, the company told Charlevoix-area residents during recent public meetings, and a shorter perimeter to repair any quarrying that is completed and the quarry is eventually turned into a lake. The impact on the Norwood Township neighborhoods of Clipperview and Cedarview will be “substantially reduced,” they said. Fishererman’s Island State Park, meanwhile, would have a net gain of around 40 acres of land, they said, as well as about 4,000 feet of a trout stream known as McGeech Creek, including a diverse habitat with fields, woods and wetlands. In addition, company officials said, there would be a new public access road to the park that would not pass through an industrial setting. Additional improvements could include a new ranger station and other infrastructure improvements close to the “day area,” they said. |}

<table>
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<th>The tranquil Norwood area just down the road from Glen Sheppard’s former North Woods Call office could be impacted if plans for a land swap between the State of Michigan and St. Mary’s Cement Inc. are approved. Among other things, a new local entrance to Fishererman’s Island State Park has been proposed.</th>
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| St. Mary’s Cement Inc. says a land swap between the company and Fishererman’s Island State Park in Charlevoix County would benefit the community. But, however, says the public stands to lose much more than it would gain. The company would pick up a more consolidated “quarry footprint,” officials said, which means a shorter property boundary that is more isolated from residential areas. That means less fuel would be consumed hauling materials to the main plant, they said. There would be less of an environmental impact, the company told Charlevoix-area residents during recent public meetings, and a shorter perimeter to repair any quarrying that is completed and the quarry is eventually turned into a lake. The impact on the Norwood Township neighborhoods of Clipperview and Cedarview will be “substantially reduced,” they said. Fishererman’s Island State Park, meanwhile, would have a net gain of around 40 acres of land, they said, as well as about 4,000 feet of a trout stream known as McGeech Creek, including a diverse habitat with fields, woods and wetlands. In addition, company officials said, there would be a new public access road to the park that would not pass through an industrial setting. Additional improvements could include a new ranger station and other infrastructure improvements close to the “day area,” they said. Anne Zawski, Friends of Fishererman’s Island |}

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<th>Ahhh, at long last...</th>
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<td>Spring has finally arrived at northern Michigan’s Interlochen Center for the Arts and across the region (we think). Creative students, artistic sculptures and outdoor-loving people of all kinds are looking forward to warmer weather and no more snow—for a while, at least. Easter Sunday will be here in a few weeks and the good folks of Kalkaska are preparing for the 78th National Trout Festival April 23-27. It’s a great time of year!</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is presenting information and taking comments on possible changes to lake trout size and daily harvest limits on Lake Michigan for 2014 and subsequent years. DNR officials are hosting three more public meetings on the topic this spring and summer. These meetings provide a great opportunity for anglers to engage in the regulatory process, said Heather Hettinger, DNR fisheries management biologist. For information or special accommodations, contact Hettinger at (231) 922-5280, ext. 6870.

APRIL NRC MEETING: The April 10 and May 8 meetings of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will be held at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaumont Road, in Lansing. The June 12, Sept. 11 and Nov. 6 meetings will also be held at that same location, while the Oct. 9 meeting will be at the Ralph A. MacMillan Conference Center, 17747 E. 10 Mile Rd., in Highland. Other NRC meetings during 2014 will be July 10 at the Outdoor Adventure and Discovery Center, 1801 Atwater Street in Detroit; Aug. 14 at a location yet to be determined in Muskegon; and Dec. 1 at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

MT SUBSISTENCE HOUSEHOLD: The Michigan subsistence household for 2014 has been set at 9,600 rations a year. This is a reduction of more than 1,700 rations a year.

ST. MARYS CLAIMS BENEFITS OF LAND SWAP: St. Marys officials said it is premature to ask anyone to make a public judgment at this time. No formal application for the swap has been submitted, they said, so that a meaningful dialogue can occur. Any binding decisions are made.

"It is just a concept," the commissioner said, and public input is important.

"We are not the first 'Save Fisherman's Island' group," Zukowski noted, "but this group is the one that owns the Facebook page—Save Fisherman's Island State Park—to let the community know what is happening and to give the residents a voice. Over 1,300 people have 'liked' the page [so far]. We are asking St. Marys to withdraw their conceptual plan and stop the swap.

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Meanwhile, Water and Air Team Charlevoix (WATCH), an advocate for the Charlevoix County environmental community, has submitted an application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a land swap.

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"It is an unbelievably valuable piece of the earth and we’re going to take it away from generations that goes through it.'
Corporate representatives of Oklahoma-based Chesapeake Energy Corporation and Delaware-based Encana Oil and Gas, USA were arraigned March 20 in Cheboygan District Court before Judge Maria Burton.

As reported in the March edition of The North Woods Call, they face criminal charges for allegedly collaborating to avoid being concerned that they may have been misled as to what the actual price of the propane would be once it was delivered.

They face one count each of anti-trust violations relating to a contract, or conspiracy, in restraint of commerce and one count each of attempted anti-trust violations. The former charge is a high court misdemeanor punishable by up to two years in jail and/or a $10,000 fine for an individual. The latter is a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a $1,000 fine.

Both companies waived their right to a preliminary examination within 14 days and Judge Barton issued $50,000 personal recognizance bonds for the company officials. They are next due in Cheboygan District Court for a preliminary examination scheduled to be held sometime between May 5 to May 8, 2014.

Young Archers

Hartland's archery teams swept Michigan's first live National Archers in the Schools Program tournament last month at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. The district, located in northeast Livingston County, won the championship trophy in all three divisions—elementary, middle school and high school—and the middle school's B Team finished as runner-up. Here (below left), Coren Striffler from the Team Home Schoolers in Gaylord, moves arrows from a target. Below right, Hartland students Emily Bee and Chris Bee with coach Rob Jellison. The brother and sister turned in the tournament's best scores overall. Gaylord St. Mary's Cathedral finished second among high schools and Fowlerville third among middle schools.

Propane supplier subpoenaed in pricing probe

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette filed the charges on March 5 following an investigation into the companies' alleged 2010 collaboration.

Bill Schuette in late March was seeking civil subpoenas in an ongoing investigation into recent pricing and other suspect business practices related to this winter’s unprecedented price hikes for propane.

Schuette said his office had received 65 complaints related to Ferrellgas practices related to this winter's unprecedented price hikes for propane. Many of the complaints involved allegations of excessive pricing and misrepresenting the price that consumers would have to pay for propane. Under the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, a retailer may not charge a price that is "grossly in excess of the price at which similar property or services are sold." Evidence gathered to date suggests that some Ferrellgas consumers ordering propane over the phone may have been misled as to what the actual price of the propane would be once it was delivered.

Saginaw County Circuit Court has ordered Ferrellgas to provide documents and testimony to the investigation of this and other suspect conduct.

Schuette said his review of consumer complaints related to propane pricing remains ongoing.

If consumers have additional evidence suggesting that a retailer engaged in behavior that violates the Consumer Protection Act, they are encouraged to contact the state Consumer Protection Division at 1-877-765-8388, or file an online complaint at michigan.gov/ag.

Dave Dempsey to keynote hall of fame event

Author and environmentalist Dave Dempsey will deliver the keynote address at this year’s Michigan Environmental Hall of Fame induction. The event will take place at 7 p.m. April 10 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids.

Dempsey’s message—entitled “Michigan’s Conservation Heroes: The Untold Stories”—will feature tales of citizens, many long-forgotten, who made Michigan a nationally recognized champion of natural resource protection. He will also discuss the need for present and future conservation heroes to take over where previous generations left off.


Winner of the 2009 Michigan Author Award, he holds degrees from Western Michigan University and Michigan State University, and has spent most of his professional career in environmental conservation.

Among other positions, Dempsey has been executive director of the Michigan Council on Environmental Quality, program director in the Michigan office of Clean Water Action, policy director and senior advisor for the Michigan Environmental Council, and member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

The Michigan Environmental Hall of Fame is sponsored by The Muskegon Environmental Research and Education Society.

Additional Hall of Fame Inductees

In addition to the 2014 inductees mentioned in the late March edition of The North Woods Call—Norm Spring, Joan Wolfe, Don Inman, Dave Dempsey and the Clinton River Watershed Council—other new members of the Michigan Environmental Hall of Fame in- clude:

Mayville Elementary School in the college/schools category. Durward Allen, who initiated the project in 1958, was a pioneer among ecologists for having the foresight to understand the value of continuing observation where others would have drawn conclusions and moved on to study something different.

Ralph Bailey and Tom Washington in the legacy category. Bailey, one of the last great DNR field bosses, was a mentor, friend, supervisor, conservation leader, consummate biologist, patriarch and family man. He supported wildlife management based on sound science.

Washington was longtime executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and a lifetime advocate for the wise use of our natural resources. He also served as president of the National Rifle Association.

The induction ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. April 10 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids (See story above).

Tell your friends about The North Woods Call
Don’t forget these hall of famers

Ooops. In our haste to get late-breaking information about this year’s Michigan Environmental Hall of Fame inductees into the last edition of The North Woods Call, we inadvertently missed a few names that were announced on Page 3.

As our annual tribute to the pioneers and conservation heroes richly deserving of the recognition they are getting. It doesn’t have anything to do with the conservation of natural resources.

This year’s Hall of Fame honorees have all been in the trenches, struggling through years of political opposition and personal sacrifice. And they have helped us arrive in a better place.

Our respect and admiration for their efforts cannot be overstated. We thank them for the huge difference they have made.

Self-incriminating social media

We don’t quite get this thing called social media. Yeah, it’s a means of finding long-lost friends and communicating with those to whom we may not otherwise connect, and it can introduce us to new acquaintances that may, or may not, offer something positive to our lives.

It’s amazing what users post about themselves and others—who if social media reports are to be believed—seem to be especially active about that. In our case, it’s anything positive about the Michigan’s conservation officers, for example, regularly regulars who have posted pictures of their fishing and hunting trophies, as well as text messages bragging about their catches and kills. But it may be that we’ve just not yet traded the coming canvas tent walls, which were sure to leak like a sieve.

Oh, and there was the snowy, sub-zero camp-out my college roommate and I experienced in the mid-1970s, and the lightning storm that blew my modern nylon tent over a Beaver Island bluff a few years later. (Don’t worry, I escaped that one)

I began to understand the meaning of “pup tent,” though, one dark night when I was sleeping in a Michigan’s Allegan State Game Area in my two-person Eureka Timberline model. I was awakened by a noise and thought I was a raccoon, or some other wild animal jumping on the rain fly and trying to push its nose through the resulting hole.

I shoved back a few times, but the aggressive animal kept right on assaulting my woodland bed-room, so I grabbed the large metal flashlight I kept at my side and flashed it inside the tent while I was acutely aware of how little the two-baggy-bungalow was that called that, or what any of the two had to do with it, but I may have since discovered why.

Most of these outings were un-eventful—save for some apples dropping from trees during a noisy rainstorm at Interlochen State Park during the late 1950s and admonitions from my parents to refrain from touching the canvas tent walls, which were sure to leak like a sieve.

Chilling the first amendment

Here’s another one of those issues that some readers will say doesn’t have anything to do with the conservation of natural resources.

But it does have something to do with the news business—so we figure it probably belongs in this space.

It seems the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) wants to monitor the nation’s newsrooms—particularly those related to television and radio broadcasts—to study the nation’s “critical information needs” and learn how reporters, editors and station owners decide what stories to run. The reported purpose is to explore “the processes by those who generate as well as “perceived bias” and “responsiveness to under-served popula-tions.”

Sounds, of course, say this is simply an objective fact-finding mission. Participation in this study, they say, is “voluntary,” although it’s clearly understood that broadcast stations would be out-of-business without an FCC license—which must be renewed every eight years.

In an era where public distrust of government is growing by leaps and bounds, it’s easy to wonder just what FCC officials are up to. Is the ultimate goal to censor the news, or to pressure broadcasters into including issues that Washington bureaucrats determine to be “critical information needs?”

At this point, we can’t assign motives with any certainty, but we don’t expect that the FCC will have any ill intentions. After all, they’ve been nurtured by a system that only cares about itself.
Sierra Club NOT anti-hunting


eaves we live have far too many deer. It became a joke at the roundtable that the club advocates deer hunting “with napalm.”

The Sierra Club is not anti-hunting. The Sierra Club is not even anti-wolf hunting. I represented the Sierra Club on the Michigan Wolf Management Plan. The unanimous recommendations of this group formed the core of the Michigan Wolf Management Plan. Mr. Gorenflo was not a member, and did not attend.

One of the recommendations agreed to by all (including myself, representing the Sierra Club), was the approval of a program to reduce livestock/confl ict. Agreeing to that provision is hardly the action of an anti-hunting group. We simply think that the current provisions do not provide the requirement of the wolf plan.

I was also the Sierra Club representative on the Deer Management Roundtable. Like the wolf roundtable, the unanimous recommendations of this group formed the basis of the Michigan Deer Management Plan (turtles, like the wolf roundtable, Mr. Gorenflo was not a member and did not attend).

At no time did anyone, especially me, socially or personally, do anything to reduce public interest in the flora or fauna. We simply did our best to educate the public about the importance of wildlife and the need for its protection.

The Sierra Club is anti-hunting. It will come as a surprise and wonder to people like Mr. Gorenflo and the Executive Director of the Michigan Sierra Club, Marvin Roberson, that the Sierra Club is anti-hunting, and singles them out for this. (Full disclosure: I am a full-time paid staff person for the Michigan Sierra Club. In addition to feeling the need to defend the Sierra Club against false accusations, I suspect that I am more familiar with Mr. Gorenflo regarding the Sierra Club and its positions).

I believe in the power of education. I am very happy to have an opportunity to educate Mr. Gorenflo on the history of the Sierra Club. This is the Sierra Club’s anti-hunting plan, which will come as a surprise and wonder to people like Mr. Gorenflo and the Executive Director of the Michigan Sierra Club, Marvin Roberson. I am very happy to have an opportunity to educate Mr. Gorenflo on the history of the Sierra Club. This is the Sierra Club’s anti-hunting plan.

Lake Huron fishery will be the subject of April workshops

The workshops will focus on fish populations, angler catch data, native species, forage fish surveys, invasive species, fisheries management activities, and other related topics.

Each will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. — April 9 at the Hammond American Legion Hall, 1026 6th St., in Fort Huron; April 22 at the NOAAs Lakes Mat- dome, 500 W. Fletcher St. in Alpena; and April 23 at the Les Cheneaux Sportsman’s Club on M-134 in Cedarville.

To register, contact Val Golding at 989-354-9870, or golding@alpenacounty.org.

By Paul Rose

Within the past year, the nearly 60-year-old, twin oil transmission pipelines which lie at the bottom (mostly) of the Straits of Mackinac are receiving a lot of attention; a known to a chief topic of conversation throughout our region.

Public awareness of oil and gas transmission lines lies in Michigan seemingly received the equivalent of a steroid injection after the 2010 Kalamazoo River oil spill. The Straits of Mackinac are a pipeline-based property owner, Enbridge Inc., moved from its subordinate comfort zone to the public interest on local news.

Sixty years of political risks associated with two 20-inch pipelines originally installed in 1955 have been described by the Great Lakes Commission as a “supreme risk” (NGP) and elsewhere, this discussion is largely focused on the economies of both the existing pipelines, as well as the merits of the industry, as it is a major source of revenue for the state.

With the recent increase in oil prices, and the softening of the housing market, it is likely that more pipelines will be built in the future. However, it is unlikely that the Straits of Mackinac will be included in any future pipelines. This is due to the high cost of building a pipeline in the strait.

The Straits of Mackinac have been described as a “supreme risk” by the Great Lakes Commission. This statement is based on the fact that the construction of a pipeline in the strait would be technically difficult and expensive.

Enbridge Inc. also has stated that the Straits of Mackinac would be difficult to build because of the rough waters and the presence of marine life in the area.

There are several alternative routes for the proposed pipeline, including one that would run under the Great Lakes. However, this route would be costly and time-consuming. A more likely alternative is to build a pipeline in the strait, which would be cheaper and faster to build. However, this would require the approval of the federal government, which has yet to be granted.

The Straits of Mackinac pipeline: Plan should be as clear as the water

When added to their current dividend yield of more than 4 percent, Enbridge Inc.’s shares are expected to outlive the sources of their profit. This is a far better alternative to the Great Lakes shipping route, which is considered less environmentally friendly due to the presence of marine life in the area.

In the case of the Straits of Mackinac, this is a risk which is shared by us all. The Straits of Mackinac pipeline is a risk that we all share. However, it is important to note that the Straits of Mackinac are a pipeline that is under the control of the federal government, and therefore the risks associated with it are under their control.

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Au Sable trout opener: Not what this novice expected

I finally attended my first trout opener along the Au Sable River a few seasons back. The trout opener always has been a spring tradition for my husband and his girls, while I came up with other important tasks to address. I finally delicately inquired as to whether there was room for one more; fortunately the answer was an enthusiastic, “Yes.”

Now, I do understand that this is a weekend of grand tradition for many. Given that I was a newbie to the process, my husband spent considerable time reviewing the course of events. We would arrive early enough on Friday to open up camp. Waders and rods would find their seasonal homes on the proper fixtures. The new gadgets and equipment purchased at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo would be organized and ready to go.

On Saturday morning, we would travel to Lovells for a big breakfast and the celebrations hosted by the Lovell’s Historical Society. Then, after lunch, some fishing would take place. We would return to camp to organize and clean, as well as plant little white pines from a local conservation club.

Dinner takes place at the riverside home of fellow anglers and dear friends. In previous years, they would call me during dinner and describe the grilled steak (not trout, of course), the boutonniere adorning the Au Sable and the highlights of the day. Is it any wonder that I decided it was time to attend my first trout opener?

On Sunday, a big camp breakfast would be created by Master Chef Hemming, accompanied by bacon and lots of coffee, tea, and pancakes. Fishing would commence and then, with considerable reluctance, we would leave the stunning beauty of early spring on the river and head indoors.

That was my expectation for the weekend. Do you think that’s how it turned out? Of course you don’t. It started so splendidly: Our pals of Saturday night fame were kind enough to pick up our white pines when they picked up theirs and drop them off at our place. In one of those moments of unsurprising coincidence, we arrived as they were departing our place on a brilliant Friday late afternoon in April, with temperatures in the ’80s and a bawdy breeze blowing.

We were so tickled at being in the same place at the same time that we immediately found adult beverages and toasted the trout opener efficiently and effectively. We enjoyed the happy river and even laughed at how I would be forever jaded in thinking that balmy weather was the norm for this early spring weekend.

Our friends reluctantly headed out to open their own place and we cheerfully jumped to the task of opening ours. Things were moving along smoothly when it suddenly became clear that we had some issues of the plumbing variety. In a nutshell, the drains—all of them—were backed up, the shower was leaking and only a trickle of water was coming out of the bathroom faucet. This did not amuse us. Following a trip to Grayling for essential supplies allowing us to at least use a chemical toilet, we ate dinner at 9:30 p.m., weary to the bone. But no worries! Saturday morning beckoned and it was supposed to be warmer and wonderful.

Are you laughing a bit, dear reader? Saturday morning erupted with thunderstorms and downpours. The saturated land took in no more water, and our little camp flooded in moments. We sloshed through three or four inches of standing water for the rest of the weekend. We had one pair of rubber boots, which we all shared. The brand new waterfalls on each side of the cabin were lovely, however. Fairly quickly, the temperature zoomed downward and insult was added to injury. Had I brought coats? Nope. Let’s not go there.

Fortunately, my husband came upon a neighbor on an early-morning walk. This helpful do-gooder cheerfully offered to come over and check on our plumbing woes. Before we knew it, he fixed two of the three issues, and we called for some professional help with the septic system. A few hours later, the float in the septic tank was fixed and, with considerable reluctance, we would leave the stunning beauty of early spring on the river and head indoors.

The old Mackinac Point Lighthouse assisted ships passing through the Straits of Mackinac—one of the busiest crossroads of the Great Lakes—from the 1890s until 1958. A steam-powered fog signal went into operation at the site on Nov. 5, 1890. Construction of the light tower and attached lightkeeper’s dwelling began shortly thereafter and the light was first displayed Oct. 25, 1892. Heavy iron and brass castings were used throughout the structure and the light was visible to ships 16 miles away. The lighthouse is now a maritime museum overlooking the Straits.

Straits pipeline: The plan should be clear as water

(Continued from Page 5)

regional economic impact and potentially have national relevance. Although it is unreasonable to expect a zero spill risk, in this instance the issue of what constitutes an acceptable level of risk should be more clearly defined and disseminated.

This point of discussion is not that Enbridge should be forced to initiate a replacement effort because they can afford it. However, what is clear is that by nearly any economic metric the risks associated with the Straits of Mackinac crossing have increased significantly from Enbridge stockholders to Great Lakes stakeholders.

Paul Rose is senior editor at the Northern Michigan Conservation Network.

To view this and other original news and editorial pieces, visit nmconservationnetwork.org.

Spring is a good time to carve willow whistles

When I was growing up, my father would always make his children willow whistles when the sap began to rise. Later, he would teach us to make our own. To us, it was a rite of spring.

Willow whistles can be carved all growing season, but I believe it is easiest when the sap is rising in the willows. I have never tried it during the winter, or dormancy.

As a naturalist, I taught interns and nature center staff to make them, too. Some got into it in an extreme way. As you can imagine, different diameters and lengths of willow branches will give different sounds.

Our nature center has an extensive boardwalk network of trails through the wetlands. One intern would select the hanging branch of a willow near the boardwalk, not cutting the branch from the tree but carving the whistle from the branch end. As he would lead a group of kids, he could wow them by pulling the branch down and blowing the whistle.

More than likely, such whistles can be made from most spring branches, but it is best to start with willow and basswood. The bark must be able to slip off easily. Basswood takes more care to not split the bark. As in any wood carving, good carving procedures must be followed to avoid injury.

HOW TO CARVE A WILLOW WHISTLE

As the sap rises, select a straight, smooth branch about one-half inch to three-quarter inches in diameter. Cut a six- to eight-inch length from the stem. At the end, cut an angle to resemble a whistle mouth piece, leaving about one-third of the top part square to the stem. On the top, cut an air hole, as the diagram shows—straight down and angle upward toward the end of the whistle opposite the mouth.

About three inches down the stem, cut through the bark into the hard wood and through the cambium. Now, gently take your knife handle and pound the bark evenly all over to loosen it from the hard wood. You can test it by gently twisting to see if it is loose. Don’t pound so hard as to crack the bark. Once the bark slides off, you can carve the sound chamber in the hardwood. To do this, start your cut from the bark top, carving further down to at least halfway through the wood and create a chamber extending beyond the open bark cut. (See diagram) This will provide the tone.

Next, slice a sliver of wood on the top—from the chamber back to the mouthpiece—to allow enough space to blow air over the sound chamber. Now slide your hollow bark over the whistle, position as it came off, blow and you should have a whistle sound. You can practice with different cuts and sizes to get different tones.
Many accidents occur when snow — stop sign and asked if the CO had the operators stated they couldn’t see. CO Panich then pointed fur- more they were driving fast and have must have missed the signs. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)
CO Mike Feagan responded to a complaint of a live elk calf being held on the embankment and that the subjects were contemplat- ing taking the calf down with them. Arriving at the cabin prior to their departure, COs Warre, Raak found the elk calf laying down next to the porch. The sub- jects had found the calf in the deep snow and brought it back to the cabin, feeding and wa- tering it. The calf was monitored for a few days and was found to be staying in the same spot, and becoming aggressive toward hu- mans. DNR wildlife and law en- forcement officials determined the elk calf and transported it to a nearby herd of elk.

CO Jon Rademacher reports a habitua- l violator recently received his sentence for hunting from a motor vehicle and recreational trespass for hunting deer. It appears the subject was operating across a field in daylights when he came across a large ditch that he was unable to avoid, causing serious injuries. COs was able to use his patrol snowmobile to transport emergency medical personnel to the accident location and then as- sisted in the transportation of the victim to the ambulance waiting on the road.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)
CO Matt Liestenfeltz con- ducted a routine patrol in the untagged bobcat in Roscommon County. The investigation led to the husband trapping an extra bobcat. Instead of turning in the bobcat as the incidental, the sus- pect’s wife went out and pur- chased a regular license for the bobcat and attempted to claim it as her own. The bobcat was seized and a ticket issued for the violation.

CO Jeff Huns reported to the scene of a snowmobile acci- dent that was only accessible by snowmobile. COs determined that they had been traveling at a high rate of speed. Being unfa- miliar with the area, they did not know that the hill they were climbing ended with nearly a straight drop off the other side to the river at the bottom. One subject was able to turn and stop his snowmobile prior to plummeting down the embankment. The sec- ond operator stayed the course and rode his snowmobile down the 40-foot bank. The only thing keeping the snowmobile and op- erator from splashing into the icy water was a small patch of saplings at the bottom. The sled was removed with assistance from Bear Lake Fire Rescue. Upon fur- ther investigation and interviews with the operator, it was also de- termined he had purchased the snowmobile over a year ago and had failed to transfer the registration.

DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)
CO Jeff Goss backed up local de- ployed local law enforcement forces to make the arrest. The warrant was confirmed and the suspect was taken into custody. The subject was also ticketed for fish/possess fish no li- cense.

CO Dan Markam and Hwy 246 and observed an amusing Mushkunegwe harvest tag issued to the victim to the ambulance waiting on the road.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)
CO John Jurch assisted COs Robert Conley and Ivan Perez in the investigation of an overlimit of otter taken in Otway County. A detailed registration check revealed that the legal limit is 80 but they have a fishing license. The angler stated he did not know he needed a fishing license to just go out and catch yellow perch. A subsequent check on the angler revealed two warrants for his arrest—one for DWLS and one for drug charges. The warrants were confirmed and District 7 North Woods Call partner? a large ditch that he was unable to avoid, causing serious injuries. COs was able to use his patrol snowmobile to transport emergency medical personnel to the accident location and then as- sisted in the transportation of the victim to the ambulance waiting on the road.

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Potential high risk around TB-positive deer

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has established two “potential high risk areas” for bovine tuberculosis (TB) after the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed one bovine TB-positive free-ranging white-tailed deer in Presque Isle County, and another in northwestern Montmorency County.

This designation requires all cattle and bison herds located within a 10-mile radius of a TB-positive deer to be tested for bovine TB within the next six months. If a whole herd test was conducted on a farm less than six months prior to March 17, 2014, the herd will not need another test. A Potential High Risk Area is established when a TB positive free-ranging deer is found. Cattle farms are tested to assure trading partners that the disease has not been transmitted from local deer to cattle.

Cattle and bison farms in Presque Isle County, Cheboygan County and Otsego County towns- ships within a 10-mile radius around the Presque Isle County TB-positive deer—and those within a 10-mile radius around the Montmorency County deer—will have to be tested in the next six months. Cattle farms in the Modified Accredited Zone are already TB tested on an annual basis, so there is no additional TB testing required in those townships.

All impacted cattle owners will be privately contacted by MDARD and asked to schedule a test to avoid the inconvenience of a quarantine being placed on their farms during fair season, or sales. A meeting will be held to discuss the TB Program and the designation of the potential high risk areas at 7 p.m. April 8 in the Presque Isle District Library, 181 East Erse Street, in Rogers City. For more information on bovine TB in the state of Michigan visit: michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

Fish egg collections on Muskegon, Little Manistee rivers

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel will be taking walleye eggs this spring on the Muskegon River below Crotom Dam. They will also be collecting steelhead eggs at the Little Manistee weir in Stonoch.

Approximately 62 million walleye eggs from the Muskegon River, which will result in 13.4 million fry for transfer to rearing ponds throughout the Lower Peninsula. These walleye will be raised to fingerling size and stocked in late spring, or early summer, in whitefish lakes throughout the state.

The DNR plans to collect walleyes with an electro-fishing boat beginning as early as the week of April 11, at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Those interested in tours should call 231-389-2551. Fish also can be observed in the river below the weir at any time.

Fish collections are expected during this period. The actual date when collections will begin depends on water temperatures and the presence of “ripe” fish.

The Little Manistee River weir has served as the sole source of winter-run steelhead eggs for fish hatcheries in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana since 1968. Egg-take scheduling information is available from the Little Manistee weir hotline at (231) 775-9727, ext. 6072. The facility is open to the public for up-close viewing during egg-take operations. Formal tours will be offered Thursday, April 10, and Friday, April 11, at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Those interested in tours should call 231-389-2551. Fish also can be observed in the river below the weir at any time.

Easter Blessing

This historic cabin church in Old Mission is a rustic reminder of the upcoming Easter celebration among Christians and the refreshing renewal of the Michigan springtime. May you and your families have a blessed holiday as believers mark the resurrection of Christ—this year on April 20—and the hope of salvation it offers all mankind.

Hunters and anglers provide record support for venison collection program

Thanks to the generosity of many hunters and anglers, Michigan food banks and kitchens will have more fresh venison for meals provided to their visitors.

During the 2013-14 license year, the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) program received more than $50,000—a record amount—in donations (MSAH) program received more than $50,000—a record amount—in donations. This additional revenue will help us in-crease our ability to encourage more proces-sors to participate and increase the pounds of venison that we distribute across the state.”

Hall said that last year more than 30,000 pounds of venison were distributed through the MSAH program. “This donation allows the food banks and food kitchens to provide a nutritional source of protein in over 150,000 meals,” Hall added. “Many of those who benefited were elderly people on fixed incomes and fami-lies who work, but need additional support.”

For more details on Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger, or how to make a monetary or deer donation, visit the organization’s website: www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org.

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