



“The newspaper for people who love the north”



Late May 2014
\$2.50

Vol. 61, No. 12
Digital Delivery



Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



Grand Traverse Bay, Traverse City, Michigan

—North Woods Call photo

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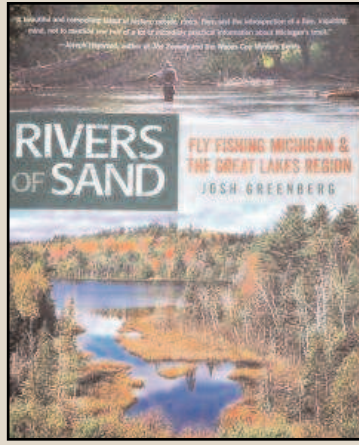
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Opening day and Josh Greenberg's rivers...

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following book review originally appeared online at the Northern Michigan Conservation Network website. It holds particular interest for North Woods Call readers and is reprinted here by permission.

By Dave Smethurst

The last Saturday in April is always a special day to trout fisherman. It's the Trout Opener. Even though today it is more of a tradition than an event, with so many streams open—some under special regulations—I think you can fish for trout somewhere every day of the year. Nonetheless, it is deep in our trout bum brains that this is still a special day.



Maybe more than any recent opening days, I'm excited. I recently finished a new book that got me thinking, smiling and optimistic. Josh Greenberg, owner of one of the iconic fishing lodges and shops in the country—Gates Au Sable Lodge outside of

Grayling—has written a wonderful new book, "River of Sand: Fly Fishing Michigan and The Great Lakes Region."

Written in what seems to me to be a conversational style, it is a book of stories about Josh's fishing trips—alone, with clients, or with friends. There are three things I really like about this book that make it—along with "Spring Creek" by Nick Lyons—one of my all-time favorites, both to be read and re-read.

I'm a "seasoned" trout angler. I usually catch fish, unless I'm distracted by, oh, cedar waxwings in a spinner fall of mayflies, or a turtle inspecting my boots as I sit on a log (a small one, not a big snapper), or an

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THE NORTHERN WOODS CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953

Encana settles bid-rigging case for \$5 million

Encana Oil and Gas USA has agreed to a \$5 million civil settlement with the State of Michigan to resolve allegations that the company conspired to avoid bidding wars against a rival company during oil and gas lease auctions.

On May 5, representatives of the Delaware-based energy firm pleaded no contest before Judge Maria Barton in Cheboygan District Court to one count of criminal attempted antitrust violations, a misdemeanor.

The other company charged in the bid-rigging case—Oklahoma-based Chesapeake Energy Corporation—vowed to fight on. Several witnesses had been called during the preliminary hearing and the judge was expected to decide whether there was enough evi-

dence to proceed to trial.

The civil settlement with Encana was filed with Ingham County Circuit Court and includes the following key terms:

- * The company will pay \$5 million to the State of Michigan. \$2.5 million will go to funds managed by the Department of Natural Resources and affected by Encana's actions, and the remaining \$2.5 million will fund the state's antitrust enforcement activities.

- * The company will enter into a four-year "corporate integrity agreement" with the state as part of a consent judgment, providing increased transparency of future oil and gas lease bidding activity.

State officials, in turn, agreed to an 11-month delayed sentence on the attempt charge, and the dis-

missal of the high court misdemeanor charge of antitrust violation relating to a contract or conspiracy. If Encana abides by the terms of the plea agreement, the criminal case will be dismissed after 11 months.

Public auctions of state-held oil and gas leases are held twice yearly—once in May and once in October—by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). During the DNR's May 2010 auction, both Chesapeake and Encana purchased natural gas leases in Michigan.

In 2012, *Reuters News Service* uncovered a possible conspiracy between the two companies' executives, discussing an agreement following the May 2010 auction to

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Priming the Pump

—North Woods Call photo

The summer tourist season will soon be in full gear, pumping much-needed tourist revenue into northern Michigan's economy. Although we prefer less-crowded roadways and parks—such as this temporarily empty rest stop along M-37 in western Wexford County—we recognize that businesses in the north woods welcome the lucrative influx of visitors this time of year. All we ask is that those passing through respect our natural resources, enjoy their travels and drive safely.



North Woods Notes

LIQUID PIPELINE: A recent report by Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians describes efforts to establish the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River as a "carbon corridor" for the North American energy industry. According to an online posting by Ted Schettler of the Science and Environmental Health Network, Barlow's report details plans to transport "dangerous new forms of energy"—as well as waste from more traditional forms—around, under and on the water. It is also a call to action to stop these plans before it is too late, Schettler said.

WOLF PETITIONS: A second ballot proposal aimed at stopping gray wolf hunting in the Upper Peninsula will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. Election officials said enough valid signatures have been collected to advance the proposal, which would repeal a law passed by the legislature in 2012. A second proposal, which would repeal a different law authorizing the hunt, is already on the ballot. Yet a third petition is being circulated by hunting and conservation groups supporting the hunt.

FREEWAYS VS. TOLL ROADS: Some federal and state officials reportedly would like to convert more interstate highways to toll roads. This, they say, would generate revenue and provide additional funding for road construction and repairs. Others point out that motorists already pay significant fuel taxes to fund such activities and claim this is just another way for government to acquire more money from citizens, which then can be siphoned off for multiple other uses. We can expect more debate about this in the future. In the meantime, drivers continue to doge this year's plethora of potholes on Michigan roadways.

ICE SHEETS: As of late April, there was still a significant amount of ice on the Great Lakes—particularly Lake Superior. A full month into spring, huge sheets of ice were crashing into the shore. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration officials said that Gitchee Gumee was still more than 60 percent covered—compared to just 3.6 percent the previous year at the same time.

WOLF SURVEY: Michigan's 2014 wolf population survey showed no significant change in the estimated number of wolves in the Upper Peninsula, according to officials from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division. It is estimated that there were 636 wolves in Michigan this winter, compared to 658 wolves the previous year, they said. Twenty-two wolves were taken during the 2013 hunting season.

EMERALD ASH BORER: The emerald ash borer—an invasive species that targets ash trees—has been found at Aloha State Park near Cheboygan. Ash trees once made up about 85 percent of the trees within the campground. Over the past six months, approximately 400 dead ash trees have been removed.

TROUT REGS: Input is being sought from anglers to help evaluate the Upper Peninsula's experimental trout regulations. Just as in 2013, anglers will have the opportunity to harvest 10 brook trout per day on five Upper Peninsula stream segments during the 2014 trout season. The 2014 Michigan Fishing Guide specifies where the 10 brook trout possession limit applies. For information, visit michigan.gov/dnr.

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Springtime on the Pine

The Pine River south of Mesick—just upstream from Peterson Bridge on M-37—is a popular destination for canoeists and other outdoor enthusiasts. Users of the large landing area near the bridge, too often prone to rowdy behavior and mischief, are greeted by a stern warning (left) from law enforcement officials.

—North Woods Call photos

Decision awaited in Allegan lawsuit

At this writing, Allegan County Circuit Judge Margaret Bakker had not yet ruled whether a citizen group's lawsuit against the Department of Natural Resources could continue.

Bakker previously warned she was not out to make new law on behalf of Michigan Land Air Water Defense's effort to cancel state-issued oil and gas leases in the Allegan State Game Area.

If the group loses the case, members say there will not be any meaningful review of the environmental impact of oil and gas development on any public land in the state. The state says its current process is adequate.



Spring Visitor

—Photo by Mark Karaba

This image of a rose-breasted grosbeak was captured recently at a birch tree feeder in the Grayling area. Many colorful songbirds—as well as raptors, ducks and other varieties—have been returning to Michigan with the warmer weather.

Encana settles bid-rigging case for \$5 million

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split up Michigan counties where each company would be an exclusive bidder for both public and private leases.

In the five-month period following the state's May 2010 auction, this alleged conspiracy may have been a key driver behind the state-held lease price in Michigan dropping from \$1,510 per acre in

May 2010 to less than \$40 an acre at the October 2010 auction.

In light of these findings revealed through an investigation by the Michigan attorney general's office, Encana and Chesapeake were each criminally charged for their alleged bid-rigging collaboration on March 5, 2014 in Cheboygan District Court. They were charged with

one count each of antitrust violations relating to a contract or conspiracy in restraint of commerce, a high court misdemeanor punishable by a \$1 million fine for a corporation; as well as one count each of attempted antitrust violations, a misdemeanor punishable by a \$1,000 fine.

Both companies have said they conducted internal investigations and found no collusion. They said their earlier discussions were related to a joint business venture that never came to fruition.

Closing briefs in the case against Chesapeake were to be filed by the attorney general's office on May 16 and by Chesapeake on May 23. The judge will issue her opinion after that.



North Woods Notes

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APRIL NRC MEETING: The June 12 meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will be held at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaumont Road, in Lansing. The 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 the American Legion, 610 W. Munising Avenue in Munising; and Dec. 11 at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

CONSERVANCY EVENTS: The Little Traverse Conservancy will be hosting three notable events this summer. The 3rd Annual Wau-goshance Trail Marathon and Half Marathon is scheduled for July 12 in northern Emmet County (see www.greatlakesendurance.com). Meanwhile, the 25th Annual Save the Trees Land Protection Benefit will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 30 at the Walstrom Marine Garage (Call 231-347-0991 for information) and the Conservancy's 42nd annual meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on August 5, 2014, at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey (Call 231-347-0991 to register).

GREENWOOD EASEMENT: An additional 330 acres of land were recently added to the Cheboygan County Greenwood Conservation Easement. The newly protected land includes 1,800 feet on MacAndrews Lake and 6,150 feet on the Little Pigeon River. It also lies adjacent to another 1,390 acres protected in 2008.

ELK & BEAR LICENSES: Hunters have until June 1 to apply for 100 elk and 7,831 bear licenses available for the 2014 season. Only Michigan residents are eligible to apply for elk licenses, while bear licenses are available to both residents and non-residents. No more than two percent of bear licenses may be issued to non-residents, however. Apply online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings, at any authorized license agenda, or at a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Customer Service Center.

FREE FISHING: Michigan's 2014 Summer Free Fishing Weekend will be held June 7 & 8. All fishing license fees for both residents and non-residents will be waived during these two days. Communities across the state are organizing activities to encourage involvement. The state offers some of the finest freshwater fishing in the world, with more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 11,000 inland lakes and many thousands of miles of rivers and stream.

FARM PONDS: Michigan farm officials are reportedly fighting an attempt by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate small bodies of water. According to the *Great Lakes Echo*, they say that a new permit process would make construction and farming more expensive and time-consuming.

ASIAN CARP: A summary of public comments on the Great Lakes/Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) can be viewed at <http://glmr.is.anl.gov/>. The report outlines eight potential plans within the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) to address the transfer of aquatic nuisance species, such as Asian carp, between the two basins.

Our 61st Year: Looking Back to May 18, 1955
— Excerpts from *The North Woods Call* —

A hard lesson learned

By Marguerite Gahagan

As the pines crashed in the north woods and the lumberjacks rode the wanigans down the swift rivers, a new frontier was blazed in Michigan.

The north country opened to trade and travel, and towns sprang up and homesteaders cleared land for farms. They settled in a rich land of game and fish and timber, and as the lumber boom swept through the land, the treasures of the land dwindled.

Gone was the grayling, and gone was the pine marten and wolverine. The little remaining virgin timber today stands in preserved parks and decaying stumps are evidence of the giants of the forests that fell before the axe.

New frontiers are again opening in the north country today. A growing realization of the value of the woods, the wetlands, watersheds and stream improvement is bringing back the richness of the state's great north.

Soil conservation and reforestation practiced jointly by state agencies on state land, and by farmers and small land owners on private acres, are now visible—pointing the way to a richer land as the old blaze marks on the pines once marked the trails pushing north to a new frontier.

From the Cedar to the Au Sable, stream improvement is bringing back the historic rivers that yearly beckon more thousands of fishermen to partake in a million-dollar sport.

Game management has become a source of increasing interest—not just to Conservation Department workers, but to the year-round citizen of the north country and the cabin owner who on brief weekends comes to the woods to see the deer, the imported and guarded sharptail grouse, and the wild turkeys carefully protected in an attempt to bring them back to their old homeland.

Throughout the north woods, mankind sees in the wildlife, the newly planted trees, the developing ski hills, a new frontier in the modern way of life. Recreation and sport loom ever larger in the average Michigander's manner of living.

By recognizing the need to safeguard and improve the land, the forests, the fish and the game, and by investing their money in such improvement work—be it a ski slope or an acre planted in trees—Michigan's citizens mark their new frontier as one pointing to a better world offering more pleasant hours to all people.

Opening day and Josh Greenberg's rivers...

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emerging Hexagenia mayfly in the silt behind the log. But when I do fish, I usually know what to do.

As I read "Rivers of Sand," I found myself saying, "Yeah, that's how I do it too." And then, on the next page, I find another fly fishing tip in the story and a "Duh, why didn't I think of that?" I've rationalized that well in my mind by saying to myself, "I'm just a part-time angler and Josh is a full-time pro." That makes me feel better about myself. You too, will find "duh," moments and learn.

Josh—a full time conservationist, as well—writes beautifully about what he sees and feels along our trout streams. In my twenties, I read Robert Traver's "Testament of a Fisherman."

"I fish because I love to," Traver wrote, "because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful..."

That touched my brain, and Josh feels and conveys that same emotion. Josh writes about what I call river music: "All this talk of rising fish, the endless varieties of gurgles, burping sounds, splashes, sips ... these are all trout noises. ... Then there is the sound of the river itself. The river has a multitude of gurgles and bleeps caused by nothing more than the current itself. It



Josh Greenberg

could be boiling over a submerged log, or lapping against a cut bank." Can you sense standing in a trout stream from Josh's words? I can.

By the way, Robert Traver (a.k.a. by his real name, John Voelker) is the third in my trio of favorite angling writers, but it is his collection of books—rather than one book—that makes the read list. I worry that many of the younger trout anglers have not read Traver, or Lyons, and others like Marinaro, Flick, McGuane, Hemingway, Haig-Brown, Scwiebert, or Gierach. Fly fishing has such great literature, as well as how-to-do-it books.

Greenberg, of course, is on the above list. He has a degree and time at Oxford to prove he is an expert with the English language. His words share knowledge so easily, but there are classic sen-

tences and paragraphs that take me to the best of writing about the out-of-doors.

This paragraph is about fishing with small streamers in the fall for brook trout: "This is pure streamer fishing. For many, it is a wood-rod game. And while I don't know if there's a connection, a lot of these classic streamer anglers are upland bird hunters, who consider catching brook trout with streamers in the afternoon to be a fine complement to hunting grouse with bird dogs in the morning."

Or, after hunkering down following a squall, with thunder and lightning passed, Josh writes, "Then it was over—as if I'd awoken suddenly. I stood as the sun blasted through the trees and a few leaves spun down quietly. The forest glowed. The river was calm. The west sky was clear. It was, I thought, an amazing front. The kind of squall that resembled a short, intense illness. When it was over, it took the previous day with it, and I had the sense that I was fishing in the river of tomorrow."

There are more—but find them for yourself. Stop at Gates Lodge and buy one. Josh will sign it. If you've never been there, you are in for a treat, and great food, too. Get to know Josh, in person and through his books. Yeah, I said books—plural. He just has to write another, and another. Great writer. Good man.

Tell your conservation friends about The North Woods Call

State officials seek status of Straits oil pipelines

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant have requested detailed information on the current status of two Enbridge oil pipelines laid in the Mackinac Straits more than 60 years ago.

The formal request to Enbridge Inc. and Enbridge Pipelines Inc. asks for detailed information to ensure the Great Lakes are protected from a catastrophic spill in the event of a pipeline failure.

"We have a responsibility to

practice good stewardship of the Great Lakes, the crown jewels of Michigan's ecology and economy," said Schuette. "The unique location of these pipelines, in the Straits, means failure is not an option. This request is part of a comprehensive approach to ensure we work aggressively to minimize risks and protect the lakes at every turn."

"This administration has worked hard to protect the environment and support the industries we regulate," added Wyant. "We are asking for assurance that Enbridge is monitoring and maintaining its infrastructure. Michigan does not need another pipeline break. Our vast, vital natural resources must be protected."

An April 29 letter signed by Schuette and Wyant requests the information about the Enbridge pipelines within 60 days, including:

Pipeline Life Expectancy: Details on the construction, modification, and estimated life expectancy of the pipelines, as well

as any anticipated replacement plans.

Pipeline Use: Existing and potential uses for the pipelines in the future.

Preventive Maintenance and Leak Prevention: Pipeline inspection processes and mechanisms for leak prevention, detection and control.

Spill Response Plans: Company response plans in the event of a leak or spill.



—Red-tailed hawk (above) by Steve Baker. Photo (below) of Kathy Bricker, Tom Graham and Ed Pike by Jim Bricker.



Counting Hawks

Migrating hawks crossing the Straits of Mackinac were nearing their peak numbers in late April when these photographs were snapped. Nearly 5,200 red-tailed hawks had been tallied so far—the largest number of birds. The total count was approaching 9,000 individual birds of 16 species, all flying north from winter homes in diverse locations ranging from the southern United States to Central and South America. The watch for hawks and other migrating birds—including eastern bluebirds, and chipping, savanna and vesper sparrows—was expected to continue until May 31. The public is invited to observe. Just follow the hawk signs posted on West Central Avenue in downtown Mackinaw City. For additional information, visit www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org.



MUCC and others challenge feral swine ruling

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)—along with other agricultural and conservation leaders across the state—were urging state officials to appeal a March court ruling which overturned an order that declared wild hogs to be an invasive species.

The order and declaratory ruling by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)—to clarify how the DNR would determine which pigs were invasive—were nixed by the Marquette Circuit Court, which said they were capricious, illegal and outside of constitutional standards. The judge ordered a stay of the ruling, expecting the state to file an appeal.

Here is an excerpt from a letter reportedly sent to Gov. Rick Snyder by the MUCC:

"... If it stands, this ruling will put Michigan's agriculture sector at risk of devastating economic losses. It will also create serious problems for our natural resources and wildlife and put the health and property of Michigan residents in danger.

"The DNR invasive species order targets non-native species such as the Eurasian and Russian wild boar, and crosses produced from these breeds. These non-native hogs are fast-breeding, voracious and destructive animals with no natural predators in Michigan. They destroy important crops, endanger livestock, threaten our wildlife and natural resources, and cause billions of dollars in damages to property.

"They also carry diseases that can wipe out livestock and our natural wildlife, such as

pseudorabies and bovine tuberculosis, as well as harmful bacteria, such as brucellosis, that can seriously sicken human beings.

"The DNR invasive species order is critical to protecting Michigan's natural resources and economy from a species that causes serious harm to our land and water, as well to our agriculture industry.

"Just as we work tooth and nail to stop Asian carp and zebra mussels from entering our lakes and rivers, we should stop invasive swine from causing further damage to our land and economy.

"Furthermore, allowing this ruling to stand could have lasting implications on the ability of the DNR to regulate invasive species in the future."

Deer habitat grants given

Nine Upper Peninsula conservation organizations have been selected to receive 2014 Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHIPI) grants from the Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Division.

The grants, totaling nearly \$65,000, will fund deer habitat improvement projects in Alger, Chippewa, Dickinson, Iron, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee and Ontonagon counties.

The DHIPI grant program is designed to attract and support proposals from non-government organizations and citizen groups interested in improving white-tailed deer habitat in the Upper Peninsula. The competitive grant program, funded by the state's Deer Range Improvement Fund (DRIP), requires that the projects be located on non-state-managed land, including private property and Commercial Forest Act-enrolled land.

Grants will go to the following organizations:

The Dickinson Conservation District (\$9,250); U.P. White-tails, in partnership with The Forestland Group LLC (\$10,000); Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County (\$7,500); Marquette County Conservation District (\$6,410); the Ontonagon chapter of Whitetails Unlimited (\$7,710); Grand Marias Sportsmen's Club and the Alger Conservation District (\$4,800); Drummond Island Sportsmen's Club and Stoney Creek Timber LLC (\$10,000); a landowner on Drummond Island in Chippewa County (\$7,500; and the Alger County Chapter of UP White-tails (\$1,600).

Created by legislation in 1971, the DRIP fund is supported by a \$1.50 allocation from each deer license sold (except for senior licenses), which equals \$2.2 million to \$2.8 million in annual funding. This restricted funding is for the enhancement, maintenance and acquisition of deer habitat statewide.

For additional information, call Bill Scullon at (906) 563-9247.

Environmental compliance meeting

If you are responsible for making sure an organization is in compliance with Michigan's environmental regulations, you won't want to miss the 2014 Environmental Compliance Conference.

Registration is now open for the event, which is designed to help businesses and environmental professionals comply with environmental standards.

The conference, hosted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, will be offered in three locations—Traverse City (May 29), Grand Rapids (June 5) and Livonia (June 10).

The registration fee of \$130 includes breakfast, lunch, all conference materials and a copy of the "Michigan Guide to Environmental, Health and Safety Regulations."

The event qualifies for six continuing education hours for professional engineers. Certified municipal wastewater operators can receive 0.5 CECs in the "managerial" category for attending the wastewater track only. Environmental consultants, state and local officials and anyone else interested in learning about the subject are also welcome to attend.

For more information and to register, contact Alana Berthold at bertholda@michigan.gov, or (517) 284-6854.

**Ask your local librarian to order
The North Woods Call**

Opinion

Quote Box

"One cannot but reflect what a sucked orange the earth will be in the course of a few more centuries. Our civilization is terribly expensive to all its natural resources. One hundred years of modern life doubtless exhausts its stores more than a millennium of life of antiquity."

—John Burroughs

Citizen action is important

Hats off to the many citizens who took their concerns about fracking on public lands to the Allegan County Courthouse in April.

It was a full house in the courtroom when Circuit Judge Margaret Bakker heard arguments in a lawsuit filed by Michigan Land Air Water Defense against the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (see related story on Page 2).

While at this writing the judge was yet to issue a ruling on the DNR's request to dismiss the lawsuit involving some 12,000 acres of land in the Allegan State Game and Recreation Area, we agree with the plaintiffs that more needs to be done to protect property set aside under the public trust doctrine.

The DNR says it is doing just that via the state's standard review and approval process, but it wouldn't hurt to also do what citizens are asking—a thorough environmental assessment before property is leased for oil and gas development.

It still troubles us that citizen action is so often required to compel public servants and agencies to take extra care and precaution when managing public resources, but we're glad such individuals are willing to stand up and be counted.

Growling environmentalists

We know it's impossible to please everyone all of the time. But we wish agenda-driven conservationists would be quicker to give each other the benefit of the doubt.

We recently published a letter in which an individual inaccurately criticized an environmental group for being anti-hunting. A member of that environmental group responded with a somewhat curtly written denial of those charges.

At about the same time that the second letter arrived in our mailbox, the original letter-writer discovered that he may have been a little too fast on the draw with his criticism and wrote another letter of apology for jumping the gun.

It might have ended there, except that we ran the denial and apology side-by-side in the same edition, believing that the two related pieces of correspondence appropriately went together. This, however, further annoyed the member of the environmental group, who then accused us of giving the first letter-writer an unfair opportunity to elaborate on his original comments in support of Michigan wolf hunts.

While we understand how it could have appeared this way, we weren't trying to support one side of the debate over another. And we were a bit surprised to find ourselves in the line of fire.

But we appreciate the passion displayed by dedicated environmental advocates and recognize that various opinions about contentious issues will always be strong.

Nevertheless, we encourage natural allies in the conservation movement to spend less time growling at each other and more time taking aim at those who are actually assaulting our natural resources for personal profit and gain.

Sweet deception: Bait & shoot

We recently saw a professionally produced video that featured the killing of a black bear that was tempted by assorted goodies placed in a woodland bait barrel.

From what we could tell, the barrel contained such things as donuts, sweet rolls and honey—all aimed at attracting the unwary animal into range, where a camouflaged hunter armed with a sighted crossbow could release an arrow into the unwary prey and bag a trophy mount for the taxidermist.

It was pretty disturbing, to say the least, and seemed quite unfair to the foraging bear.

In our estimation, hunting should involve more than cynical deception and the high-tech advantage of people over animals. It should be more about woodland skill, tracking ability and the battle of wits, rather than simply finding any means necessary to collect another impressive display for the hunter's den.

Some hunters obviously don't see it that way, but we are much more aligned with those who do.

Great Lakes Governors agree to Asian carp collaboration

Great Lakes governors and the premiers of Ontario and Quebec have announced a "mutual aid agreement" that will empower states and provinces to act collaboratively in the event of a "serious" regional threat from aquatic invasive species.

The agreement is designed to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, foster mutual aid among states and provinces to respond to such threats and encourage further cooperative actions—

Simplify, simplify: Living well with less stuff

Once upon a time, I went to a local electronics store to make a simple purchase

A friend had given me an old outdoor television antenna. I needed a hundred feet of wire and a rotor kit to hook it up.

I had never previously owned an outdoor antenna. For years, I'd been content with fuzzy-looking broadcast channels. I'd grown used to unfocused double images of network news anchors. But now I had a chance to bring a little clarity to my life. And I was determined to do so.

At the electronics store, the twenty-something clerk looked at me like, "You can't be serious." He couldn't grasp the fact that I didn't have cable TV. He offered to fill this void by selling me a satellite dish system. For a few dollars a month, he said, I could get hundreds of channels.

But I didn't want hundreds of channels. I was quite satisfied knowing that I'd be getting better TV reception than ever before—and almost for free. But the clerk didn't see it that way. In his eyes, my lack of passion for personal improvement was a serious problem.

That's the trouble with "consumer" cultures. Most of us have more than we need and don't even

North Woods Journal By Mike VanBuren



realize it. We're constantly foraging for the latest gadgets, newest cars and biggest homes. Never mind that such desires usually bring more headaches than they're worth.

Even after foreign terrorists flew commercial airliners into the World Trade Center, Pentagon and a field in rural Pennsylvania—when we probably should have been called to sacrifice and to conserve resources for a larger war effort—President George W. Bush told us to go shopping.

What was that all about?

I think Henry David Thoreau had it right when he called upon us to "simplify, simplify." After all, the essence of our lives is not found in material things and technology—no matter how revolutionary they are. True spiritual growth and contentment rise from uncluttered lives.

I've been reading lately about a movement known as "voluntary simplicity." This involves living—and actually having more—with less. More time, joy, peace, satisfaction and meaning with less

money, stress, possessions, competition and isolation.

It has nothing to do with depriving ourselves, or living in poverty. It has everything to do with being content with what we have, finding joy in less and reconnecting with other people and the natural world that sustains us.

Now I'm as guilty as the next person when it comes to ignoring this advice. I struggle each day against the impulse to buy things that I think will add happiness and value to my life. They seldom do.

It's usually the simple things that can't be purchased in any store which mean the most. Things like more time for family and community. Less worry about possessions. And greater freedom—to live and grow and love without constraint.

It has been said that there are two ways to get enough—accumulate more, or desire less. Less, it seems, is truly more.

And that's probably the clearest signal I'll ever get from the battered old television antenna that still towers over my house.

Trout time finally arrives on Augusta Creek

Finally. The yard has maybe two full wheelbarrows of snow left. The Phoebe Flycatchers are here. So are the Woodcock.

After some work in the yard, it is time to "field test" some of the flies I have tied on and off all winter. So, with the jeep loaded with my gear, I head to one of my favorite local streams to once again feel the current against my legs and let Augusta creek wash away the winter blues.

This is the true sign of spring for a trout fisherman. Hydro therapy, if you will.

It is the kind of day that a month earlier you wondered if you would ever see again—65 degrees and not a cloud in the sky. The kind of day you might, in a typical year, see in late March. Not this year, of course, but it is here at last—a 30-mile drive with the windows down and a slightly giddy look on my face.

The familiar routine of stringing up the fly rod and pulling on waders is done as smoothly as should be expected. As I walk to the bridge and stand over the water, I smile. Hello to an old friend.

This stream and I go back 30 years or so, and when you get to know a body of water as well as I know this one, you begin wading with a sense of confidence. I notice a few changes in the first hundred yards or so—in the form of some downed trees. Some are across the stream and create some new cover for the trout. Lies. Not



All Outdoors By Mark Karaba

the typical kind of story telling lie that fishermen are prone to, but a deep run or hole that a trout would "lay" in. A lie.

The water is unusually clear for this time of year and the amount of snow cover we had. I'm surprised that I have not moved any fish after an hour or so. This is indeed unusual. I am not even seeing any trout darting around when I wade through some deep holes.

Though I am not disappointed in not catching fish, I am concerned. I know this stream well and, at this time of year, I should have at least had a few "takes" on my fly.

Then I remember an email a friend sent to me last fall. It was about Augusta Creek. Some "sportsmen" were apprehended by a conservation officer with a bag full of trout. A BAG FULL!

It seems that they had devised a clever way of "driving" the trout into a waiting net of some sort. A fisherman who apparently witnessed this called the Department of Natural Resources hotline and, after the officer arrived, they were still at it.

When the damage was assessed, there were 42 trout in that bag. Forty-two trout taken out of a

stream illegally. That, by the way, from a trout stream deemed "marginal" by the DNR.

The email was accompanied by a photo of the trout—all 42 of them—lined up on the tailgate of the officer's truck. A few of them were larger than I had ever known to exist in this creek.

How could I have forgotten such a profoundly disturbing piece of information such as this? I am getting older. I do forget things.

Maybe I didn't want to remember. Maybe I had blocked that information out. Or maybe I just didn't care.

After all, it is only a marginal trout stream.

The North Woods Call

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel
Since 1953

Published regularly by:
Newshound Productions LLC
5411 East DE Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004.

Telephone: (269) 342-8724

E-mail: editor@mynorthwoodscall.com

Website: mynorthwoodscall.com

Online subscription: \$35 per year
and \$60 for two years.

Print subscription: \$55 per year
and \$95 for two years

Editor & Publisher: Mike VanBuren

Publishers Emeritus:
Marguerite Gahagan
Glen and Mary Lou Sheppard

Advertising rates upon request

A Newshound Publication

including the sharing of staff and expertise.

The agreement—announced recently at the Council of Great Lakes Governors annual meeting in Chicago—follows up on a resolution approved during the group's 2013 meeting on Mackinac Island, which called for specific actions to address the issue.

Michigan, for its part, will include all of the "least wanted" species on its prohibited and restricted species list by July 2014.

Viewpoint

Proposed fracking rules come up short

By Katie Sulau

Last week, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) proposed updates to rules to regulate fracking in Michigan, and they came up short.

Instead of meaningful regulatory reform, the rule changes were minor mark-ups and language changes that skirted main points of concern for Michigan LCV and many Michiganders across the state.

In particular, the proposed rules do not require companies to publicly disclose the contents of chemicals that are added to water

during the fracking process before a well is in use. This is critical public health and safety information for people living near wells, and it is not too much to ask that Michiganders are properly informed.

The suggested rules do not require all fluids used in fracking to be stored in a secure tank, nor do they require details and disclosure about fracking operations to be tracked and displayed on the Michigan DEQ's website.

Fracking wells use millions of gallons of Michigan's freshwater, which is unable to be returned to the lakes, rivers and streams from

which it was drawn. With so much uncertainty about the impacts of fracking on our natural resources, operators should be held to the highest standards of ensuring the quality and quantity of our freshwater is not detrimentally impacted.

The DEQ is falling short on setting those standards.

We're continuing to parse through the details. Stay tuned for more information about a public comment period.

Katie Sulau is communications manager at the Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

Letter to the editor

Gore vs. Bush: A tale of more than two houses

The "Tale of Two Houses" published in *The Call* in the early May edition is a recycling of something that circulated back in 2007. While largely true, it ignores several relevant facts.

[Former Vice President Al] Gore has since made a number of energy saving improvements to the home.

[Former President George W.] Bush has since purchased a \$3 million, 8,500-square-foot home in North Dallas near the site of his presidential library. It does not appear that this new home—while modest in comparison to the other homes in the neighborhood—is a model of environmental design. The ranch house in Crawford functions as a second home.

Yes, people are complicated. Our public figures are inconsistent in personal choices they make. But let's not use that as an excuse for taking the lazy way out and concluding that Gore's message about the importance of climate change is not true.

Climate change is the most important environmental issue of our time. And yet many people and news organizations are more interested in the foibles and flaws of celebrities and public figures.

Go figure.

Jay Copeland
Concord, Massachusetts

"Atmosphere of crisis" needed

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, co-chair of the recent Council of Great Lakes Governors meeting in Chicago, said an "atmosphere of crisis" is needed to bring about faster action on the Asian carp threat to the Great Lakes.

During an interview with the *Great Lakes Echo*, Snyder reportedly said there isn't enough urgent concern over the issue. The region, he said, needs to find common ground and act more quickly than it has so far to solve the looming problem.

Here's one final 2013 deer hunting story

By John Gunnell

This deer story from November 2013 has been bouncing around in my head ever since I became pre-occupied with ice fishing. The reader must realize that my psyche—once acclimated to a bluegill mentality—has difficulty shifting back and re-living an event that was, as it turned out, a once-in-a-hunting-lifetime occurrence.

It was the second Tuesday of our hunt in the Upper Peninsula. Son David and I were the last two remaining hunters in camp. We planned that day to hunt early, about three miles from camp. We decided to return to camp about noon. After some lunch and a brief siesta, we returned to hunt our own land until dark. I ventured down to a stand we call Hattie's—named after the original owner of our camp—while David held sway off a couple hundred yards near a stand we call Gregg's.

All was quiet until dark, when I heard a single shot ring out from the direction where David was hunting. With only one shot, I assumed we would soon be dragging.

As darkness settled in, I began to make my way back to our camp. When I arrived—and after making a Bloody Mary—I heard the rustle of footsteps on the front porch. David came in with news that it was he who shot, but he had either missed or wounded a young eight-point buck. We decided to make use of the little daylight left and look for the buck. Finally,

on hands and knees, we discovered a thin blood trail telling us the deer was hit.

Anyone who ever trailed a wounded deer knows that detecting and trailing blood without snow can be tough sledding. Deer meander when wounded, consuming time and territory.

The clock told us it was already approaching 10 p.m. when we paused to listen to an eerie sound off in the distance. The sound was not that of one coyote, but of several. Unlike the distant swoon of a male coyote sending out his calling card to females, the coyotes we heard sounded like the gnashing of teeth, as if to be in a fierce battle.

What we were being prepared for is what we discovered. The coyotes—at least three—had intersected the deer's blood trail and literally field-dressed him before we arrived.

Getting back to camp about midnight with an eight-point buck (minus one hind quarter and one shoulder) capped off our day. Interestingly, the coyotes never sank a tooth into the back straps, indicating that they were saving the best for last.

I've chatted with different hunters who have had this experience with coyotes. David informed me that, when he had the deer processed, he got thirty-five pounds of venison.

I now revert back to my winter ice fishing focus with no further interruptions until I take up the music of the trout season.

Bodies found in Antrim Co. tent

Investigators were hoping to identify two men whose bodies were found April 30 in a tent near Mancelona in Antrim County's Custer Township.

At this writing, authorities were waiting for the results of forensic autopsies and DNA tests, which would help make positive identifications, according to Antrim County Sheriff Dan Bean.

People searching for shedded deer antlers discovered the bodies in a rural area near Doerr Road. There were no obvious signs of foul play, or any other indication how the men died, Bean said.

The tent didn't contain any firearms, or hunting equipment, he said, and there were no signs that the men may have died from carbon monoxide poisoning. It also didn't immediately appear that foul play was involved.

Their clothing was tattered and decomposing after the cold and snowy winter, and it is believed the men had been there since last fall.

Antrim County didn't have any missing persons reported during the preceding six to eight months, Bean said.

Anyone with any information should call (231) 533-8627.

Viewpoint

Energy savings and home costs

EDITOR'S NOTE: This op-ed piece originally appeared in the Grand Haven Tribune.

By Nicholas Occhipinti

If I told you that the State of Michigan could save residents building new homes a net average of \$478 every single year, or \$10,000 on average, you would probably think that would be a relatively easy public policy decision to make.

Unfortunately, it's not—and this is a real opportunity that is in jeopardy of not being pursued.

What's at issue here is the adoption or rejection of the United States Department of Energy-supported 2012 new home construction energy code update.

Gov. Rick Snyder and his director of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs have the authority to adopt these cost-saving code improvements, saving hundreds of dollars annually for occupants of newly constructed homes.

Full adoption of the 2012 codes will save money in both the short and long term. Homes built under the new standard will have average energy costs 30.9 percent less than homes built to Michigan's Uniform Energy Code (2009 standard).

Because most new homes are financed, the DOE finds, "After accounting for up-front costs and additional costs financed in the mortgage, homeowners should see net positive cash flows (i.e., cumulative savings exceeding cumulative cash outlays) in one year for the 2012 IECC." More simply, less money will be going to pay for your mortgage and energy costs in the first year, and all the energy upgrades will completely pay for themselves in 3.5 years.

Full adoption of the code would encourage energy-efficiency improvements that are longer-lasting and much more effective than changing out light bulbs and [installing] low-flow showerheads. The codes would include permanent improvements to a building's shell, including better windows and stronger insulation. The walls and shell of a home would be made tighter and have less duct and HVAC leakage. Hot water pipes would have to have better insulation to allow hot water distribution to be more efficient. These measures are most cost-effective at initial construction.

Energy efficiency is the cheapest, cleanest and most quickly deployed source of energy available to Michiganders. Why do I and other environmentalists love energy efficiency so much? Because it allows us to be a direct advocate for the consumer and family budgets now. It's a direct and local investment in our com-

munities that employs skilled workers locally and keeps pollution out of our air and water.

Unfortunately, the public interest in this case is being seriously challenged by powerful lobbyists and special interest groups working for the perceived short-term benefit of a few. Incredibly, some want to go even further than rejecting the 2012 update; they intend to roll back energy-efficiency measures already embedded in Michigan's code—improvements that are currently saving Michiganders energy and money.

Even if it were a good idea to reject the 2012 code to benefit a narrow range of special interests in the building sector (it is not), those winners would come at the expense of other Michigan business losers.

Our state is home to large and small manufacturers of energy-efficient building products and services. Building energy-efficient homes is good for business and good for the economy, but you don't need to take an environmental group's word for it. The world's largest business organization, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, advocates the same. The chamber's national policy platform calls for "legislation to boost private-sector investment in building efficiency upgrades, help manufacturers reduce energy use, update lighting and appliance standards, and strengthen building codes." The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports national model building energy codes.

Both single and multifamily homes built to the new 2012 energy code standards will save energy and money—lots of it. If Michigan updates its building codes, the state will save nearly \$230 million annually by 2030. In December 2013, Gov. Snyder laid out his vision for a "no regrets" energy future. Wisely, the governor called for an emphasis on "eliminating energy waste" and has made that goal a foundation of his energy plan. Speaking on energy and the environment, the governor has said, "There are things we can do today that benefit us right now and pay dividends tomorrow, no matter what the future holds."

Adopting the 2012 energy code is smart policy that moves Michigan toward a "no regrets" energy future. We should not miss this opportunity.

Gov. Snyder and LARA should fend off challenges to current efficiency standards and adopt the full 2012 code this year.

Nicholas Occhipinti is policy and community activism director at the West Michigan Environmental Action Council.

Share your thoughts and ideas

The North Woods Call welcomes letters and viewpoint articles. Please write tightly and include your name and contact information. (Ideally, Viewpoint articles will be 700 words or less).

River Reflections

By Betsy Hayhow Hemming



Congratulations! It's a trout!

The cryptic email arrived mid-morning: "Fish arriving early. Be in Mio by noon."

We brushed our teeth and raced out the door; this rare opportunity to watch the Au Sable welcome 13,000 new members to its river family was something we didn't want to miss.

We arrived at 11:52 a.m., and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources crew was already there, parked on the loading ramp. The sophisticated truck—branded appropriately enough as "Fish for the Future"—sporting a sizeable oxygen tank to keep those little rainbow trout alive and kicking until they were somewhat abruptly ejected into their new river home.

A quick check of the water temperature showed six degrees Celsius—about 43 degrees. The hatchery keeper nodded his head.

"It was nine at the hatchery—that's good," he said.

I shook my head. It sounded darn chilly to me.

I had never been to a river birthing before. A long metal pipe was put together, then attached to one of four portals to tanks holding the fish. The other end was submerged in the river near the shore, and fish started spurting out in a hurry.

Now I don't know how many brain cells baby trout have, but that had to have been a physical and emotional transition. Used to the concrete raceways at the hatchery, with a roof keeping out most of the sunlight, these little wonders probably found the sandy bottom of the river and the bright sun above somewhat disconcerting. Most hovered right next to the pipe, catching their collective breath, while others darted into the shadows. A few decided that this great big mother river was just too much and tried to return to the shore, but we gently persuaded them otherwise.

Within a half hour, most of the trout had headed out to explore—or hide. We wondered how many will make it in this great big river—how many will thrive and grow really, really big; how many will find special little river holes and hunker down for years; how many will make an angler's heart sing.

The hatchery keeper's wife, a lovely person who has watched over trout for 13 years, was amazed at the size difference among the many fish, even though they were all the same age. Just like people, we mused.

I felt like a fish mom as I kept an eye out for stragglers, trying to make sure they successfully commenced their next phase of their life journey.

Soon the truck was on its way back to the hatchery, where it would be loaded again tomorrow for another delivery. Three trucks deliver three loads of fish three days a week for several weeks each spring.

That's a lot of fish, my friends. Fish for the future.

2014 election is shaping up

Conservation and natural resources issues are expected to face a tough battle this fall in outweighing Common Core state education standards and Medicaid expansion as wedge issues during Michigan's 2014 election.

The filing deadline for candidates has passed.

According to the League of Michigan Conservation Voters, no surprise names showed up at the last minute, but 2014 will be a year for Republican candidates, incumbents and new faces alike to duke it out for seats in the state capitol.

A total of 44 Republican primaries will take place for House seats—the second most in the last decade. Democrats in the House are facing fewer primaries than normal, topping out at 37.

Of the 44 Republican primaries on the docket, an estimated 19 incumbent state legislators will face primary challengers this year.

Michigan Information and Research Service (MIRS) reports that, since 2000, only one Republican challenger has won against an incumbent legislator.

On the federal level, following a string of retirement announcements from the Michigan delegation, there are now more open U.S. House seats than Michigan has seen in 22 years. Two incum-

bent congressmen, U.S. Rep. Justin Amash (R—Cascade Twp.) and U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio (R—Milford), will face primary challenges from Grand Rapids businessman Brian Ellis (running against Amash) and Birmingham attorney David Trott (running against Bentivolio).

In the 4th congressional district, home to U.S. Rep. Dave Camp (R—Midland), who will be retiring, a three-way Republican primary between current state Sen. John Moolenaar (R—Midland), Paul Mitchell and Peter Konetchy is heating up.

In the 8th congressional district, current home to U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers (R—Howell), who is also retiring, the primary will feature former state Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and state Rep. Tom McMillin, a staunch tea party voice from Rochester Hills.

On the Democratic side, Debbie Dingell is not facing any serious challengers in the 12th congressional district, which has been held by her husband, U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D—Dearborn), for more than six decades.

In the U.S. Senate race, former Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and current U.S. Rep. Gary Peters (D—Bloomfield Twp.) do not face primary challenges.



Cannery Row

—North Woods Call Photo

This restored structure on the beach at Glen Haven is a reminder of an early northern Michigan industry—not to mention writer John Steinbeck's classic novel "Cannery Row," which was set far from Michigan on the shores of California's Monterey Bay. While Monterey has the world-class Monterey Bay Aquarium anchoring the famous location of Steinbeck's story, Glen Haven has the legendary Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which each year attracts visitors from all over the United States and abroad. Rather than processing sardines—a staple of the Monterey canneries—the local business canned cherries and other fruit, then shipped it from the Glen Haven dock. Ah, sweet history.

The eastern box turtle: A herald of springtime

As we get into warmer weather, we will be outdoors—hiking, hunting turkey, collecting mushrooms, fishing and just enjoying the spring ephemeral wildflowers.

Traveling in the woods, we often come across turtles, especially the eastern box turtle. This is our only true terrestrial turtle.

Before we talk about this very special reptile, we should remind ourselves that Michigan law protects all turtles—except snapping turtles—from commercial harvest, and the wood, spotted, eastern box and Blanding's turtles are completely protected.

It is very tempting to pick up these slow turtles and try to make pets of them. This doesn't work out well in most cases.

Primarily found only in the Lower Peninsula, they are uncommon to rare in most areas. This is due to habitat loss and removing them from the environment for pets. Their main habitat is open woodland, adjacent fields, swamps and thickets near streams. As with most turtles, they are quite slow and populations have been dramatically hurt by road traffic.

Since their home range usually doesn't exceed five acres, it is not a good idea to remove them. If they are taken temporarily, please put them back in the same area where they are found.

The box turtle can live to be nearly a century old in the wild—much less in captivity, even under good conditions.

Since the population has been decimated and the home range so small, mating may occur from spring through fall as a mate is located. The female remains fertile for a few years after mating and lays three to eight soft-shelled eggs in the ground during early summer. The eggs take 75 to 90 days to hatch. Some believe, as with snapping turtles, that if

The Natural World

By Richard Schinkel



A male eastern box turtle

—Wikipedia photo

hatched extremely late in the season the young will remain below ground until the next spring.

The eastern box turtle is found in a group of "hinge" shelled turtles. The upper shell—called the carapace—is dark, with a pattern of orange and yellow. The lower shell—called the plastron—is colored yellow and has a flexible hinge which allows the shell to close totally at the front. This is needed to allow the head, tail and legs to be pulled under the shell when confronted by a predator.

Their coloration mimics the dry leaf litter of the forest floor. Male box turtles may have blue patches on the cheeks, throat and front legs. The plastron of the male is somewhat concave to aid in mating. Males most often have red eyes.

The turtle's shell is vital to its survival. The shell of the box turtle grows scale-like features called scutes that continue to grow during the life of the turtle and has growth rings. Some say that you can tell the age of the box turtle by

counting the rings, as in a tree, but we have had problems doing that at the nature center. Most often when counting the rings—if the turtle is of any size—we almost always end up with 16, so we believe by experience that this technique is not at all reliable.

Eastern box turtles are omnivores and feed on all types of plant and animal material. Some maintain that the younger turtles are more carnivorous, because they require more protein to grow.

At the nature center, we often see box turtles with either red or purple faces, because they have been feeding primarily on strawberries and later blackberries.

Since these turtles eat about anything, they often consume poisonous mushrooms, which makes them poisonous to eat. This caused American Indians some problems, as they were an easy meal to catch.

Whatever you do, please leave this rare turtle in the wild.

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your subscriptions

Conservation Officer Logs (3/13/14 through 3/31/14)

Cattle litter, a "mountain man," various outlaws & joining in a rap music video

DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)

CO Doug Hermanson investigated an incident involving the dumping of livestock on CFA lands. A complaint was reported that two cows had been dumped in the area of a logging job. CO Hermanson was able to retrieve tag information from the animals and locate the owners. Enforcement action was taken against the livestock owners for the litter.

CO Marvin Gerlach received a complaint of several near-miss car/deer incidents near a residence in Menominee County. It seems with the long winter, the residents of one house felt sorry for the local deer and decided to start putting out some feed for recreational viewing. Unfortunately for the deer, they decided to place it next to their mailbox along a high-traffic county road. CO Gerlach talked to the "deer feeders," explaining that although they were not in violation of the recreational feeding rules, they were certainly putting motorists and the deer in harm's way by locating the deer feed so close to the road. The subjects agreed that their activities were causing a hazard and decided to relocate the feed site to a safer location.

CO Marvin Gerlach received the disposition on an illegal turkey case in Menominee County from the fall of 2013. The subject pled guilty to the illegal turkey charge and paid \$1,525 in restitution, court costs and fines. He also lost all hunting privileges until 2016. A second subject from the same complaint pled guilty to recreational trespass and paid \$375 in court costs and fines.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Kevin Postma contacted an ice angler at the mouth of Pendills Creek. The subject advised CO Postma that he didn't have a license and had tried to buy one earlier in the day, but the Internet was down and in turn the license machine was also down. CO Postma followed up and confirmed the angler's story. In this case discretion was used and arrangements were made to make sure the individual purchased a fishing license.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

For several months **CO Jon Sklba** has been attempting to contact individuals responsible for the construction of a rough cabin built on state land. Last week, CO Sklba found the cabin had received recent use. While leaving, he observed a subject driving a truck into the area with a snowmobile in the bed. Considering the cabin as a potential meth lab, CO Sklba returned with a local deputy and contacted the subject. No evidence of narcotics was found and it turned out the young downstate man had built the cabin to live like a "mountain man" off and on. Enforcement action was taken, and he was ordered to tear down and remove the cabin.

DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

CO Jeff Ginn was conducting a taxidermy inspection when he located a black bear missing pa-

perwork and an untagged turkey with a 10-inch beard that were taken by the same subject. CO Ginn contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario and was provided detailed information on the black bear. CO Ginn conducted a follow-up investigation with the subject and was able to confirm a legally harvested bear from Ontario. When CO Ginn inquired about the wild turkey, the subject lowered his head and admitted to taking it out of season. The subject was ticketed and enforcement action was also taken against the taxidermist for improper record keeping.

Sgt. Michael Bomay and **CO Jeff Ginn** were on patrol of the Muskegon River and observed a subject fishing from a vessel near the Croton Dam. As the patrol vessel became apparent to the subject, he immediately set his fishing pole down and looked away from the COs' boat as it approached. The subject acted surprised to see the COs out on the high water and instantly informed them, "You got me." No fish were taken but the subject was issued a ticket for fishing without a license. A check of the retail sales system confirmed the subject had also not purchased a fishing license last year.

CO Troy Mueller responded to a complaint of a subject taking deer during the closed season, and at the residence located remains of eight deer, three raccoons, a squirrel and a wild turkey, all taken during the closed season or with no licenses. During the interview, the subject admitted to shooting most of the deer out of season. A check with the retail sales system confirmed the suspect had not purchased any hunting licenses for several years. Enforcement action was taken, including seizing the firearm for condemnation.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

CO Mike Hearn observed a plume of thick black smoke several miles away and located the source on Twin Lake Rd near US 131. Upon investigation, the CO learned that the property owner was burning stumps in a large open pit. Aside from the stumps, there were also several bags of trash containing household rubbish, plastic children's toys, a couch, stereo equipment, etc. The property owner was ordered to extinguish the fire, and an arrest warrant is being sought for the unlawful disposal of solid waste.

COs Steve Lockwood and **Jason McCullough** conducted an investigation into a group of individuals they ticketed for shooting rabbits and grouse from a motor vehicle. The COs did multiple interviews and eventually obtained confessions and additional evidence on numerous other animals killed during the closed season. The group of individuals had been shooting rabbits, deer, grouse and squirrels from inside a vehicle, as well as during the closed season. The group had killed six deer in one day in a section of remote state land during the month of February. The kill sites were lo-



cated and evidence seized. Numerous charges have been authorized by prosecutors in three separate counties.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

CO Seth Rhodea received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint that involved subjects shooting a goose and then leaving it alive after it was injured from the gunshots. After several phone calls were made, a possible suspect was identified. CO Rhodea then contacted the suspect, who agreed to meet with him. Upon meeting with the suspect, CO Rhodea immediately received a confession from the hunter who was then ticketed for taking a goose out of season.

CO Dan Lee and **Sgt. Ron Kimmerly** were patrolling Belle Isle when they observed a vehicle that appeared to be avoiding them. They located the vehicle a short time later as it pulled into a parking lot. The driver was suspended with warrants out of Detroit. After the subject was arrested, he thanked the COs for the work they are doing on the Island.

CO Jeremy Payne worked with the Michigan State Police (MSP) on a road hunting complaint in Isabella County, where three suspects were driving around Isabella and Montcalm counties poaching squirrels, rabbits and raccoons from a vehicle. The MSP located and stopped the suspects, and found the driver to be highly intoxicated and in possession of an uncased loaded rifle. There were also numerous CPL violations. The subjects were arrested and warrants are being requested for recreational trespass, taking game during the closed season, possession of game with no license and 16 other game violations.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

While patrolling Allegan County, **CO Michael Mshar** located a subject burning a mattress along with many other household objects. When contact was made, the subject indicated he had obtained a burning permit. Enforcement action was taken after an explanation was given that burning permits are only for yard waste.

CO Brad Brewer and **Sgt. Zachary Doss** followed up on information about a deer without a tag hanging at a residence. A short investigation led to the subject admitting that the deer was a road kill where the subject had not obtained a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Robinette received a

RAP complaint about a large amount of litter being dumped on commercial forest property. CO Robinette was able to obtain a name from items in the garbage. An investigation led to the owner of the garbage being ticketed for littering and cleaning up the mess.

DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)

While enroute to the wildlife lab, **CO Rich Nickols** was exiting the freeway when he observed a large cloud of dust ahead and then saw a vehicle bounce off a guardrail. The vehicle continued on and CO Nickols followed it a short distance before conducting a traffic stop. The driver said he was looking down at his cell phone and lost control of the vehicle. The driver was also driving in violation of his restricted license. A ticket was issued for careless driving.

CO Damon Owens and **Sgt. Troy Bahlau** closed a waterfowl case where the non-resident subject was hunting without a small game license and state or federal stamp. The subject was found guilty on all violations and ordered to pay fines and costs totaling \$700.

CO Shane Webster made a traffic stop of a vehicle for failing to stop at a stop sign while working on Belle Isle. One of the passengers had five outstanding warrants for his arrest. CO Webster arrested the subject and transported him to jail.

CO Todd Thorn issued one ticket to a man hunting small game without a license. When questioned, he stated he didn't have time to go get one. CO Thorn then pointed out that his hunting partner, whom he rode with, produced a small game license purchased just that morning.

CO Todd Thorn assisted MSP and local deputies with a foot chase of two men who fled from a breaking-and-entering crime in progress. A K-9 tracking dog was dispatched to the area and followed the individuals for nearly two hours. After a lengthy pursuit, the two men were located and arrested by officers as they attempted to cross a road. The men had felony warrants, had fled with electronics from the residence, and were also charged with flee and elude and other offenses.

While working Belle Isle, **COs Todd Thorn** and **Jeremy Payne** were scanning a Detroit Police frequency and heard a complaint where a fast food restaurant was about to be robbed. The complaint indicated there were three people located in the parking lot with face masks on. The COs immediately responded to the area and witnessed the subjects walking across the road. The COs contacted the subjects, one of whom is a Detroit area rapper, who explained to the COs that they were filming a video and the video

footage would contain a scene where he is arrested by the police. A special emphasis would be placed on the handcuffing scene while being arrested. CO Payne ran a file on all three individuals and found the rapper had a warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss received reports of subjects taking overlimits of panfish on Graham Lake. Upon checking the lake the next day, CO Goss observed several anglers on the ice. While watching through his spotting scope, CO Goss recognized one of the anglers as someone he had arrested several times in the past. A file check revealed the subject had three warrants for his arrest. When CO Goss made contact it was discovered that he was 19 fish over his limit. The subject was lodged on the warrants and ticketed for the overlimit.

DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

CO Mark Ennett responded to a RAP complaint regarding the illegal shooting of a Canada goose on a small private pond in Monroe County. After a few minutes of speaking to the homeowner and his guest, full confessions were obtained and the goose carcass was retrieved. The guest used the homeowner's rifle with a scope to shoot the goose from the house. The two had breasted the goose out and were preparing to eat it for dinner that night. CO Ennett ticketed the shooter for killing a goose out-of-season, gave numerous warnings, and seized the rifle from the resident for condemnation.

CO Dan Walzak observed a vehicle on Belle Isle traveling in excess of the speed limit. The vehicle was pulled over and contact was made with the driver. The driver stated that he was merely driving his girlfriend and her father around the island for her birthday. A check of the occupants revealed that the father had one felony warrant and six misdemeanor warrants for his arrest. The driver had 34 misdemeanor warrants for his arrest. A verbal warning was given for the speed and both subjects were lodged on their respective warrants. The girlfriend, with no warrants and possessing a valid driver's license, was released to finish her birthday tour of the island by herself.

While assigned to Belle Isle, **CO Mike Drexler** and a MSP trooper responded to a call of a suicide in progress. CO Drexler and the trooper arrived on scene within minutes of receiving the dispatch call and found a female who had cut one of her wrists in an attempt to commit suicide. First aid was rendered until Emergency Medical Services personnel arrived on scene. The female was transported to the Detroit Receiving Hospital.

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Published twice monthly (except one issue in January, April, July and October) by Newshound Productions LLC, 5411 East DE Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004. First-class postage paid at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Online subscriptions \$35 per year and \$60 per two years. Print subscriptions \$55 per year and \$95 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The North Woods Call*, 5411 East DE Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004. MDOT Code: 8021-0068

Fish egg collection completed

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has completed its annual egg-take efforts, despite extreme weather conditions this spring.

Each year the DNR collects and fertilizes eggs from various fish species, including wild walleye in the Muskegon River and wild steelhead migrating to the Little Manistee River. These fertilized eggs are reared in hatcheries and rearing ponds throughout the state and eventually stocked to create and enhance fisheries in Michigan's waters.

Of all the walleye stocked in Michigan, 80 percent comes from the Muskegon River's egg-take efforts. Of the steelhead stocked in Michigan, 100 percent comes from the egg-take efforts at the Little Manistee River weir. The goal for 2014 was to collect enough eggs during these efforts to stock 16 million walleye and more than 1 million steelhead later this year.

"There is a very short window of opportunity Fisheries Division staff has to collect walleye and steelhead eggs in order to optimize survival and growth in our

hatcheries and rearing ponds," said DNR Lake Michigan basin coordinator Todd Kalish. "In a typical year, these egg-take efforts occur over the course of a week to collect and process about 600 mature walleye and 2,000 mature steelhead."

This was not a typical year, however, given the near record water flows and flooding that has occurred in many Michigan rivers. On the Muskegon River, access sites and bridges were closed, while the Little Manistee River weir facility was threatened due to extreme erosion caused by the high water levels. As a result of these extreme conditions, Fisheries Division staff implemented emergency protocols and mobilized diverse staff resources to work unconditional hours and days to assure egg-take quotas were met.

The DNR worked all day and most of the night on April 21 to meet the entire steelhead egg-take quota for 2014, and worked Easter weekend in high-water conditions to meet the Muskegon River walleye egg-take quota.

Final Shot



Beach Bums

—North Woods Call photo

A couple of sun worshippers relax on a beach in Leelanau County's Glen Arbor Township. Scenes like this will become more common over the next few months as more people emerge from their cold-weather shelters to take advantage of warmer days.

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