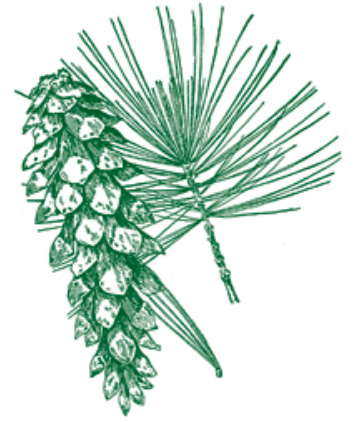




**“The newspaper for people
who love the north”**

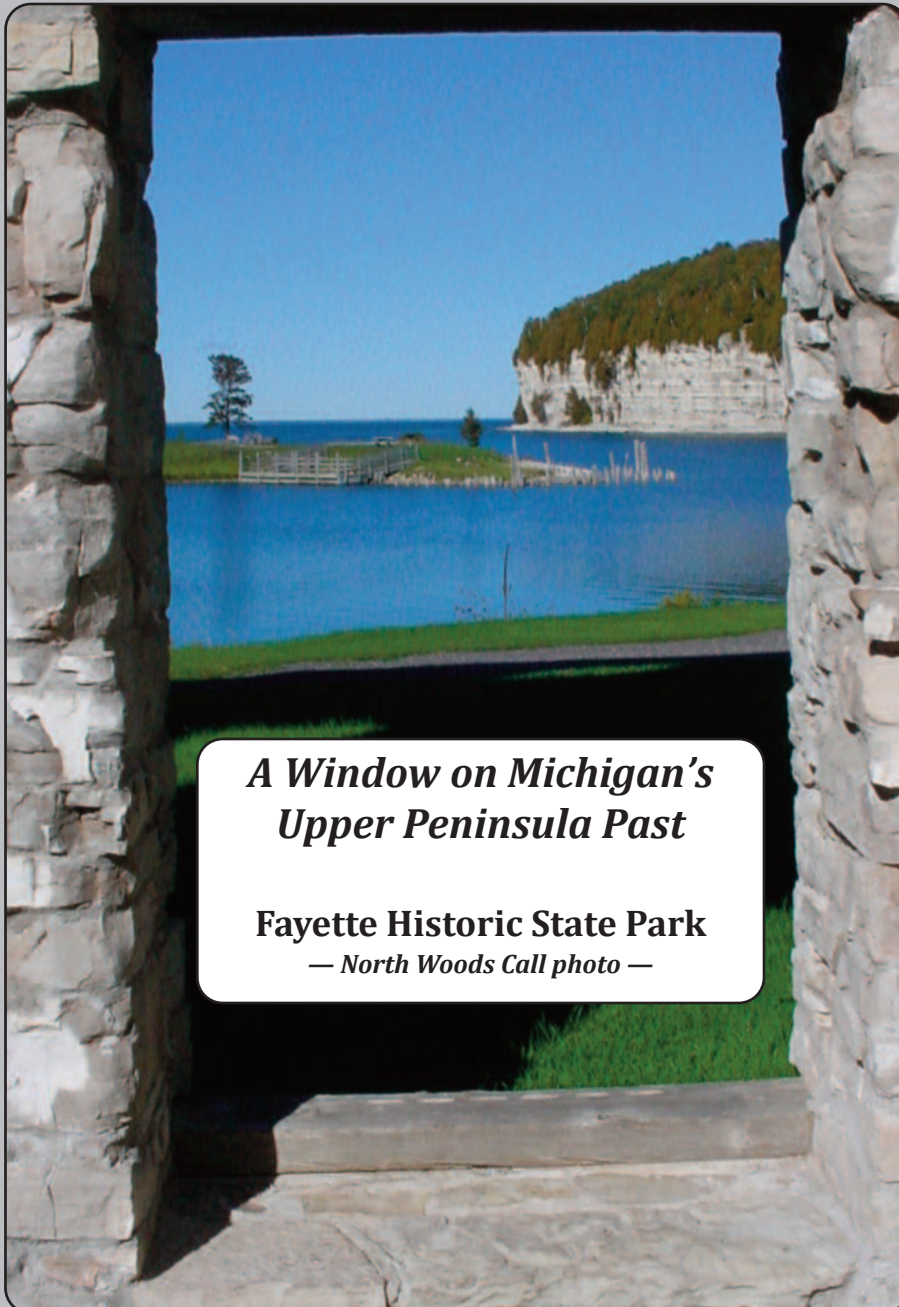


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Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



***A Window on Michigan's
Upper Peninsula Past***

Fayette Historic State Park
— North Woods Call photo —

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North Woods Call reader survey

OK, you've got opinions and we want to hear them.

It's time for another survey of *North Woods Call* readers, so sharpen your pens and tell us what you think.

This year's survey on Page 8 of this edition has just three basic questions, so everyone should be able to find the time to participate.

As always, your observations are important to us as we examine our coverage of issues impacting the stewardship and management of natural resources.

Please help us adjust to your needs as a conservation news consumer and send your responses to us by June 1, 2014, either via e-mail (see online survey at mynorthwoodcall.com), or snail mail. Thanks.



North Woods Notes

CALL ARCHIVES: Copies of the revived *North Woods Call* are now available at the state Library of Michigan in Lansing. The repository recently ordered back issues of the publication from September 2012—when publishing commenced following the death of Glen Shepard—through early April 2014, along with a current print subscription.

ENBRIDGE LICENSE: East Lansing environmental consultant Alex Sagady reports that Enbridge Inc. has obtained a license to re-export Canadian crude oil through pipelines in the United States and through U.S. ports. It was not immediately clear what pipelines and U.S. ports will be used for this operation, Sagady said, but Enbridge's presence in the Great Lakes region and the recent proposal for a Superior, Wisconsin, crude oil shipping terminal require careful attention to this development.

AIR POLLUTION RULINGS: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has upheld limits on dangerous emissions of mercury and toxic air pollution from power plants, which environmentalists say is a huge victory for clean air, clean water and family health. The decision keeps in place the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2012 Mercury and Air Toxics Standard. The same appeals court also struck down an EPA-created loophole that environmentalists say would have made limits on toxic air pollution from cement plants harder to enforce. When the EPA wrote the cement plant rule, critics say, it invented an "affirmative defense" that allowed plants that violate emission standards to escape having to pay penalties as long as they claimed the violation resulted from a malfunction. The new court ruling is especially significant because—by revoking the "affirmative defense" policy that lets plants dodge liability for exceeding emissions limits—the decision sets a precedent for how the EPA drafts air safeguards moving forward.

AMMONIA DISCHARGES: The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has announced in its proposed infrastructure implementation plan that ammonia emissions will not be permitted, or controlled, as a precursor to PM-2.5 air pollution formation. "This is the Snyder Administration's effort to ensure that agriculture will not have to address ammonia air pollution from agricultural operations," said Alex Sagady, an East Lansing environmental consultant. Ammonia air discharges from concentrated animal feeding operations are predominate sources of such emissions, he said. The proposal, which will ultimately be subject to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval, also contains a serious conflict with the enforcement authority provisions of the Clean Air Act, Sagady said.

BOARDMAN RIVER: Public comment on a draft assessment report of northern Michigan's Boardman River is being sought by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The report details the physical and biological characteristics, and proposed management options that affect aquatic resources associated with the watershed. The draft report is posted online at www.michigan.gov/fishpublicinput. Hard copies are also available at the Traverse City DNR office located at 970 Emerson Road. Comments can be sent to Todd Kalish via e-mail at kalisht@michigan.gov, or mailed to the Traverse City DNR office. The public comment period will end on Friday, May 16.

BAT FUNGUS: White-nose syndrome—a fungus known to cause significant rates of illness and death in North American bats—has been detected for the first time in Michigan. State officials say it has been found in Alpena, Dickinson and Mackinac counties. They are currently working to stop the spread of the disease.

(Continued on Page 2)

Allegan judge reviews motion in DNR lawsuit

Allegan County Circuit Court Judge Margaret Bakker heard oral arguments in mid April to determine if a citizen group's lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may proceed.

The DNR has asked that the lawsuit be dismissed and the judge was expected to rule on the motion for summary disposition soon. A similar motion was granted by a Barry County judge last fall.

The lawsuit, brought by Michigan Land Air Water Defense (MLAWD), contests the validity of extensive oil and gas leasing of publicly owned mineral rights in the Allegan State Game Area in Allegan County. The DNR auctioned the leases in 2012.

The group's claims center on the prospect of oil and gas development—including hydraulic frac-

turing—occurring around, under, or within the state game and recreation area, which is home to wildlife sanctuaries. MLAWD maintains the DNR sold the leases without due consideration of potential impacts associated with production of unconventional oil and gas deposits. As such, the group argues the leases violate provisions of the Michigan Environmental Protection Act and the Michigan Constitution, as well as established case law.

The DNR is seeking dismissal of the suit on the grounds it is premature and unnecessary, arguing impacts can be assessed on a permit-by-permit basis. "The DNR claims that our concerns can be addressed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at the well-permitting stage", says MLAWD President Steve Loshner,

"but the fact is that the DEQ has almost never denied an oil and gas permit, so the time to deal with these issues is before the minerals are leased." Loshner referred specifically to *Miller Energy vs. DNR*, a case heard in the mid-1990's in which the State of Michigan was successfully sued by the oil and gas developer for denying drilling permits in the Nordhouse Dunes area where Miller Energy held state mineral leases. The DNR was required to pay the company \$90 million dollars in compensation for the agency's decision not to approve drilling permits on the leased state lands.

"I suspect the state is loathe to repeat the Miller Energy scenario," Loshner said. "Our view is that, rather than exposing the DEQ to liability for denying a permit, the

(Continued on Page 2)



Swan Lake

—North Woods Call photo

Two trumpeter swans glide quietly past a relaxed Canada goose on a small lake in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. As of late April, winter ice cover had disappeared from much of the state's surface water, allowing waterfowl and other wildlife to resume their annual dance of spring. Humans have also emerged from their cold-weather retreats, and are pulling on waders and firing up fishing boats for seasonal duty.

Rural Roscommon County dam fails

Wraco Dam—located along Wolf Creek in northern Michigan's Roscommon Township—failed the morning of April 16.

The structure was listed as a low-hazard dam and was not expected to affect downstream private residences. The public land surrounding the dam is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is being as-

sessed by a Department of Environmental Quality engineer.

U.S. 27, which crosses Wolf Creek, was being monitored by the Michigan Department of Transportation, and was not found to be severely impacted. A flash flood warning was issued downstream from the dam, although no structures are present in that immediate area.

"Human safety is our number one concern in this situation," said DNR regional supervisor Rex Ainslie. "We ask that you please keep your distance from the high waters."

Increased rainfall in the area, with already saturated soils, contributed to the low spillway at the dam not being able to handle the volume of water.

Chesapeake & Encana barred from auctions

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has barred two energy companies under criminal indictment from participating in oil and gas lease auctions.

DNR Director Keith Creagh said Chesapeake Energy Corp. and Encana Corp. can't participate in auctions until Michigan charges

against them are resolved. The state also won't execute Encana's pending lease and will refund the company's money, Creagh said.

Attorney General Bill Schuette recently charged the companies with violating Michigan antitrust laws in a 2010 auction. He said collusion is suspected of depressing the per-acre cost of leases from

\$1,510 in May 2010 to under \$40 in October 2010.

Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake and Calgary, Alberta-based Encana have denied colluding on the bids in 2010 and said they'll fight the charges.

Michigan auctions oil and gas leases each May and October.

Our 61st Year: Looking Back to May 7, 1969

Who should we blame?

By Glen Sheppard

With the attitude Michigan's Water Resources Commission (WRC) has toward water pollution, it is a miracle we have made any progress in reclaiming our water quality.

The negative philosophy of the commission's personnel is outlined in this sentence from a recent WRC news release: "Public attention is focused far too often on those communities [that] fail to develop programs to meet pollution control needs."

Just what does the WRC think the people of Michigan are paying it for? Just one thing: To focus notoriety on and do something about, communities, industries and others who fail to obey our water quality law.

If the WRC personnel are embarrassed for pollution law violators when their lawlessness is exposed to the public, they should turn their jobs over to men [and women] with dedication and zeal for enforcing and administering Michigan's laws.

For too many decades, we have watched Michigan's water quality law be made a farce. Not because the people of Michigan were not behind the law, but because the people hired to enforce the law are not willing or able to do the job.

In the same news release in which it apologizes for public criticism being drawn to law violators, the commission attempts to commend communities [which]—to quote the article—"proceed voluntarily to correct a problem once it has been identified."

Among the 20 communities cited for proceeding voluntarily is Charlevoix, with which we have some familiarity. The fact is Charlevoix's city fathers did not proceed "voluntarily." They did so under harassment from the local newspaper and concerned citizens. So, years after the problem was identified, the city agreed (it has not taken action) that it will do something about the grossly inadequate sewage treatment.

Because 19 other communities are listed with Charlevoix as having "voluntarily" agreed to make treatment improvements, we cannot help but suspect that citizen demand deserves more credit than the awareness of city fathers.

In theory, the WRC is now a part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Since the reorganization of state government made it a branch of the DNR, we have noticed the influence of conservationists being heard. But we cannot help but doubt DNR Director Ralph MacMullan did not see the news release apologizing for embarrassing city officials who refuse to obey a 40-year-old law.

Remembering the old beat

By Marguerite Gahagan

The old days are gone—those long hauls in blizzards and ice storms, in 90-degree August heat—and not missed by the editor emeritus.

No longer are there the "must" 100 miles raced through the boon-docks with a deadline waiting at the cabin. News for "What's Happening Here & There" is always welcome, but from here on, you must help out.

Lewiston, Lovells, Luzerne, Atlanta, Mio, Grayling, Gaylord and other points received the kid-glove treatment for 15 years. Every week, come snow or sunshine, I made the beat.

Few ads did I get, some news and many happy visits with the folks. But never enough ad money to pay for the time, or gas.

Things change. Today, if those communities want to have news of what's happening in their areas—who is seeing what birds, or catching what fish where, or seeing deer or grouse, or new land developments killing their natural resources—they will have to send it in to me. I'll carry on from there, but no more of that killing, weekly, no-money return in business.

Prairie chicken gone...

By Glen Sheppard

The prairie chicken has made its last stand in the northernmost Lower Peninsula. The chicken of the stump lands is gone.

A tired and obviously forlorn Ford Kellum finally admitted it Monday. Kellum had made one final all-day effort to find a prairie chicken in his district—the eight northernmost counties of the Lower. He checked the most likely spots where, if there was a prairie chicken left, they would be.

Not a single bird.

* * *

"I used to have 'em all over the country," he wistfully recalled. "Just about every county had a few only a few years ago. And now I can't find one."

It came as no surprise. Kellum has known for several years that the day was coming when he could no longer find prairie chickens in District 5. He's seen it happen before during the past three decades in the northland as a field biologist.

* * *

The prairie chicken is not becoming extinct in the north country. They are moving south, to the Missaukee, Clare, Osceola County areas, where open farmlands provide the habitat they require.



Stalking Our Feathered Friends

—Michigan DNR photo

A group of Michigan bird watchers gather to view and photograph various species along a woodland trail. The annual Tawas Point Birding Festival—billed as "the biggest small birding festival in the United States"—will be held May 15-18 in Iosco County. The event features guided birding walks at the area's best hot spots, as well as programs and talks by some of Michigan's leading wildlife experts. The Kirtland's Warbler, Piping Plover, Western Kingbird, Northern Mockingbird, Black Tern and Whimbrel are among those that participants may be able to check off their lists. Tawas Point has long been a beacon for migrating birds negotiating the waters of Lake Huron. For information about the festival and to register, see Tawasbirdfest.com

Arguments heard in DNR lawsuit

(Continued from Page 1)

DNR should uphold its public trust duty by not leasing these minerals until proper environmental analyses have been completed."

MLAWD is also seeking reform and clarification of the DNR's oil and gas lease classification policies and procedures. Losher said

"It's important to note that the DNR classifies leases, it doesn't classify lands," he said. "To consider the current lease classification system a 'land management' tool is not a fully informed view. The process is illusory, at best."

Losher said that "nondevelopment leases" are routinely reclassified, amended, or subject to variances by the state agency to allow surface development. These changes occur largely under the radar, with little or no opportunity for public scrutiny or input. That's how drill rigs, roads, pipelines and other infrastructure ended up on public land in central and northern regions of Michigan—the absence of thorough environmental impact analysis. We're trying to prevent that from happening here."

Alleged bear poacher arrested

A Macomb County man was arraigned recently in 85th District Court in Manistee County on charges of illegally taking a black bear without a permit and excessive use of deer bait.

James Earl May, 33, allegedly shot and killed a bear and left it to die in the woods. May appeared at a pre-trial exam in 85th District Court on April 9.

The bear had been found dead of a shotgun wound near a hunting blind on public land in Cleon Township. Witnesses said that the bear had been killed on Nov. 16 at approximately 5:30 p.m. Three bear cubs are believed to have been orphaned as a result of the bear being killed, although the cubs were not located.



North Woods Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

MAY NRC MEETING: The May 8 meeting 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. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, on Higgins Lake near Roscommon. 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 Munising; and Dec. 11 at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

KEN TEYSEN: One of Mackinaw City's best-known and well-respected community leaders passed away March 19, 2014, at the age of 92. A longtime resident of northern Michigan, Ken Teysen was a family man, business owner, World War II veteran and friend to many. His father, Harry, opened Teysen's Restaurant—a local institution—which was operated by the Teysen family for several years until it closed during the 1990s.

SOLAR POWER: Representatives of Michigan's two largest utilities—DTE Energy and Consumer Energy—recently made their first presentations to Michigan solar work group. The group consists of 40 energy experts looking for ways the big companies might expand their tiny customer-based rooftop solar power pilot programs, which are set to expire in late 2015. According to the Michigan Land Use Institute, the companies expressed little enthusiasm for expanding the use of solar energy. Company spokesmen reportedly said that rooftop solar would increase electric rates for "non-solar" customers and so they would like to see people who want more solar power pay extra for it.

FRACKING TALK: The Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan recently held the first in a series of speakers and events on the public health impacts of gas drilling and fracking. Dr. Larysa Dyrszka, M.D., a co-founder of Concerned Health Professionals of New York, discussed "Health Impacts of Shale Gas Development." The April 10 event at Washtenaw Community College included a fundraiser reception to support the Committee's ballot initiative to ban horizontal fracking and frack wastes in Michigan. "Evidence is mounting in states with ongoing fracking, and gas and oil development that people, animals, and entire communities are getting sick and paying the price for this toxic industry," said LuAnne Kozma, the organization's campaign director. "Many are leaving their homes due to the contamination of their land, the water they drink and the air they breathe."

JACK PINE PLANTING: The Gaylord-based Huron Pines organization will host its Jack Pine Planting Volunteer Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 3. Volunteers will meet at Staley Lake Road in Grayling at 9 a.m., just steps from the Au Sable River. Please bring gloves and wear appropriate clothing and footwear for a moderate level of physical activity. Morning refreshments and a sack lunch will be provided. To register, visit www.volunteernorthernmichigan.org, or contact Huron Pines at (989) 448-2293, extension 25, or e-mail rsvp@huronpines.org.

AU SABLE FILM: Filmmaker Robert Thompson's three-DVD chronicle of the Au Sable River is now available for purchase at the Gates Au Sable Lodge Online Store for \$33 (\$39 Blue Ray). Anglers of the Au Sable will receive half the proceeds for river conservation efforts. A world premier of the film was planned for Grayling on April 26.

Aquatic habitat grant recipients

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approved the first eight projects under the new Aquatic Habitat Grant Program. The projects—totalling \$1 million—were chosen from 58 applications.

The money went to Huron Pines (\$272,500 for removal of the Golden Lotus Dam on the Pigeon River); City of Niles (\$200,000 for removal of the Pucker Street Dam); Conservation Resource Alliance (\$48,615 for the Sanbom Creek Crossings Restoration Project in Lake County); Timberland Resource Conservation District (\$200,000 for removal of the Hubbardston Dam on Ionia County's Fish Creek); the DNR Fisheries Division (\$60,000 for removal of the Thompson State Fish Hatchery Dam in Schoolcraft County and restoration of Thompson and Williams Creeks); Barry County Conservation Fund (\$94,700 to restore habitat on High Bank Creek); City of Rochester (\$98,285 to restore habitat on Paint Creek); and the Forest Resources Division (\$26,000 to remove the Ocqueoc River Grist Mill abutment in Presque Isle County).

Attorney general says Great Lakes report “incomplete”

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette says the 10,000-page Great Lakes/Mississippi River Interbasin Study is “incomplete” and “seriously flawed.”

It fails to propose any concrete plan of action, Schuette said, despite taking two years to prepare.

“Michigan’s Great Lakes are far too precious to allow days—let alone years—to go by without taking meaningful action against invasive species that threaten to wreak havoc on our natural resources,” the attorney general said. “We must act immediately and slam the door on Asian carp.”

Schuette called on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with preconstruction engineering to build physical barriers in the Chicago waterway inland from Lake Michigan and promptly seek Congressional approval to implement this “mid-system hydrologic separation.” The Corps, he said, has greatly exaggerated the impact, costs and time needed to do this.

Interim measures should be implemented, he said, to minimize the risk of Asian carp invasion until an effective permanent solution is in place.



Smokey Says...

This sign near the Michigan Department of Natural Resources office in Baraga is a reminder that extra care is needed this time of year to prevent wildfires. To that end, Smokey Bear is urging people to use caution and common sense before lighting any fire; understand and practice proper guidelines whenever a fire is created outdoors; never leave any fire unattended; properly and completely extinguish any fire before moving on; properly extinguish and discard smoking materials; be aware of your surroundings and careful when operating equipment during periods of dry or hot weather; and speak up (or step in) when someone is in danger of starting a wildfire. Visit www.michigan.gov/preventwildfires for more info.

—North Woods Call photo

Senior license discount offer

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is making it easier for Michigan seniors age 65 and older to get a price break on the hunt/fish combo license.

The new senior hunt/fish combo license includes a fishing license (good for all legal species), a base hunting license and two deer licenses for \$43.

When purchasing the 2014 licenses without a senior discount, seniors who bought the regular hunt/fish combo license paid \$76. The only way to get a senior discount on these items was to purchase them separately as senior licenses.

The newly packaged discounted license is available for purchase as of April 14.

In addition, resident seniors who paid the higher \$76 price for a 2014 license will be receiving a letter from the DNR offering a refund of \$33—the difference between the regular hunt/fish combo and the senior hunt/fish combo.

The DNR asks seniors not to seek refunds from the locations where they purchased their licenses. Seniors who are eligible for the refund can keep the valid licenses they received when they purchased them.

1908 history lesson: “Experience in abating disease among brook trout”

EDITOR’S NOTE: In September 1908, Albert Rosenberg—proprietor of Kalamazoo County’s Spring Brook Trout Hatchery—presented a paper before the 4th International Fishery Congress in Washington, D.C. We think his 100-plus-year-old observations, about “Experience in Abating Disease Among Brook Trout,” are interesting—both from historical and fisheries management perspectives. Below are some excerpts. (A related column can be found on Page 4 of this edition)

By Albert Rosenberg

I established the Spring Brook Trout Hatchery in 1895 without having had any practical experience. The site on which operations commenced was a basin of about four-and-a-half acres, surrounded by high hills.

* * *

I took about 20,000 eggs in the fall of 1895 from wild fish and hatched a good percentage. I also bought 25,000 fry in the spring of 1896.

It soon appeared that conditions were not right for extensive fish-cultural operations, as I had started too near the head of the supply and the water became too warm and stagnant. Some of the ponds contained a number of bottom springs, which supported a limited number of fish. By 1897, the reservoir had grown up to a dense mass of moss, which—although it was raked out by the boat load—could not be suppressed.

In February 1899, there were three weeks of intensely cold weather, which heaved all the raceways and put the ponds out of commission. Early in the spring, the remainder of the farm was purchased and a large reservoir constructed at the head of the valley. Here was a water supply of 463 gallons a minute. The reservoir was 277 feet long, had an average width of 58 feet, an average depth of three-and-a-half feet and was full of small bottom springs.

In 1900, the pond built in 1895 went out during a severe storm. Meanwhile, fry of

1899 had grown to good size and 1,500,000 eggs were taken that fall. Losses during the spawning season were normal.

Early in the spring of 1901, an epidemic broke out among these fish. We could pick up from 40 to 50 dead fish early in the morning and by evening there would be just as many more. Most of them showed no marks of any kind; a few were fungused. The ponds were thoroughly cleaned and the fish shifted, but there was no abatement of the disease.

About the middle of June, the fish were netted and given their liberty in the reservoir, and the mortality ceased at once; only seven fish being lost. Here there was plenty of natural food and the fish were not supplied with artificial food. In the early fall, they were netted and trapped for breeding purposes, and placed in a clean pond, but they commenced to die in large numbers before they had ripened their spawn. It was apparent that they had the boil, or ulcer disease, as they were covered with purplish blotches and boils.

The hatch of 1900-1901 proved almost a total loss, caused by water pollution. Early in 1902, I started to build a new system of ponds down the valley. All the brook trout on hand were disposed of. Two hundred and fifty thousand eggs were purchased from eastern sources that season, a number of flowing wells were installed, and it looked as if the troubles were over. But the sequel proved worse. Heretofore, the fish had not been attacked by disease until 18 to 24 months old, but now the trouble commenced in the fall following their hatching and continued all winter, culminating in the spring with losses of from 90 to 95 percent. None of these young fish showed any symptoms of boil disease, but most of them had fungus on the gills and head. Not knowing exactly what the trouble was, I continued to hatch fry from eggs taken from wild fish, but the result always proved the same.

I became thoroughly convinced early in 1904 that brook trout could not be reared on

an intensive scale under existing conditions, and so reported to persons interested with me, but after these continued losses they were discouraged and would not take any steps to better conditions.

In 1903, 1904, 1905 and 1906, I lost on an average 50,000 to 75,000 yearlings each season, and as no changes were made in methods, matters went from bad to worse. In the spring of 1906, there were left only some 40,000 brook trout fry, and as I was unable through severe illness to give the work personal supervision, these shrank by September 1 to 10,000. I then determined not to waste any more time and labor on brook trout until the existing conditions could be altered.

I neglected to state that I had taken on rainbow trout in 1898 and had become by 1906 very successful with these fish.

The reservoir built in 1899 had become more or less filled with liquid muck and decaying vegetation. Tons of algae were taken off each year in the early spring and the water could be seen to work and boil. This would continue until about June 1—when all the trees had leaved and watercress had grown to good size—then losses in fry would cease until fall.

In the fall of 1906, I secured complete possession of the plant and at once cut out this reservoir, laying dry the ponds it fed, disposed of all brook trout fingerlings on hand and contracted all eggs taken, excepting 18,000 eyed eggs from wild stock.

In the spring of 1907, I made a galvanized iron raceway 277 feet long, 18 inches wide and five inches deep. This was put in place about June 10 and fry were placed in the pond about June 15. The water entering the raceway comes to some 700 feet across the marsh, through a solid bed of watercress, and is very cold.

The loss in brook trout fry before they left the hatchery had been very slight, and the still smaller losses outdoors were agreeably surprising. In fact, from June 15 to September 15, the total loss was 152 fry.

This pond was drawn once a week and thoroughly cleaned. The fish were fed sheep’s liver, always absolutely fresh, and the pond was literally alive with water fleas and pond snails. About this time, we became so busy with other work that this pond was not cleaned for about four weeks and the result was a loss of 110 fish, which had become fungused, confirming my theories that unsanitary conditions had been the cause of all this waste of fish and time.

These fish were moved and sorted into two ponds further down and estimated, by counting a series, at 14,000 in number. A finer lot of fry it would be hard to find. They were of a good size and color. I looked forward eagerly to spring, as I was not satisfied that this would be a permanent success. They were again moved and resorted into larger ponds about April 22, 1908. As a matter of course, there is some loss in these fish—kingfishers, herons, snakes, etc.—destroying some and a few dying of disease.

In addition to the above, I have about 450 two-, three- and four-year-old fish. The losses in these have been about two fish per month since spawning last fall. I have kept all of the hatch of brook trout this season—some 75,000. I am thoroughly convinced that they can be reared successfully. In order to accomplish this desirable result, the water must be pure and cold, the ponds kept absolutely clean and the food perfectly fresh and sweet.

I believe that if conditions permit changing the application of the water supply, these results can be obtained at other stations that have had this trouble, provided the water is suitable to start with. At stations which derive their water supply from brooks or ponds that heat and dry up in summer and freeze hard in winter, it will be obvious that the case is hopeless.

In conclusion, I will state that I will be pleased to give personally any further information that may be desired.

Opinion

Quote Box

"If you find a hunting coat you really like, buy two, because if it's any good they'll quit making it."

—Gene Hill

Science and referendums

All this talk about scientific management of natural resources and voter referendums has us a bit "discombobulated."

Some say we should listen to the voice of the people—at least in a representative republic such as ours—while others say the average person doesn't know enough to make good decisions about wolf hunts and other things better left to the "experts."

One can reasonably argue the relative cost and efficiency of referendums—or whether they are proper tools to use—but the voice of the people has generally been sacrosanct in our nation. As the law currently stands—if the electorate believes that those who have been entrusted to do the will of the public they represent are not doing so—such recourse is allowed.

Unlike some, we're not particularly bothered by this. After all, ignorant and uninformed people vote in every election on issues of consequence and most folks seem to accept this as the price of freedom. Certainly, few would suggest that such people shouldn't have the right to vote, even though it's clear that better decisions could be made if some basic level of civic knowledge and familiarity with the issues were required.

Should wolf management decisions be any different?

Cars, plastic and oil

Are we really saving oil and fuel costs—not to mention the planet—by building lighter cars that meet ever-more-strict government standards for gas mileage? Perhaps, but sometimes we wonder.

As vehicles get lighter, it seems that more-and-more plastic appears on them—plastic that is made from oil. Many of these plastic parts routinely break and must be substituted with new ones—which are manufactured using even more fossil fuel.

Metal parts have also gotten much thinner, which means more costly mechanical and body repairs. You can no longer turn brake rotors two or three times, for example, before replacing them. And relatively minor dents in thin metal body parts cannot be easily bumped out like they were in days of old. Instead—according to one of our local repair shops—entire fenders and quarter panels must be replaced at higher costs.

And what about those electric and hybrid vehicles? More likely than not, fossil fuels are used to generate the electricity needed to charge batteries, which then must be treated as hazardous waste for disposal purposes.

Maybe these are good things, but we do have our doubts.

A tale of two houses

Here's an interesting tale of two houses.

The first house is a 20-room mansion (not including the eight bathrooms) heated by natural gas—including the pool and guest house. In one month, this home consumes more energy than the average American household does in a year. In natural gas alone, it uses more than 20 times the national average for an American home. The average bill for electricity and natural gas runs more than \$2,400 per month.

The second house—4,000 square feet with four bedrooms—incorporates every "green" feature current home construction can provide. It has geothermal heat pumps that warm the interior during the winter and cool it in the summer. This system uses no fossil fuels and consumes one-quarter of the electricity required by a conventional heating-cooling system. Rainwater is collected from the roof and funneled into a 25,000-gallon underground cistern. Wastewater from showers, sinks and toilets goes into underground purifying tanks and then into the cistern. The collected water then irrigates the land surrounding the house.

The first house—outside of Nashville, Tennessee—reportedly belongs to former U.S. Vice President and outspoken environmentalist Al Gore. The second—near Crawford, Texas—belongs to former U.S. President George W. Bush. Go figure.



Those real hunters, anglers and conservationists

We've said before that you can find some of the best books at library clearance sales.

Such is the case of the late Gene Hill's "A Hunter's Fireside Book."

Frankly, we were drawn to the book primarily by Milton C. Weiler's fine sketches that grace the cover and inside pages. But it's a fun read, too.

Hill was a former vice president of the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency and executive editor of *Sports Afield* magazine. This book—which can still be found at such retailers as Amazon.com—features numerous relatively short stories about the big and small things in an outdoorsman's life. Some are humorous; others

more poignant.

Reading through its 162 pages, the book reminds us of those hunters, anglers and conservationists we have known over the years who have had great passion for our natural resources. They may play hard in their many outdoor recreational pursuits, but they also work tirelessly to protect the environment from abuse and destruction.

Such individuals believe strongly in a well-defined "code of the outdoors" and have little patience with those who violate that code.

These are dedicated conservationists who deserve our utmost attention and respect.

Of trout, stewardship and property taxes

In 1895—during the second presidency of Grover Cleveland—Albert Rosenberg established the Spring Brook Trout Hatchery on nearly five acres of a geologic basin in northern Kalamazoo County surrounded by high hills.

It was an era when the last of Michigan's majestic white pines were being toppled and shipped to the region's sawmills, and conservationists were becoming concerned about man's negative impact on the land and natural resources.

Rosenberg's new hatchery was located in Section 19 of Richland Township, not far from where pioneer settler Benjamin Cummings—purportedly the inventor of the American version of the circular saw—platted the village of Bridgewater in 1837.

I can't say for sure whether Rosenberg's motivations were conservation or capitalism, but he erected a two-story home on the site and cut down tamarack, elm, ash and other trees that were on the land. He built a 209-foot dam—flooding about three-quarters of an acre—and excavated eight ponds in the mucky soil, all by hand labor. Ditches were dug to carry water from springs that were uncovered.

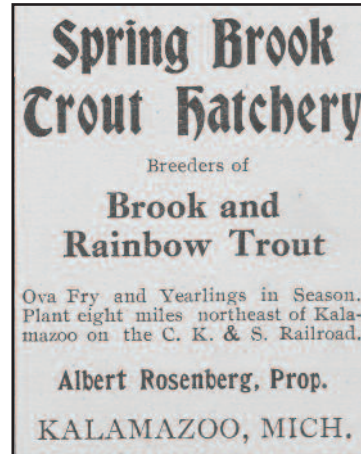
Rosenberg was apparently learning by doing during those early years and consequently suffered numerous setbacks. He reportedly had varying degrees of success with brook and rainbow trout, but many adjustments had to be made along the way and new ponds dug. (For a more complete accounting of the struggles Rosenberg experienced as a commercial trout hatchery proprietor, see his testimony before the Fourth International Fishery Congress of 1908 on Page 3 of this edition).

The total history of the Spring Brook Trout Hatchery is somewhat lost to the ages—at least I haven't discovered much other written documentation yet. But the facility has been a lifelong curiosity for me, because I grew up virtually next door to the property and often explored it with my neighborhood friends during those halcyon days of our youth.

My earliest memories are from the late 1950s, when a local business executive named Russell Scott owned maybe 100 acres of the surrounding land. I don't recall whether Mr. Scott actually tried to raise fish there, but I do remember an old caretaker living in a small shack at the edge of one of the ponds. Albert Rosenberg's wood-framed house—which had

North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



An advertisement from an early Kalamazoo County plat book.

already been abandoned by the time my father grew up in the same neighborhood during the 1930s and 1940s—was long gone and few remnants remained.

My friends and I always referred to the old hatchery as "Scotty's ponds" and, throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s, we loved to hike through the woods and along the two-track roads that wound through the trees. To us, it was "The Big Wild"—several dozen acres of unattended land with an absentee owner, which we could pretty much explore at will. Every trip to the dormant trout ponds brought fresh, new adventure.

Wading in the old ponds wasn't much of a thrill, though, because they were filled with silt, rotting vegetation and assorted creepy objects that passersby over the years had tossed into the water. You never knew what you were going to step on when you entered the ponds with bare feet that would promptly descend a foot or so into the dark, mucky bottom.

One of my boyhood chums—the Tom Sawyer to my Huck Finn—purchased the property several years ago and has set about trying to restore the natural habitat, and preserve the wetlands and forest. A hunter, fisherman and conservationist of the first order, he has worked incessantly on restoring the ponds, managing wildlife and protecting the landscape. For this privilege, he pays an excessive amount of property taxes each year—not to mention increasingly expensive fees to hunt and fish in the State of Michigan.

He gets no breaks from the massive bureaucracy that governs such matters, even though he has spent thousands of his own dollars

to actively steward the natural resources for which he has assumed responsibility.

Modern liberal-progressives probably feel this is a just and fair system. After all, shouldn't any individual who can afford to own and care for such property in the first place be taxed disproportionately so that his perceived wealth can be redistributed to others who can't?

To me, that's faulty thinking. Regularly taxing someone for a possession he bought and paid for with his own hard-earned money seems the height of economic injustice. Does a property owner's personal vote in millage elections carry more weight than that of those who own no property and thus are not adversely affected by increased taxes on such assets? No, but it probably should.

Instead, the property owner—no matter his own economic situation (he may be a retiree on a fixed income)—will quickly lose his investment to the government if the tax man is not satisfied.

I'm not sure exactly what it would be—perhaps just a flat tax on income—but there needs to be a more fair and equitable way of funding schools, townships and assorted other government expenditures that today rely so heavily on property taxes for continuation.

Albert Rosenberg's Spring Brook Trout Hatchery was located along the former C, K & S (Chicago, Kalamazoo & Saginaw) railroad line, which once carried visitors out from town to visit the facility and have picnics on the grounds.

Over the years, some have referred to the railroad as the "Cuss, Kick & Swear." And that's precisely how many Michigan land and home owners react when they receive their ever-increasing tax-assessment notices each summer and winter.

Wouldn't it be better if our public tax system was less punitive, and did more to encourage the ownership and active conservation of private land?

The North Woods Call

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Open letter

DNR director responds to questions about Michigan antler point restrictions

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom Harmon of St. Helen, Michigan, recently sent a letter to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commenting—among other things—on the state's Antler Point Restriction (APR) and what he considered to be a confusing tabulation of a related DNR deer hunter opinion survey. "It seems that the DNR just keeps moving the 'goal line' ahead of the resident Michigan deer hunters who are satisfied with legal buck regs as they are now," Harmon said. He suggested that the DNR take some of the "newfound money" from license fee hikes and update the computer programs at point-of-purchase facilities to allow hunters and anglers to simply vote yes or no on future hunting and fishing proposals. This, he said, would allow for more accurate "real time" feedback and give the NRC hard copy results of all actual votes by Michigan residents. We thought the following response from DNR Director Keith Creagh would be of interest to North Woods Call readers.

Dear Mr. Harmon:

Thank you for your February 15, 2014, e-mail to the [DNR] and the [NRC] regarding the Antler Point Restriction process.

At least part of your concern is likely due to recent proposals to implement APRs in

various areas in Michigan. There are many different ideas about deer and deer hunting. Although some hunters are highly motivated by the opportunity to harvest a large or mature buck, others feel strongly that the opportunity to take any deer is important for a successful and enjoyable hunt. The Department and the NRC take very seriously our responsibility to consider what is best for our natural resources, while also respecting the diverse preferences and values of our many hunters.

Nearly 15 years ago, the NRC established a process through which sponsoring organizations may request APR implementation. A key component of this process involves determining whether a significant majority of hunters in a proposed APR area are willing to accept restrictions on their harvest opportunities in order to see benefits they feel would be associated with these regulations. The Department accomplishes this by conducting a survey of a randomly selected representative sample of hunters to measure support.

A sufficient measure of support requires at least 50 percent of survey recipients to respond and at least 66 percent support among respondents. Support for any APR implemented under this process is evaluated once more after five years under the restriction, with the same criteria used to determine if

support is sufficient for retaining the regulation. Though this level of support doesn't ensure unanimous endorsement, it is certainly a significant statement if two-thirds of deer hunters are in agreement in a given area.

The Department's position on APRs was accurately conveyed by Dr. Russ Mason, the [DNR's] Wildlife Division chief. Additional details on the website, and as presented by Dr. Brent Rudolph, describe the Department's approach to assessing whether this level of support exists among the hunting public. Your concerns are important to us and reinforce the need for clear communications on this topic; the differences you mention are really just differences in the level of background detail and not conflict statements.

The Department's approach to using scientifically sound sampling and statistical methods represents the most practical, as well as the most accurate and representative approach to gauging overall public opinion on APR proposals.

APR questions could be asked at the point-of-sale terminals, although the data would be difficult to interpret for a variety of reasons. First, NRC policy appropriately requires that we pose APR questions only to hunters that might be directly affected, yet most deer hunting licenses are valid

statewide. Second, data captured at point-of-sale terminals are typically of poorer quality than data collected in structured surveys, reflecting the uncontrolled circumstances in which point-of-sale questions are posed and answered.

Incidentally, you asked why our surveys include nonresident hunters. This is a good question. The reason is that we want to know the opinions of all hunters potentially affected by an APR, regardless of their residence. About two percent of hunters that pursue deer in Michigan reside outside of our state. In our recent APR surveys, about 1.4 percent of the hunters in our structured random sample were nonresidents. Thus, the proportion of these individuals in sample closely matches the proportion of nonresidents buying a deer hunting license.

I hope this provides clarity to the overall APR process. Once again, thank you for contacting the Department. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Russ Mason at (517) 284-6206

Sincerely,

Keith Creagh

Director

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

**Hang 'Em High**

—North Woods Call photo

Warmer weather has finally arrived and it's time to hang up the old red flannels for another summer season. Hunters, ice fishermen and others who were prone to shivering during the long run of sub-freezing temperatures this past winter will likely welcome the opportunity to don a lighter wardrobe for a few months.

Third cougar-kill suspect sentenced

The third suspect involved in the illegal killing of a cougar in Schoolcraft County last December has pleaded no contest to taking/possession of an endangered species.

Todd Anthony Richard, 40, of Burt, appeared in court Monday to enter his plea and was sentenced to \$625 in fines and costs, along

with 24 hours of community service for his role in the incident.

During sentencing, 93rd District Court Judge Mark Luoma made clear that he did not believe the cougar killing was a case of self-defense. Last month, Troy Anthony Richard and Theodore Robert Richard pleaded guilty to their involvement in the case.

Letter to the editor**Bad laws bring out the worst in people**

Once upon a time, several years ago, there was a grievous error made that wild animals—particularly deer and bear—should no longer be permitted to remain wild. They would simply become objects for the self-serving devices of man.

In order to influence and control their existence, certain legal practices involving their harvest were rationalized as being acceptable. Many who knew better, or who even were concerned, went silent on the subject.

Such short-sighted laws changed the notion of hunting to "ambushing." Deer and bear throughout Michigan have since become mesmerized with tons of accessible "man food."

Once again in 2014, hunting in name only continues its mindless slaughter of patterned deer and bear, using man-placed food to bait them and thereby eliminate real hunting. Man's rules of appeasement have caused such animals to abandon their cautious nature as wild creatures and make all license holders like you and I culpable with anti-hunting organizations.

Our legal system continues to condone their "I see nothing, I hear nothing" stance, using mindless justification that a child could tell them is wrong. They condone their allegiance to a cottage industry they created for justifying the sale of deer bait, and remain beholden to those who care only about making money and nothing about nature's ways, or the disappearance of ethical hunting

Stating my position on the issue of "bad laws" affecting nature and ethical hunting springboards my concerns to another example where bad laws bring out the worst in people.

I have recently taken an opportunity via Michigan's "Freedom of Information Act" to familiarize myself with the arrest of Kevin Johnson on September 30, 2012. The case involved Johnson being cited for killing a Michigan black bear out-of-season and ending up escaping the consequence of his actions.

For those not ever having heard of Kevin Johnson, he hosts an outdoor television show produced in Gaylord, Michigan, entitled *Big Boy's Adventures*. He also produced a video showing himself actually killing the bear at the center of this controversy. This video suggests to the viewer Johnson's ethical standards.

Legal transcripts of court actions surrounding this illegal bear kill draw attention to the defense attorney introducing questionable circumstantial evidence in his successful attempt to circumvent prosecution of Johnson. While casting doubt on the wisdom of the prosecuting attorney and the legal system, a decision

was somehow made to dismiss the charges. Adding further insult to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials and others was a subsequent order to return the confiscated bear hide to Johnson.

The video produced by Johnson and his cohorts shows them actually ambushing and killing the bear in question over a barrel of animal entrails—reportedly after the close of the 2012 bear season.

Such unfortunate lack of legal courage to prosecute the offenders based on DNR evidence of their having killed the bear out of season only further acerbates a perception of favoritism held by the public for those who have the means and influence to beat the system. DNR findings of facts were buried in this case at the expense of sacrificing what was "right" for a "wrong."

Upon examining the video mentioned for the first time, I made the mistake of allowing my seven-year-old daughter to view it with me. Afterward, without my prompting, she asked a question that says it all.

"Dad," she said, "is that how they kill bears?"

Even children sense when something is not right.

Johnson's video showed the entire ugly scene of his attempting to dignify a despicable process by featuring himself and his cronies—along with his teenage daughter and several advertisers. This episode of a bear kill, the prosecution farce and the video production attempts to convince the viewer that Johnson should be labeled a "real hunter." The video's only achieved result was to cast Johnson as "just another opportunist" seeking notoriety.

With continuing fiascos like this occurring repeatedly with baited bear, why not qualify further proposed new guide system talk to exclude any form of baiting? It would attract real woodsmen who guide based on their knowledge and skill. It would once again return to deer hunters the option of hunting bear while hunting deer, if they purchased a combination deer/bear license for an additional fee. Such a hunt could coincide with the November 15 firearm deer season.

Giving thousands of deer hunters a chance once again to take a bear would finally remove bear baiting of any kind, eliminate the incentive of "scavengers" for selling public bear-kill locations, guarantee renewed hunting interest and license revenue, establish a more marketable professional guide system with ethics and help sustain our Michigan bear population

Bear hunting using dogs would remain legal, but become illegal if bait of any kind is used to attract a bear to a starting location from which dogs commence the chase. Under any circumstances, a hunter

(Continued on Page 7)



All Outdoors

By Mark Karaba

The mess we leave behind

Recently, while studying for the Michigan Inland Waterway test, I found out an interesting fact.

The test by the way, is required by the state for the operator of a vessel who intends to have paying customers on board, or for commercial use. It is to be able to legally "guide" clients on Michigan waters. The state does not require a guide license, because there is no such thing as a guide license in Michigan.

Anyway, before I get sidetracked on that particular topic, which is a whole subject in itself, I will get to the point.

One of the facts on the study exam is: "It is illegal to dump the following within three miles of shore"—plastic, paper, rags, glass, food, garbage, metal, crockery, or dunnage.

OK, that makes sense to me. Let's continue. "Within three to 12 miles from shore—same list, UNLESS it is ground to less than one inch. Now, stay with me here—12 to 25 miles from shore it is illegal to dump plastic, dunnage and packing material that floats! You see where we are going here?"

Lastly, outside 25 miles from shore it is illegal to dump—plastic. That's it. To be accurate, these restrictions apply to vessels 26 feet long, or longer, and you (the operator) are required to display a card or placard that is at least 4 inches by 9 inches to notify passengers of these "restrictions." Vessels under 26 feet long are required to bag the trash and bring it back.

These rules, if you will, apply to federally controlled waters.

These restrictions are apparently enacted under the guise that the internationally accepted rule of thumb is the "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" concept.

So, do you want to explain that to your grandchildren? This is what we deem acceptable. This is what we leave behind.

If you have followed the search for the missing Malaysian jet that has been plastered all over the news recently, you probably realize that debris, or stuff in the water, does not mean it is debris from a missing plane. It could be a huge storage container that "fell off" a ship. It could be garbage. Maybe it is a huge oil slick that did NOT originate from a plane crash.

Then you find out, coincidentally, that there is a floating mass of garbage in the north Pacific Ocean which is the size of Texas. For those who are geographically challenged, Texas is a large land mass. To be accurate, the huge glob of trash that is the size of Texas may not all be on the surface. Some, I understand, is suspended below the surface. Not a case for splitting hairs, I suppose.

We all see trash from time to time—along the road, along the stream and in parking lots. Most is accessible and gets picked up. It seems as though someone is always picking up after those less responsible and conscientious.

I am not aware of a program or discussion currently, to examine our apparent policy of taking trash/garbage out to sea and dumping it.

I am reminded of a trip down south years ago. It was early spring. While traveling on some remote back roads, I became aware of a form of garbage service being provided by none other than nature. It was ingenious, actually.

You see, in that hilly country, nature had provided a convenient gully or ravine behind many of the houses. I noticed that several of these down-sloping ravines were filled with garbage bags. I thought, why would you want THAT right behind your house? Then, the next day it rained real hard, all day long.

The following day, while driving along a major river in that same area, I noticed garbage bags floating in the river. Lots of them. Then it hit me—garbage service!

You see, all ravines are ultimately connected to an artery that eventually leads to a creek, or river. Garbage, like personal responsibility, runs downhill! You know, out-of-sight, out-of-mind.

Commercial fishing value grows

The value of Michigan's 2013 state-licensed commercial fishing season jumped 35 percent over 2012, according to data released by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)—due largely to an increase in whitefish prices.

Combined, the state-licensed commercial fishery caught more than 3.6 million pounds of fish with an estimated wholesale dock-side value of roughly \$5.53 million prior to processing, marketing and retail sales.

The state's total harvest was actually about 150,000 pounds less than in 2012, due to lower reported catches of non-native common carp in Lake Erie. But the fishery's estimated gross dockside

value was up \$1.44 million (an increase of 35.2 percent). The increase in value can be attributed mostly to a dramatic 30-percent increase in the wholesale price of lake whitefish.

Participation in the fishery in 2013 remained constant from the previous year. Michigan's 31 active state-licensed commercial licenses are owned and operated by 20 separate businesses.

Eleven of these businesses fished in Lake Huron, five in Lake Michigan, three in Lake Superior and one in Lake Erie. Together, these businesses added an estimated \$25 million to Michigan's economy and approximately 300 fishing and fishing-related jobs.

Book Review

'The Lure of the Labrador Wild' by Dillon Wallace

By Mark Karaba

This is a classic true story of the famous Hubbard expedition that took place in 1903. It is a riveting account of the exploration by Leonidas Hubbard, author Dillon Wallace and a Cree Indian guide to the wilds of interior Labrador.

I came upon this book—copyrighted in 1905—while actually in Labrador as a videographer for an outdoor show. We were there to film fly fishing for the world's largest brook trout. While I am in the habit of always taking reading material with me wherever I go, after ten days and some inclement

weather, I had exhausted my reading supply. I mentioned this to one of the guides and he suggested I read the lodge's copy of "The Lure Of the Labrador Wild."

As a junkie of non-fiction wilderness writing, and given the fact that I was actually IN Labrador, this was going to work. So that night—lying in my bunk with the aid of my headlamp, in a remote camp, a hundred miles from civilization—I began to read.

I had great difficulty putting the book down, and could not wait to return to it when 10 p.m. came around, and the power generator

was turned off. It was like a movie you didn't want to end.

This is a story of wilderness travel and extreme hardship. I cannot say much more about the level of hardship, without the risk of possibly ruining the story. The book is absolutely fascinating and has several photos which add substance to the whole incredible adventure.

I was not able to finish the book while in that camp, but I knew as soon as I was able I would find, purchase and finish it. I did just that.

Over the years, I have owned three copies and have given one away to a friend in Ontario, Canada. I have one copy that is 102 years old!

If you enjoy the great northern wilderness, suspense, and riveting real life drama, this is truly a must read.

I would suggest you look for an early printed hard copy. It comes with a fold-out map in the back, and the cover is a beautiful engraving that depicts two men pushing a canoe up a rapids.

You won't be sorry you picked this one up.



Tourist Season

—North Woods Call photo

Traffic at northern Michigan tourist spots will likely be picking up soon as the summer vacation and travel season begins in earnest. This observation tower along U.S. 2 west of St. Ignace has been enticing families for many years with the promise of a relatively inexpensive view of the Mackinac Bridge. Some folks find such businesses tacky and unnecessary, but many others flock to their gift shops every year to buy trinkets manufactured in far distant places by people who have probably never seen the north woods, or the Great Lakes.

Waiting & listening: The joy of "dawn songs"

The most enjoyable times of my life in nature have been just sitting—waiting, listening and watching.

We are entering a time that is quite special for hunters—the spring turkey hunts. Getting out before dawn and waiting for that old tom to come by is wonderful. The sounds we enjoy and sights we see as spring moves forward can be phenomenal.

From before dawn through the early morning daylight hours, birds and amphibians are giving a huge chorus of sound. There is no other time that these sounds are so diverse and used. Sounds at this time of day seem clearer and sharper in the cool morning air.

Birds use this time to begin setting up and defending territories. The woods and fields become alive with the sounds. Waiting for those toms, we are treated to many sounds. It is fun and can be challenging to identify those sounds. Some of the most common are those we know from our own backyards, such as the American robin, tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadee and song sparrow.

When more summer residents return, or migrants move through, additional sounds will be present.

The Natural World

By Richard Schinkel



In addition to the more traditional songs, some birds do special songs that they only offer in the hours before dawn. Some ornithologists call these songs "dawnsongs." For instance, the purple martin does a "dawnsong" before daylight that it uses to attract additional birds to the existing martin colony. At this time of the day, when quiet, this song can cover over 30 square miles, especially when given by the male while high in flight.

Many purple martin enthusiasts use the recording of the "dawnsong" to attract martins to a new colony for backyards. It is effective and I have talked to birders that have used this and succeeded in attracting birds to create a new purple martin colony.

Although not as diverse, the sounds after dusk can also be exciting. Often I have sat at a deer stand well after dark and caught the evening sounds of birds and creatures preparing for the night. Also, you get to see those that are beginning to move about after

dark. Somehow the sounds in non-daylight times seem more magnified.

The deer you hear at daylight is always the big one until a ruffed grouse comes walking across the leaves. Or that creeping sound coming up behind you turns out to be a white-footed mouse. All-in-all, the sounds before dawn and after dark are quite special.

To show you how nerdy some of us naturalist/birders can be, we try to identify the background sounds when watching a video or television show, or listening to a tape. Watching turkey hunts on television especially gives you a feel for the sounds present around the blind in the early morning.

I really believe this is what makes hunting and fishing so memorable and why we enjoy participating in these sports—success or not. I guess I equate this to the thrill of exploring when hunting, or looking for what's up that stream.

It's just fun, watching and listening.

Tidying up Belle Isle

State officials and their partners have been working hard to revitalize Detroit's new Belle Isle State Park.

The recently inaugurated park—Michigan's 102nd—is getting improved restroom facilities, as well as updates to the Casino, Conservatory and White House (public safety) buildings.

Most of these initial efforts are focusing on repairs, rather than complete renovations.

For more information, visit www.BelleIslePark.org.

Conservation Officer Logs (3/3/14 through 3/16/14)**Illegal pike, racing mom, reckless snowmobiles and other late-winter violations****DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)**

CO Mark Leadman investigated a complaint of a dog running deer in the Witch Lake area of Marquette County. The owners of the dog were advised of the law regarding dogs chasing deer, and reminded of the stresses already put on deer based on this year's weather conditions.

CO Brian Bacon followed up on the investigation of a fatal snowmobile accident in Dickinson County. It appears the operator lost control of the snowmobile as he tried to drive over a snow bank to gain access to a roadway. The operator was ejected from the snowmobile and died from injuries sustained during the crash.

CO Marvin Gerlach located parts of an ice fishing shanty and an abundance of litter on a local lake. During the course of the investigation, CO Gerlach determined the litter was left by three juveniles. They had built an ice shanty together and placed it on the lake but failed to remove it before it froze in. They then cut the shack apart and left parts of it and a large amount of litter on the ice. CO Gerlach also found out that the boys had borrowed the money to purchase the materials for the shanty a few months earlier, but had failed to pay back their debt. CO Gerlach gave them the option of paying back the money, cleaning up the debris they left on the lake and other garbage in the area, or each receiving tickets for litter, and for failing to place name and address on the shanty. The young men chose the first option, resulting in a cleaned up lake, and hopefully a lesson learned about responsibility.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Jeff Panich was on patrol in St. Ignace when he received information of a snowmobile travelling from the island to the mainland by an operator who was suspended from driving. CO Panich was able to quickly meet up with the snowmobile coming over the ice bridge to St. Ignace. Upon contact, the man stated that since he lives on the island he doesn't need a driver's license. The CO then advised the operator of the law pertaining to having a valid operator's license to drive a snowmobile. The operator stated he was aware he needed a license, but figured his chances of being caught were very small, as he has been driving without a license for

many years and has never been caught. Enforcement action taken.

CO Kevin Postma was conducting a fish patrol on Lake George. CO Postma checked a fishing shanty and observed a pike lying on the ice outside of the shanty. CO Postma contacted the angler, who seemed to be proud of his catch. The angler advised it was legal and offered CO Postma his measuring tape to check for himself. CO Postma complimented the angler on his fish and advised it would easily be legal if the season was open. The angler was unaware that the pike season had closed the day before. The angler then went back into his shanty to find his pole was now on the bottom of the lake with another pike pulling out line. He was able to retrieve the pole and reeled in another nice northern pike, this one was released and enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on Munuscong Bay, **CO Kyle Publiski** checked two subjects who thought the CO was another angler knocking on their shack. Upon opening the door to check fishing licenses, CO Publiski watched one angler set his ice fishing pole down and use his foot to slide the pole over in front of his buddy. After checking fish, CO Publiski asked the two anglers for their fishing licenses, and of course the angler that set his fishing pole down denied fishing. After CO Publiski explained to the angler that he had watched him set the pole down and use his left foot to slide the pole in front of his buddy, the angler then agreed that he was fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

CO Carl VanderWall observed a snowmobile on the trail system blow through an intersection/road crossing at high speed with no hesitation. It took CO VanderWall several miles down the trail to catch up with the speeding snowmobile. When contacted, the operator stated he was racing his mother, who was driving a vehicle on the adjacent highway which paralleled the snowmobile trail. A ticket for careless operation was issued.

CO Carl VanderWall is investigating an illegal killing of deer complaint, where a landowner dropped off a large round bale of hay for the deer, which is unlawful. While in a



motor vehicle, it appears someone else took advantage of the deer feeding on the hay and shot one and wounded two others.

CO Andrea Erratt patrolled Lake Charlevoix for ice shanties left out past the March 15 deadline. A couple were located frozen in the ice and marked with a GPS unit to assure the bottoms aren't cut off and left on the lake. CO Erratt contacted one group removing a shanty that had the bottom cut off. They assured her they would return and remove the bottom which was frozen in the ice. She identified them and gave them a couple days to remove the rest of the shanty.

CO Steve Speigl responded to a 911 call of a deer that was found dead on the deck of a house in Bellaire. Upon arrival CO Speigl immediately observed blood on the snow around the deer and checked the carcass for signs of foul play. After a brief inspection, it was evident that the deer had been run over by a car and had expired after climbing the stairs of the elevated deck and lying down near the house.

DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

CO Brian Brosky received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint that a subject had shot a deer from a residence. CO Brosky responded to the location and observed two dead deer lying in the driveway. CO Brosky contacted the suspect, who later admitted to shooting both deer with a rifle. The CO also detected the odor of burned marijuana during the interview and the individual admitted to possession of marijuana. The rifle and controlled substance, along with the deer, were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller received a complaint of an untagged deer hanging at a residence. CO Mueller responded and discovered the deer had recently been removed. Upon making contact with the property owner, admissions of having the deer hanging since firearm deer season were obtained. The landowner escorted CO Mueller to the discarded deer that was dumped along the nearby roadway. CO Mueller discovered that the discarded spike buck was also in violation of the Antler Point Restrictions (APR). Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was conducting surveillance of an area where undersized walleye had been reported to have been caught recently. CO Wells observed a subject catch what appeared to be an undersized walleye and transport it off the ice with his ORV. A

stop was made on the operator who was not wearing a helmet. The subject was in possession of a walleye without a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

CO Jason McCullough received information about a possible property damage snowmobile accident that occurred late Saturday night, or early Sunday morning. The owner of the property heard the noise and went outside to investigate. The owner noticed the damage to his property, then followed the tracks out onto the lake to a snowmobile that was stuck near the shoreline in a muddy area. CO McCullough received a call from the property owner the following day. CO McCullough began checking the surrounding subdivision and located a muddy snowmobile parked in front of a residence. CO McCullough contacted individuals at the residence and after several different stories he was able to obtain a confession from the operator of the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken and arrangements made to repair the property.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

While working walleye anglers on the Saginaw Bay, **CO Joel Lundberg** made contact with occupants of a vehicle coming in off the bay and checked them for fish. The CO could smell a strong odor of marijuana in the vehicle and located a bottle full of marijuana on one of the subjects in the vehicle. The CO then discovered the individual had four outstanding arrest warrants. One of the warrants was from the previous winter for possession of undersize walleye on the Saginaw River. The subject was lodged in jail.

Bridgeport Township Police responded to a residence where the homeowner believed he was being threatened by a subject with a firearm. When Bridgeport police arrived, they found that the resident was not being threatened, but the neighborhood squirrels were. **CO Dan Lee** responded when it was found that a man was shooting at squirrels from his truck as he drove down the road. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

CO Steve Mooney and **Sgt. Zach Doss** were checking Van Buren County lakes for ice fishing activity when they observed a subject walk away from his fishing equipment upon sight of the CO's vehicle. Contact was made with the subject, who was fishing without a license. It was discovered that the subject had four felony warrants relating to the manufacturing of methamphetamines and a misdemeanor warrant for retail fraud. The subject was taken into custody without incident, in addition to being ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO Greg Patten reported a recent guilty plea in Muskegon County Court by the owner of a captive cervid facility operator near Ravenna. CO Patten had investigated the facility after it was determined deer had escaped

through a damaged fence after a wind storm in November. The operator was charged with failing to make the required notification of escaped animals even after a local hunter had shot an ear-tagged buck.

DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)

CO Rich Nickols received an internet RAP complaint about a subject who posted pictures of a duck in captivity, admittedly taken from the wild. CO Nickols located the subject at a residence in Owosso and went to speak with her. After a brief conversation, the subject eventually showed CO Nickols the duck in question, which he confirmed was a domestic duck and not wild. No violation found.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a RAP complaint where a Shiawassee County animal control officer was called out to a lost dog complaint and during his investigation found a deer blood trail and drag marks leading to a neighbor's house. When CO Thorn arrived, the officers tracked the blood trail and drag marks to a dead deer tied up behind the neighbor's recreational vehicle. The neighbor admitted to locating a wounded deer that had apparently been hit by a car and following it onto the neighbor's property where he slit its throat and dragged it back to his property. Enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

CO Todd Szyska was dispatched to an anonymous complaint of two untagged deer hanging behind a residence in Richmond Township. CO Szyska responded and found that the deer were not hanging, but were left lying behind the suspect's residence in a farm field. The suspect stated that his dog had been eating on them on the roadways so he hauled them back behind his house so the dog would not go to the road. CO Szyska explained the laws about proper disposal of deer carcasses/burial or landfill and not obtaining car deer kill permit. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was ordered to clean up the carcasses.

CO Kris Kiel was patrolling Belle Isle when he heard a car engine winding out and observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed down Riverbank Drive. The CO was able to catch up to the vehicle and pulled the driver over. The subject stated he was showing off his new Mercedes to his friends in a 25 mph zone. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft reported that a subject involved in the illegal killing of multiple deer in Groveland Township during the 2013 deer season recently pled guilty. The suspect was charged with two counts of illegal use of a rifle in the shotgun zone, using artificial light to take game, hunting outside of legal hours, recreational trespass, and a licensing violation. He was charged \$2,000 reimbursement to the State of Michigan for the deer and assessed fines and costs, and hunting privileges were suspended.

Bad laws bring out the worst in people*(Continued from Page 5)*

would be fined severely for killing a cub. Every sane outdoorsman would also gladly pay more to eliminate non-hunting "bear-sites-for-sale" predators from the woods—those who seek only easy money, notoriety, more business, etc. This being said, it would again become possible to return hunting to its once-honored status that real hunters deserve.

As I re-read my paragraph above, I apologize for allowing myself to become idealistic in my thinking like a real outdoorsman. I should know by now that our outdoor decision makers have a long history of keeping a very short list of known changes they have ever made simply because they were wrong.

The good news is, if given the chance, nature left untampered can correct most of the ill-advised decisions of man. And eliminating bear baiting would immediately discourage those motivated by huge egos from pursuing the animal.

John Gunnell
Rockford, Michigan

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Final Shot



—North Woods Call photo

Office Visitors

These two white-tailed deer are among eight that were loitering outside the North Woods Call office during the last month or so of winter—apparently waiting for the deep snow to melt and more abundant food supplies to appear. They weathered a fairly rough season and were chomping the myrtle and pine bows in our yard by the time significant patches of bare ground began to show in the surrounding forest during the last few days of March.

2008 Pigeon River fish kill settlement

The State of Michigan has reached a settlement with Golden Lotus Inc., resolving a 2008 sediment release on the Pigeon River which killed thousands of fish.

Golden Lotus owns Song of the Morning Ranch, located in Vanderbilt. The property includes a large reflecting pond created by the Lansing Club Dam, where a gate malfunction in June 2008 caused a rapid and large sediment release. The release killed numerous fish species, including brown and brook trout.

A lawsuit filed against Golden Lotus by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with Michigan Trout Unlimited and the Pigeon River Country Association serving as intervening plaintiffs—sought to recover lost public trust damages and to provide a mechanism to permanently fix problems with the dam.

The settlement, reached during early April in Otsego County Circuit Court, requires Golden Lotus Inc. to work in coordination with the DNR and DEQ to perma-

nently draw down the impoundment behind the Lansing Club Dam, prevent significant discharges in the future, and provide mitigation for the damages caused in 2008.

Golden Lotus was fined \$120,000 in mitigation and damage costs, to be paid over eight years. The organization will pay an additional \$30,000 if it fails to submit to the state a plan for additional river restoration within two years of the date of the settlement.

The impoundment draw-down is scheduled to begin this spring and will be monitored closely to ensure water quality is protected. The draw-down and termination of all dam operations will return the river to its natural course and reduce the structure's negative effects on downstream river reaches.

The draw-down is the first step to what all parties believe will be a more comprehensive river restoration project to come. The cooperative nature of this settlement will be a key ingredient to all future restoration activities.

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