



“The newspaper for people who love the north”



Late June 2014
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Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



Historic fish transport railroad car on display at the Oden State Fish Hatchery.

—North Woods Call photo

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Summer break: A time for intense reflection

Early July is traditionally summer break time for *The North Woods Call*, so your next edition will not arrive until mid July.

This year we'll be occupied with more than the usual chores and catch-up activities around home. And we won't be hitting the road for any eagerly anticipated vacations.

Instead, we have a lot to think about and some tough decisions to make.

The editor's wife has been diagnosed with a serious case of cancer and has already begun chemotherapy treatments in an effort to get ahead of the disease. But we don't know where this dark road

will lead—or what we will encounter along the way.

Those of you who have been through this sort of thing know how overwhelming it can be. Besides learning about numerous complicated and confusing medical choices, we are simply trying to absorb the shocking news and transition to a new reality.

We're hoping for the best, of course, but are facing this challenge on a day-by-day basis.

Frankly, we still don't know what this will mean for *The North Woods Call*. The time and resources that go into producing the newspaper have to be factored in to any considerations going forward.

So this will be a time of intense reflection.

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THE NORTH WOODS CALL

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Navigating the Tahquamenon —North Woods Call photo

Summer is a good time to dust off the kayaks and launch them on a northern Michigan river. Here, two boats head toward Lake Superior on the Tahquamenon River in the Upper Peninsula. The Rivermouth Campground, five miles south of Paradise, is a great place to embark on relatively easy, two-way river trips. There is plenty of good fishing and wildlife viewing along the way. And don't be surprised if you find yourself accompanied by a family of curious river otters swimming along the waterway.

Camp Grayling expansion targets public lands

The Michigan National Guard and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are reportedly trying to ink a "backroom deal" that would transfer some 54,000 acres of public land to Camp Grayling.

They apparently want to "expand the reach" of the 147,000-acre military training facility and compromise prime fishing and hunting areas, according to a recent article by Lydia Lohrer in the *Detroit Free Press*.

A memo authored by Susan Thiel, manager of the DNR's Grayling Forest Management Unit, and obtained by the *Free Press* revealed that the military has been in discussions with the DNR and expects an agreement this summer.

The memo was sent to around 40 DNR employees, Lohrer reported, who were directed to have potential areas identified by May, with a potential "verbal agreement" in place by mid-July. The

aim, according to the *Free Press*, is to increase man-hours at Camp Grayling from 200,000 to 1 million, and "swell the size" of the facility by 36 percent and camp use by 500 percent.

A map that has reportedly been part of the discussion points to a large section of the Manistee River on both sides from military use, as well as areas on the North Branch of the Au Sable River near Connor's Marsh. Included is wildlife
(Continued on Page 2)



North Woods Notes

ENDLESS WINTER: The *Marquette Mining Journal* earlier this month reported that some forecasters were predicting that ice on Lake Superior ice could last until July. The prognostication, which was repeated in *USA Today*, said the ice was a "continuing reminder of the wintry grip of Mother Nature, which still has yet to completely loosen." Officials have also said that surface water temperatures in the deepest parts of the lake will be at least 6 degrees Fahrenheit colder than normal by August, delaying the onset of the evaporation season.

SHEPPARD'S CALL: *The North Woods Call*—particularly those years that the newspaper was published by the late Glen Sheppard—is the focus of a feature story in the June 2014 issue of the *Mackinac Journal*. The article was written by longtime *Call* reader Richard A. Wiles, who is a retired history and reading development instructor at Petoskey High School and a retired graduate research instructor at Spring Arbor University.

ASIAN CARP FAILURE: After spending \$110 million on electric barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal that were supposed to keep Asian carp from swimming upstream to the Great Lakes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it still hasn't solved the problem. According to an article by Eric Sharp in *Bridge Magazine*, following the Corps initial investment and subsequent "upgrades and augmentation," the invaders are just 50 miles downstream from Lake Michigan, with some evidence that at least a few may have crossed into the big lake.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: This year marks the 40th anniversary of Michigan's Endangered Species Act (ESA)—legislation that has been critical to the recovery of the state's rarest flora and fauna. The ESA was signed into law by then-Gov. William G. Milliken on July 11, 1974. Since then, the Department of Natural Resources has partnered with many conservation organizations and federal agencies to help threatened and endangered species, including the gray wolf, bald eagle, peregrine falcon and osprey.

BOARDMAN RIVER: The Boardman River was recently named in the national Top 10 "Waters to Watch" for conservation efforts by the National Fish Habitat Partnership. The "Waters to Watch" list is assembled by the nation's leading authorities on aquatic conservation. The projects listed represent examples of local efforts that protect, restore and enhance fish and aquatic communities. "These projects are a model for how fish habitat conservation should be approached," said Kelly Hepler, chair of the National Fish Habitat Board.



Au Sable Threat?

—North Woods Call photo

The Au Sable River—seen here calmly flowing through a public park in downtown Grayling—is among those natural resources that conservationists fear could be negatively impacted by a proposed expansion of the Camp Grayling military reservation (see story above). Areas of the North Branch have reportedly been mentioned in discussions between the National Guard and Department of Natural Resources.

Michigan vs. Chesapeake Energy

Charges of racketeering and fraud are filed

The Michigan attorney general's office has filed felony racketeering and fraud charges against Oklahoma-based Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

The company is now accused of victimizing private land owners across northern Michigan.

"Scamming hardworking Michigan citizens is not how we do business in this state," said Attorney General Bill Schuette, calling Chesapeake's activities "fraudulent business practices."

The complaint alleges that Chesapeake directed their agents to recruit multiple landowners across Northern Michigan to lease their land to Chesapeake the summer of 2010. Landowners often notified the agents of existing mortgages on the land to be leased, the attorney general said, and the agents allegedly indicated the mortgages would not be an obstacle.

When competition from competitors stopped, Chesapeake—through its leasing agents—allegedly cancelled nearly all the leases, using mortgages as the purported basis for the cancellation.

Schuette alleges, therefore, that Chesapeake ob-

tained uncompensated land options from these landowners by false pretenses, and prevented competitors from leasing the land.

The new charges, filed June 5, include one count of conducting criminal enterprises, a felony punishable by a fine up to \$100,000. In addition, there are eight counts of "false pretenses" involving \$1,000 to \$20,000—a felony punishable by a fine of \$10,000 per count, or three times the value of the money or property involved, whichever is greater.

Representatives from Chesapeake were scheduled to be arraigned on June 25, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. before Cheboygan County's 89th District Court.

Chesapeake already faced criminal charges filed by Schuette in March 2014 for alleged anti-trust violations with regard to private land leasing in the summer of 2010, and the state land auction held by the Department of Natural Resources in October 2010.

During the DNR's May 2010 auction, both Chesapeake and Encana Oil and Gas purchased natural
(Continued on Page 3)

Backwards-sdrawkcaB printing

Oops.

We must have been suffering from a touch of dyslexia this month when the early June *North Woods Call* went to press.

As subscribers to the print edition no doubt discovered when they attempted to open the newspaper, the cover and back page were inappropriately juxtaposed. As a result, the paper opened from the left-hand side, rather than the normal right-hand posi-

tion.

We discovered this when we showed up to retrieve *The Call* from the printer and decided to go with it as it was, rather than asking for a complete reprint. That would only have delayed delivery and caused us to make an extra trip to Allegan to get the corrected edition.

Our apologies for any inconvenience this unexpected error may have caused.



The Joseph S. Fay

—North Woods Call photo

Remnants of the wooden steamer *Joseph S. Fay* lie along the Lake Huron shoreline near the 40-Mile Point lighthouse, northwest of Rogers City. Among the first of the Great Lakes freighters built for the iron ore trade, the ship barely made it to a sand bar near shore after almost sinking during a fierce storm on October 19, 1905. It eventually broke up on the sand bar and sank in about 12 feet of water.

Camp Grayling expansion targets public lands

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restoration territory, such as endangered Kirtland's warbler habitat—lands purchased with Pitman-Robertson funds—and state game areas, the article says.

Anglers of the Au Sable members reportedly learned about the proposal from a copy of Thiel's memo and called a meeting May 22 with various organizations.

Their concern is that the proper procedures for such a massive land transfer have been ignored.

"What really scared me is that they said they need an agreement by July," said Bruce Pregler, attorney and president of the Anglers of the Au Sable. "It's like a handshake agreement is being orchestrated, and no one told the public about it."

"The anglers are on this, we are monitoring it, and we will do everything in our power to make sure it's done by the book. I'm sure the residents of Lovells will tell you their windows rattle sometimes. What will so much additional traffic do? They deserve input."

DNR Forestry Division Chief Bill O'Neill said the agency will do a thorough environmental assessment and be "very deliberate" when considering any land transfer application. "In this case, where we're at now is working with the military to try to understand what they need."

The public will have a chance to give input into the matter, O'Neill said.



North Woods Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

JULY NRC MEETING: The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will be held July 10 at the Outdoor Adventure and Discovery Center, 1801 Atwater Street in Detroit. The August 14 meeting will be in the Upper Peninsula community of Munising at the American Legion, 610 W. Munising Avenue. The NRC will return to Michigan State University's Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaumont Road, in Lansing for its Sept. 11 and Nov. 6 meetings, while the Oct. 9 gathering will be at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, on Higgins Lake near Roscommon. The Dec. 11 meeting will be back in Lansing at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue.

AU SABLE MERGER: The Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association will merge with Anglers of the Au Sable later this year. Both boards are said to be in agreement with the idea in principle, and final details of the merger are being worked out. As it now stands, according to a piece in the Anglers' *Riverwatch* newsletter, the Mio-based organization will be officially absorbed at midnight September 8th. This will bring an end to the group's productive seven-year run as river keeper on what is known as the "Trophy Water." The work that was initiated during their time will continue under the Anglers' direction.

JIM ENGER: As some of you already know, Richard James Enger—an outdoorsman, fly fisherman, writer, marketing director, father and first editor of the Anglers of the Au Sable newsletter, *Riverwatch*—passed away last December. Among many other accomplishments, he was an outstanding conservation program speaker and author of "The Incomplete Angler," a book published during the 1980s. While on staff at Kirtland Community College, he was instrumental in organizing the Kirtland's Warbler Festival.

TROUT ECONOMY: The Anglers of the Au Sable group is currently working with researchers at Michigan State University and Trout Unlimited on a study of Michigan trout fishers and the economic impact of their activities. Results of the study, which is expected to help build an economic case for river conservation, are expected to be released soon.

EPA CARBON RULES: Michigan environmental groups have been cheering the Obama Administration's proposed rules to curb carbon pollution from power plants, but the state's top environmental regulator says flexibility is needed to avoid skyrocketing electric prices (see related editorial on Page 4). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced a plan to decrease the nation's dependence on coal-fired power plants, while demand for electrical energy continues to rise. The plan requires cutting carbon emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030—compared to 2005 levels—but some observers are warning that consumer electric rates could go up as much as 80 percent. Be sure to let your voice be heard during the 120-day public comment period.

SLEEPING BEAR WILDERNESS: Some 32,500 acres of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore—nearly half—was formally dedicated as a protected wilderness area in late May.

Our 61st Year: Looking Back to June 22, 1955
—Excerpts from *The North Woods Call*—

Across the border lesson

EDITOR'S NOTE: With current battles over the use of Michigan natural resources held in the public trust, it's instructive to remember that similar issues were prominent nearly 60 years ago.

By Marguerite Gahagan

It could happen here—the big land giveaway.

The last stands of virgin pine, the crystal-clear trout streams, the home of the whitetails and ruffed grouse, could be given away in Michigan. The first iridescent nibbling away of federal lands—dedicated to public uses by fishermen, hunters and recreation seekers—has started and, like a dike with a small opening, the small opening leads to a forest of giveaway lands that eventually can't be prevented.

In Ontario, our neighbors are more foresighted and less commercially greedy. While the U.S. sets the stage for the giveaway, Ontario turns the clock back and, on its great acres of public-dedicated lands, starts progress to turn the forests back to their primeval loveliness from the threat of too much civilization.

Trespass signs and isolated, but potentially troublesome, private property are being considered and every effort is made to keep the great forests free of man's civilizing influences. The slow inroads made by big highways are part of the "too civilized" worry of the Ontario officials and the big roads are being sidetracked.

Commercial interests, restaurants, motels and "Coney Islands," are not a part of the peace and quiet that tourists seek when they travel the thousands of miles into Ontario's beautiful wilderness. And an alert Ontario Department of Lands and Forests has taken steps to oust civilization and save the wilderness.

Ontario, with its comparatively small population, attracts a growing number of U.S. tourists—hunters, fishermen, beauty lovers. Ontario can expect hundreds of thousands more who will take their vacation money to the land where unspoiled beauty may be found if the United States persists in its giveaway of precious national forests and monuments where the last scant remains of native wildlife have managed to survive.

Michigan residents, far removed in miles from the great national forests of the west—now the object of greedy private individuals and short-sighted politicians—are too close for comfort in actuality to what may happen here. Their voices should be added to the swelling volume of outraged citizens fighting to safeguard a national heritage.

Friends of the Jordan president loses cancer battle

Dr. John William Richter, president of Friends of the Jordan River Watershed and a longtime subscriber to *The North Woods Call*, died May 28 at his home in East Jordan.

He was 62.

Richter, an articulate and dedicated defender of northern Michigan's great outdoors, had been suffering from cancer.

"We have lost a great friend and passionate fighter for the environment," said Anne Zukowski of Charlevoix, a fellow activist and member of the Jordan River group. "Words cannot express the depth of our loss. His spirit will reside forever in every drop of water, blade of grass and whisper of the wind in the Jordan River Valley that he loved so much. He will be greatly missed."

Richter was born December 2, 1951, in Clare to Charles and Addie (Popp) Richter, and graduated from Midland High School in 1970. He then graduated from Michigan State University in 1979 as a doctor of veterinary medicine.

He partnered with his brother, Dr. Tom Richter, at Freeland Veterinary Clinic in Freeland from 1979 to 1984. In 1984, John Richter moved to East Jordan with the dream of living "Up North," and to pursue his love and respect for the Jordan Valley. At that time, he started the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic, where he provided thirty years of compassionate care to thousands of animals and their beloved own-



Dr. John Richter

Tim Goodwin photo

Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, and receiving its Clarence Kroupa Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, as well as the Friends of the Jordan "Honor Award" in 2009.

Richter is survived by his children, Lisa Christine (Kevin) Dunson-Richter of East Jordan and Nathan Jarad Richter of Clare; grandchildren Alicia (Mike) Whiteford, John Richards, Karlee Dunson, Karah Dunson and Katlynn Dunson; great grandchildren Alexis and Parker Whiteford; brothers Charles Richter of Traverse City, and Thomas Richter of Onaway; nieces and nephews; and significant other, Brenda Kirkpatrick of East Jordan.

Richter is also survived by his former wives, MaryJo (Peacock) Richter of East Jordan and Kerry Ovaite of Clare. His parents preceded him in death.

Richter also leaves behind many close friends, including the staff and clients of the Jordan Valley Animal Clinic, and board members past and present of his beloved Friends of the Jordan.

His family thanks Hospice of Northwest Michigan, and its team of nurses, Cindy and Julie, as well as social worker, Bob.

A celebration of Richter's life was held June 14 at the Friends of the Jordan Watershed Center, 101 Union Street in East Jordan.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, P.O. Box 412, East Jordan, Michigan 49727.

In 2008, he was chosen as East Jordan's Citizen of the Year. He was proudest of his accomplishments in earning the Environmentalist of the Year in 2008 from the

Pete Petoskey talks natural resource management

EDITOR'S NOTE: We recently had the opportunity to view a video presentation orchestrated by Michigan conservationists and North Woods Call contributors Doug Mummert and John Gunnell. The video features a conversation with Merrill "Pete" Petoskey, retired chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Wildlife Division, who will soon be celebrating his 91st birthday. Here are some excerpts from the conversation:

* * *

Merrill "Pete" Petoskey has plenty to say when it comes to what the DNR needs to do to preserve wild areas in Michigan.

"Get out of politics," Petoskey said bluntly. "There are too many politicians trying to run things and that's not good. They're more interested in how they can get money out of things. We need scientific management."

Petoskey said the politicians of today are "quite different" than those he worked with when he was in the Wildlife Division.

"[In my day,] they were really interested in the conservation of natural resources," Petoskey said. "I don't believe the politicians of today feel that way. If they can make a buck doing something, they'll do it—whether it's good for the resource, or not good for the resource. I think that's baloney."

Leaders of the DNR should be accountable to the people of Michigan, Petoskey said, not to politicians.

And the federal government has far too much

influence over conservation in Michigan, he said. "The more money the feds put in our state, the more influence they have and you shouldn't count the dollars you're getting to manage resources.

"You answer questions to protect and manage the resource, not to make some guy feel good. I always felt that you should be firm in your decisions and be right in your decisions. I wasn't always right, but I was right enough times..."

Similarly, conservation officers need to manage resources and enforce the law "for the benefit of the people of Michigan," Petoskey said. Unfortunately, "they spend an awful lot of time inside their cars," he said.

In order to handle the resources well, conservation officers need to be "on the ground someplace," according to Petoskey.

"When I was in [the DNR], we were all deputy conservation officers. Now you can't do that, because of the unions or some such thing. On the ground is the way to manage resources, not from your car, or [behind] some computer..."

Petoskey said he hopes that good leadership is encouraged among field personnel and that top brass stands behind their decisions.

"When you manage resources, you've got to be straightforward and do it right," Petoskey said. If it steps on [someone's] shoulders, or on your shoulders, tough."

There are some areas—such as the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Area and the Pi-

geon River Country State Forest—that are particularly sensitive and need special protection, Petoskey said.

"The Pigeon River area has a problem with horseback riding," he said. "Horseback riding is fine as long as they stay on designated trails. Some of them don't do that and they have built many camps up there that kind of over-emphasized horseback riding. The Porcupine Mountains is a pretty rough country and I don't think they can hardly ever over-use that. But in the Pigeon River Country they have over-used it."

On the subject of bear hunting, Petoskey acknowledged that baiting is legal in Michigan, but said if he was been in charge of the DNR, it wouldn't be. "To hunt behind a pile of sugar beets is not my idea of hunting," he said.

The sad thing is that citizens these days are "pretty apathetic about natural resources," he said. "They don't know a lot about them and don't intend to ever learn about them."

Petoskey said the ongoing emphasis on computers and communication technology—particularly among young people—is detrimental to active participation in outdoor activities.

"I don't know what they call those things kids carry around and punch the buttons," he said, "but if you took a hammer to every one of those, it might influence a kid to think something about the outdoors. Nobody takes [youngsters outside]. Their parents don't even know anything about natural resources, either. Unfortunately, parental guidance isn't what it used to be."

"The River"

The world premier of a movie all about the Au Sable River, its history, its fly fishers and its defenders was held this spring at the Rialto Theater in downtown Grayling. About 300 people reportedly attended the screening, which helped publicize the film and raise money for Anglers of the Au Sable. "The River," by director Robert Thompson—which actually contains three separate movies—can be purchased in DVD and BluRay formats for \$33 and \$39 respectively at the Gates Au Sable Lodge online store.

—Anglers of the Au Sable photo



Chesapeake charged with racketeering & fraud

Continued from Page 1

gas leases in Michigan. In 2012, the Reuters news agency uncovered a possible conspiracy between the two companies' executives, discussing an agreement following the May 2010 auction to 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 land lease price in Michigan going from \$1,510 per acre in May 2010 to less than \$40 an acre at the October 2010 auction and for private leasing to stop.

Schuette filed one count of anti-trust violation and one count of attempted anti-trust violation against Chesapeake Energy Corporation on March 5, 2014, in Cheboygan County. On May 9, following a week-long prelimi-

nary examination, Schuette filed one additional count of anti-trust violation based on evidence presented during the preliminary exam.

As of this writing, Judge Maria Barton had not yet issued a ruling on whether the case would be bound over to circuit court and set for trial. Encana, meanwhile, pleaded no contest earlier and agreed to a \$5 million civil settlement.

Little Presque Isle "Songbird Trail" is improved

Thanks to Lon and Lynn Emerick of Skandia, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was recently able to add interpretive panels along the popular Songbird Trail at Little Presque Isle Recreation Area in Marquette County.

With the support of a \$750 donation from the Emericks, DNR staff were able to create 18 new informational signs, which guide the hiker along the trail while explaining the surrounding habitat and wildlife that frequent the area. The panels replace numbered guide posts, which required the use of a printed trail

guide.

The trail begins near County Road 550 and ends at the mouth of Harlow Creek on the Lake Superior shoreline. Hikers frequently see a variety of migrating and nesting raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl, woodpeckers, warblers and other songbirds while walking through the pine forests, wetlands, and aquatic habitats surrounding the trail.

The 1.1-mile nature trail was originally created in 1992 as a volunteer project led by the Emericks, who are award-winning authors and nature writers.

Help shape new Kirtland's Warbler plan

Public input is being sought to help shape a new Kirtland's warbler conservation plan.

In 1966, the bird was listed as threatened, but today history is being made, as this unique songbird may soon be off the federal endangered species list.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service signed a memorandum of understanding in June 2011 to clarify each agency's commitment to the conservation of the Kirtland's warbler.

Due to the potential for delisting, the three agencies decided it was necessary to develop a Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Plan (KWCP) that would provide future strategic guidance to sustain a viable population of Kirtland's warblers across their breeding range.

The current habitat and brown-headed cowbird management programs have been successful in addressing the major threats to Kirtland's warblers, and the KWCP will help transition management from the recovery phase to the new focus on long-term population sustainability. The plan will provide goals and technical guidance to managers and others on how to create and maintain breeding habitat, and control cowbirds.

The public may comment at DNR-Wildlife@michigan.gov before July 28, or by attending a meeting July 9 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Grayling Nature Center, 100 South James Street.

Anglers claim "blind boosterism"

The Anglers of the Au Sable and Trout Unlimited have accused the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) of "blind boosterism" due to its support of expanding a private fish hatchery.

The plan could harm the Au Sable River, according to the environmental groups. They point to e-mails the groups obtained under the state's Freedom of Information Act in which MDARD officials describe their role as an "advocate for aquaculture."

According to a recent story in the *Detroit Free Press*, the groups said that MDARD's biased support in favor of a discharge permit requested by Harietta Hills Trout Farm LLC and co-owner Dan Vogler interferes with the work of other state agencies—specifically the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DEQ was expected to decide soon whether the 100-year-old hatchery can gradually step up commercial production of rainbow trout to about 300,000 pounds per year from its current rate of about 20,000 pounds. The DNR has proposed water sampling and testing that MDARD has opposed.

"It's an unfair accusation," MDARD spokeswoman Jennifer Holton said of the boosterism charge.

The expanded hatchery is only expected to create about two jobs, but leaders of the angler groups say discharges of algae-promoting phosphorus, which comes from fish food and waste, and a disinfectant containing formaldehyde, could do permanent damage to one of the best fly fishing and kayaking areas in the United States—an area of the Au Sable known as the "holy waters."

The environmental groups say they are not trying to block the expansion, but they want lower phosphorus limits and stricter monitoring requirements than those set out in a draft permit, plus a performance bond, before a state discharge permit is finalized.

Vogler, meanwhile, reportedly told the *Free Press* that improving Michigan's aquaculture production is important to the state and the nation since the U.S. imports about 90 percent of the seafood it consumes. "It's a food security issue," he said of the plans to expand the Grayling area facility, which was once owned and operated by the DNR.

Opinion

Quote Box

"The way of a canoe is the way of the wilderness and of a freedom almost forgotten. It is an antidote to insecurity, the open door to waterways of ages past and a way of life with profound and abiding satisfactions."

—Sigurd F. Olson

A done deal before deal is done?

A recent addition to a Graymont Inc. website that is dedicated to what the company is calling the "Rexton Project" (see story on Page 8 of this issue) suggests that company officials may know something the general public doesn't.

That is, they seem to be expecting imminent approval of the project and have already moved ahead with construction of a community based project information office that was scheduled to open this month. In addition, a local resident has reportedly been hired to serve as a "point of contact" for questions and concerns about the project.

While we appreciate Graymont's efforts to provide information to community residents and others who are following the ongoing project development, we wonder whether the cards have been stacked since the beginning against those who oppose the idea.

State and local officials may be salivating at the prospect of what they see as much-needed economic development, but giving away thousands of acres of state forest land—held in the public trust for purposes other than limestone mining—is of questionable benefit to the people of Michigan.

Frankly, we don't like anything that smacks of back room dealing and end runs around the public interest. We sure hope that this is not what is being done in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Camp Grayling expansion?

Speaking of back room deals (see editorial above and story on Page 1), what's going on at Camp Grayling?

Some say the Michigan National Guard and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been working on a stealth agreement that would transfer some 54,000 acres of public land to the military installation.

And, as is way too often the case, the public is the last to know—this time via an inside DNR memo obtained by the *Detroit Free Press* and others.

Be that as it may, the Guard reportedly doesn't believe it is required to submit an environmental impact statement, as required by federal law. They say they are exempt because they are "a state agency."

The Michigan Sierra Club, however, begs to differ.

"The Michigan department of military affairs (a.k.a. the National Guard) is a congressionally authorized and funded federal agency—even though it's under the jurisdiction of the state," Marvin Roberson, forest ecologist with the Sierra Club, was quoted by the *Free Press* as saying. "Federal courts have held that the National Guard and all its units are federal entities, subject to federal standards. If they expand—regardless of what type of land, they need to produce a federal impact statement, as required by the National Environmental Protection Act."

Roberson and other Michigan conservationists are reportedly wondering why the National Guard would attempt to avoid producing an environmental impact statement. They also want to know if the DNR proposed any sensitive environmental areas as a starting point for the discussions. Why, they ask, was a leak required for the public to become informed? And why the pressing deadline to complete some kind of deal yet this summer?

These are good questions that need to be answered promptly by state officials and the National Guard.

Citizens are right to be suspicious of such "shady deals" and public voices need to be heard before any decision is made. The DNR says that will happen, but why can't public input be considered at the beginning of such discussions, rather than at the end?

And, when these voices are finally heard, will it even matter?

Expect rising electric rates

Whether or not you agree with recent action by the Obama Administration to tighten restrictions on carbon emissions from coal-fired energy plants, you might as well get used to paying more in your monthly utility bills.

Much more, according to some observers—maybe as much as an 80 percent increase. (See North Woods Notes on Page 2).

The plan—to be implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency without the input of Congress—is expected to be finalized next year. It is a centerpiece of the administration's "climate change" agenda. Unfortunately, we suspect this agenda is more about advancing a misguided political ideology than it is about improving the environment.

We all want clean air. There's no doubt about that. But we also need to survive financially. We wonder how many Americans are actually willing to ride such dubious revenue schemes all the way to the poor house. Maybe more than we think.

If so, enjoy the trip.

Enjoy furry wild creatures; just don't feed them

I've always enjoyed wild animals—especially those that wander past my windows and liven the landscape.

We see many of them outside our home in Michigan. White-tailed deer, wild turkeys, pheasants, owls, hawks and songbirds are common. So are herons, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, snakes and turtles. Sometimes I even hear the yip of a coyote, but seldom see one in the flesh.

Most of these animals are pleasing to the eyes and ears, and require very little maintenance. Of course, we're awakened sometimes at night by some rather hideous screams and struggles, but that's part and parcel of the natural world.

More troubling, I think, are the raccoons, skunks, woodchucks, and possums that seem to think they're entitled to move into our house whenever they want. So far, they've only been able to get as far as the attached garage—although we've had more than one ring-tailed marauder peer fearlessly through our back door into the kitchen.

They're attracted, I suppose, by the food and water they find in bird feeders and cat dishes. For the most part, we've been able to stop them from getting at these. But they always seem to find something new to sniff and chew on.

Theodore Roosevelt's ten principles of the hunt

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last summer, Gaylord-area resident Doug Mummert—a hunter, fisherman, conservationist and longtime friend of The North Woods Call—shared with us the following thoughts from the 26th president of the United States. It's about time we passed them on.

1) Preserve large tracts of wilderness and game for all lovers of nature, and for the exercise of the skill of the hunter, whether he is, or is not, a man of means.

2) The conservation of wildlife and all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method.

3) Public rights come first and private interests second.



North Woods Journal
By Mike VanBuren

The worst was probably the fat raccoon that climbed the garage wall and holed up in the eave of the house. Despite our efforts, he refused to come out until he could break through the aluminum soffit over our front porch, causing considerable damage.

It has been estimated that as many as three in five metropolitan U.S. households battle wildlife, sustaining as much as \$3.8 billion in property damage in a single year. This figure doesn't include the deaths and injuries suffered in collisions between cars and wandering animals.

The simple matter is that wild animals are running out of space. Conflicts between wildlife and suburbia are increasing. And much of it is our own fault.

Wanting open space and fresh air, we're building homes farther from the nation's urban centers. Yesterday's farms and forests have become today's subdivisions and strip malls. Driveways and roads cross game trails, tree lines, and creek beds, where animals travel and hunt.

What's more, animals that find themselves leap-frogged by development have little motivation

to move to greater open spaces. They've learned that food abounds in the suburbs. There are compost heaps, garbage cans and ornamental shrubs to feast on—along with pet foods and bird feed.

Discouraging these animals requires specific precautions. First and foremost, don't feed them. They can become particularly aggressive when they lose their fear of man. Make sure garbage cans have tight-fitting lids. Don't leave pet food and water outside. Pick up fallen fruit.

And cap your chimney. Raccoons often use open, uncapped chimneys as nests, and can steal into your house when you're away. You can also clear your yard, keeping it free of brush and low branches that create good hiding spots.

Avoiding Darwinian confrontations may be easier than you think. But it requires some effort to make our homes and neighborhoods less alluring to wild animals.

And that's a good thing to remember the next time a furry, would-be bandit appears at your back door.



Teddy Roosevelt on the hunt.

4) The genuine sportsman is by all odds the most important factor in keeping wild creatures from

total extermination.

5) The true hunter loves all parts of the wilderness.

6) A peculiar charm in the chase comes from the wild beauty of the country.

7) The rich—who are content to buy what they have not the skill to get by their own exertions—these are the real enemies of game.

8) When hunting him (wapiti), he must be followed on foot and the man who follows him must be sound in limb and wind.

9) Skill and patience, and the capacity to endure fatigue and exposure, must be shown by the successful hunter.

10) I wish to preach, not to the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life.

Keeping the peace on Belle Isle

Maybe it should be expected when you open a state park in urban Detroit.

All the issues of inner-city America spill over into the park and keep law enforcement officers busy chasing criminals—not to mention protecting innocent individuals and families who are there primarily for fresh air and a quality outdoor experience.

Recent reports from Michigan conservation officers who patrol Belle Isle—Michigan's newest state park—underscore these concerns. Just take a look at their field logs.

Instead of the typical encounters usually reported by "game wardens" in various other parts of the state—hunting and fishing violations, accidents, noise complaints, vandalism, and assorted other foolishness—Belle Isle officers get much closer to what we would call the underbelly of city life.

You name it and they see it. Drug abuse, drunkenness, violent assaults, thievery, urinating in public, traffic violations, outstanding felony arrest warrants, forgery, illegal weapons, and a host of other nefarious offenses and activities.

Not that conservation officers in other areas don't see some of these things. They do. But not nearly as often, according to the field logs. And they don't seem as likely to lodge people in places like the Detroit Detention Center after their initial law enforcement encounters.

Belle Isle is a great resource for Detroit's citizens and visitors alike. We just wish all users would treat the park—and themselves—with more appreciation and respect.

The North Woods Call

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel
Since 1953

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Brookies, browns and bacon grease

By John Gunnell

Another Mother's Day has recently passed us by as I sit down to write about the opening day of trout season 2014.

My early recollections of mother, always at home for me, lending her support for my trout fishing penchant. She would listen as I unfolded the details of my adventure, no matter what time of day or night.

Dad taught me the fine points of fishing and how to craft a fishing story. A young angler is doubly blessed if he has a mother who cooks his trophies for him day or night—whenever he brings them home. My mother, with practical knowledge about food, made sure I scaled every brook trout in order to capture their total palate satisfaction.

She expected the larger fish to be cut length-wise without removing the bones, so as not to risk the loss of internal flavor. Her cast-iron skillet with butter and bacon grease made a floured brook trout pleased to become her gourmand meal.

Long before we knew what the word gourmand meant, or we had any inkling of cholesterol, enhancing the flavor of foods we ate using lard, bacon grease, etc. was never rivaled—nor did her cooking ingredients become a health concern until later years. Old men, like me, still enjoy our doughnuts made with lard and our fish and venison cooked with a touch of bacon grease. Back then, my dad ate his pancakes smothered in bacon grease (butter was expensive at 30 cents a pound).

Opening the trout season at midnight started for me about 65 years ago this past April 26. Most often I fish alone on opening day, because other fishermen friends usually cherish their sleep, or are afraid to fish in the dark. Taking another person fishing at midnight who believes the night will “swallow them up” is a recipe for disappointment for all involved. My son, David—not being subject to “night fishermen meltdown”—met me in Rockford just past the witching hour and we headed north to the river.

Of several fishing locations I frequent, the one chosen allowed two persons to fish together in high water, yet in close proximity. Being the one most familiar, with locations on the stream that had previously produced fish, I purposely opted to fish lesser spots behind David as we made our way upstream.

Depth in certain locations made spin casting of the longer variety necessary, thus increasing potential for becoming snagged. Shortly after we entered the stream, David encountered a serious snag. I moved forward and gained its release for him.

Being parallel with another for a brief period, I

cast off to the other shoreline before David moved some 20 yards in front of me. My Mepps retrieval was interrupted out some 10 feet from where it had landed, when hit by a trout as it neared the surface. Not wanting to repeat the snag routine again, I kept the tip of my rod high. A healthy attempt by the fish to throw my Mepps lure ensured only to finally yield it to my net. A handsome, male German brown with a hooked jaw, measuring 17 inches was my catch.

David's bad luck continued with tangled line, reel problems, etc. Locating him with daylight fast approaching, I sat down on a dead tree limb to wait until he caught up. When he arrived, I cast toward him to simply break the monotony of waiting, only to have a fine female brown trout devour my lure. Soon thereafter, a 17 1/2-inch brown was creeded. Some days on the river, you succeed in spite of attempts to favor a fishing companion.

With time fleeting, I decided to move upstream near a bridge where we agreed to meet. David was without my presence for almost two hours, fishing his way up to me. Feeling a little guilty for not being able to help him with his bad luck, I arrived upstream after walking through the woods. I chose to rest quite a spell, hoping David's luck would change without my presence.

After some time, I observed a deep bend in front of me. I wandered over and cast my lure, not paying much attention to its location. I began my retrieve only to have my lure buried by a vicious strike that bent my pole double. When I exerted resistance, it only bent my rod tip further down into the water. A larger, strong fish—coupled with current—will [require] patience if the fish is to be netted. This fish on my line was no exception.

Slowly the trout tired, only to finally come steadily to my net. Still attempting to extract my lure from the fish's hooked jaw, I glanced up to see my son appear a short distance away. When he arrived, he finished the lure extraction. The beautiful five-and-a-half pound male German brown trout—24 inches in length—was captured.

Like baseball, some days the hits just fall, while other times our best efforts go a-glimmering. My mother, long since gone to her heavenly home, still reminds me in my memory of her always being there for me—especially on the opening day of trout fishing.

John Gunnell is a writer and outdoorsman living in Rockford, Michigan.

Viewpoint

Casting for conservatives

EDITOR'S NOTE: We discovered the following viewpoint article in the Winter 2014 edition of one of our favorite newsletters—Riverwatch—which is published periodically by Anglers of the Au Sable. We thought it might be of interest to our readers.

By Rob Sisson

One of our nation's great writers lived just a short distance from the banks of the Au Sable River.

Russell Kirk made his home at Piety Hill in Mecosta. Kirk, best known from his book, “The Conservative Mind,” was a trusted advisor to Ronald Reagan. He fathered the American conservative movement.

Kirk wrote one of the most important and, sadly, neglected lines in modern America: “Nothing is more conservative than conservation.”

That line is ConservAmerica's motto. We are the national grassroots organization of Republicans for environmental protection. Progressive environmentalists and tea party patriots alike call us an “oxymoron”—a most unfortunate misunderstanding.

Over the past quarter century, protection of our natural resources has become a polarizing issue in politics. It didn't used to be that way.

The first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln, protected the Yosemite Valley. The second Republican president, Ulysses S. Grant, created the world's first national park at Yellowstone. Theodore Roosevelt protected ten percent of the lower 48's land. Roosevelt's right-hand man and future governor of Pennsylvania, Gifford Pichot, started the U.S. Forestry Service.

Dwight Eisenhower placed the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge out of harm's way. Richard Nixon signed our most revered environmental legislative acts. Michigan's own Gerald Ford signed the first CAFE standards, beginning the process of squeezing more miles and less pollution out of every gallon of gasoline.

Iowa Republican John Lacey authored our landmark wildlife protection act—the Lacey Act. A Republican from Pennsylvania's coal country, John Saylor, was the key figure in passage of The Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Ronald Reagan is responsible for the greatest reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in history. When scientists presented him with compelling evidence about damage to the earth's ozone layer, Reagan went against his political advisors and pushed through the international treaty known as the Montreal Protocol that phased out specific greenhouse gases.

George H.W. Bush used cap and trade to curb acid rain, which was plaguing lakes and forests across America, including Michigan's.

There are many reasons why it seems conservatives and Repub-

licans have walked away from this great heritage and from the conservative principles that should guide conservation policy. Perhaps the biggest reason is money. When a small handful of wealthy business people wield the threat of a primary race against any incumbent who dares oppose personal agendas, it unfairly skews public policy against science, reason and common sense.

Complicating matters is the increasingly huge amount of money poured into politics by progressive pro-environment funders. Their messaging perpetuates the myth that only one party cares about clean air, clean water and a healthy climate, and pushes GOP incumbents deeper into the arms of those who oppose any candid conversation about our environment.

Fortunately, there is good reason to be optimistic that natural resource conservation will once again become a nonpartisan priority. Voters under the age of 30 accept climate science as a matter of fact, and cast their votes overwhelmingly for pro-environment candidates. Faith voters, often taken for granted by conservative politicians, are rapidly connecting clean air and clean water to their pro-life values.

Pope Francis is reportedly prepping an encyclical on “creation care” that could be conservation's Pentecostal moment. Holy Waters is an apt name for the Au Sable River—water is mentioned 722 times in the Bible. Combined, this is a huge swath of the electorate to which the GOP must answer.

Last year, a well-known Republican micro-targeting consultant sampled red districts to determine grassroots Republican support for conservation. The firm concluded that the average congressional district has about 25,000 ardent Republican voters who believe environmental protection should be a priority.

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-North Carolina) said shortly after climate legislation died in 2010, “Environmental groups are really good about getting their members to call, write and e-mail us. The problem is those people don't vote Republican. We need to hear from Republicans.”

That, in a nutshell, is the niche filled by ConservAmerica. We are the meeting point for Republicans and conservatives from all walks of life who do care and who want their uniquely Republican voice to be heard in Washington and in state capitols like Lansing. Contrary to public opinion, there are a lot of us out here.

People like you and me—the hook and bullet crowd—are assumed conservatives because we own guns, or pricey 9-foot rods. We're the ones who see firsthand the impact of pollution and unchecked industry on our natural resources. We're the ones who walk and wade in the out-

(Continued on Page 6)

Conservation officers graduate

Twenty-three new recruits have successfully completed Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conservation officer training.

Graduation ceremonies were held June 13 at the training academy in Lansing.

The 23 new officers now enter 18 weeks of field training, partnered with more experienced conservation officers, in the counties in which they have been assigned.

“These new officers will fill critical vacancies in areas of the state for natural resources protection, and in some rural areas, they will contribute to general law enforcement coverage,” said DNR Director Keith Creagh. “Providing a safe recreation experience for our residents and visitors, and enhanced public safety in our communities, are top priorities for the DNR.”

The new officers and the counties they are assigned include Jeremy Beavers (Genesee County), Jason Becker (Macomb County), Brad Bellville (Montmorency County), William Brickel (Griatiot County), Kyle Bucholtz (Sanilac County), Jon Busken (Mackinac County), Richard Cardenas (Oakland County), Brett Delonge (Menominee County), Paul Fox (Presque Isle County), Robert Freeborn (Schoolcraft County), Saykham Keophalychanh (Genesee County), Josiah Killingbeck (Lake County), Christopher Knights (Monroe County), Brian Lasanen (Ontonagon County), Michael Mansell (Ontonagon County), Matthew Page (Branch County), Christopher Reynolds (Hillsdale County), Timothy Rosochacki (Alpena County), Joshua Russell (Iosco County), David Schaumburger (Wayne County), Andrew Sutzko (Washtenaw County), Justin Ulberg (Lenawee County) and Robert Watson (Luce County).

The recruits completed 22 weeks at the academy, including 14 weeks of required general law enforcement training and eight weeks of specialized conservation officer training. Instructors were experienced current conservation officers.

For more information including how to apply for a future training academy, visit www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers.

—Michigan DNR report

Letter to the editor

Sorry to hear...

Hi, Mike,

Sorry to hear that you might not be able to continue to publish *The Call*.

You are doing a great job.

Tom Dale

Gahagan Nature Preserve
Roscommon, Michigan

Interim rules for shooting ranges

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and local officials will hold a meeting June 24, to provide updates and take public input on three proposed shooting range locations—one of which will likely replace the current shooting area commonly known as Hoosier Valley.

The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Traverse City Civic Center, 1213 W. Civic Center Drive.

The DNR has drafted a set of interim rules for the ranges that designate shooting hours, types of targets permissible and magazine limits, among other things. Some people have complained about noise, safety, congestion and litter.

For more information, call (231) 922-5280.

More Opinion

Letter to the editor

The trouble with digital delivery

I've been receiving digital delivery of *The North Woods Call* for some time and have begun to realize that it is more difficult to read than the print edition, because it is in "letter" format, rather than in "landscape."

The difficulty is minor—having to scroll up and down to read articles covering multiple columns on the same page.

Given the flexibility of digital formatting, I think that it would be helpful for digital delivery at least to be in the "landscape format—the most common orientation of a computer screen.

Perhaps this could also be considered for the print edition, too. There is nothing that dictates a publication having to be printed in the "letter" format, except tradition.

What do other readers think?

Rane L. Curl
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Rane,

You may be right and this is something we could consider during a re-design.

The current configuration is indeed governed by tradition. Many longtime readers have made it clear that they like the old format that has been used for many years.

In response to this preference, we have stayed the course, although we have often thought that it may be time to bring The Call into the 21st Century and accommodate the ubiquitous digital formatting that seems to dominate modern communications. Until that happens, however, we are trying to keep the print and digital designs somewhat similar as a practical matter. It keeps us from the time-consuming task of having to lay out two distinctly separate versions of the newspaper each time.

We would like to hear from other readers about this matter, however. Are you wedded to the traditional design, or would you accept a change to better accommodate the online world?

—Mike

Viewpoint

Casting for conservatives

(Continued from Page 5)

doors, and know all too well what might be lost and lost forever. Our common voice is crucial to the cause of conservation.

A few years ago, I was ankle-deep in Wyoming's Gros Ventre River, casting a Fat Albert into seams for cutthroat. The current was fast, fed by snow melt in the surrounding mountains and the reflections of cottonwoods and sub-alpine firs engaged in a mesmerizing dance on the water. I was lost, deep in meditative thought, as is known only to cloistered religious and fly fishermen.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw an animal mid-stream coming at me. A beaver, I thought, but, no, a moose calf. It was dead and floating on the whims of the current, until it hung up on a small island of river rock within casting distance downriver. While watching the poor animal willing its lungs to fill with air and to sand up to shake off death, I heard a mournful sound reverberating from upstream. I turned and watched as a cow moose splashed around a bend. She bawled her baleful call for her calf and continued towards me.

My position was precarious, between a confused and maybe angry mother and her dead offspring. I retrieved my line and launched myself across the channel onto the forested shore, beyond which my car was parked a half-mile away.

As I was racing out of harm's way, it occurred to me that I was in grizzly country and that a grizzly may have killed the calf. Rather than running from danger, I might be running right into its paws.

Fear charged my body, as if my blood had reversed course and was scraping against the scales of my veins. For a fleeting moment, I was not separate from nature, but wholly part of it.

Through our stories and shared experiences, and our desire to pass our rod, recall and sacred waters on to the next generation, we rise above political labels.

Sometimes, though, different waters demand different flies.

A resident and former mayor of Sturgis, Michigan, Rob Sisson is president of ConservAmerica, the national organization of Republicans for environmental protection.

Lake Superior chinook salmon survey

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries biologists are reminding Lake Superior anglers to keep an eye out for Chinook salmon with missing adipose fins.

A total of almost 750,000 adipose fin-clipped Chinook were

stocked in Lake Superior during 2012 and 2013, DNR officials said.

Data on clipped fish will be collected this summer by Lake Superior creel clerks from anglers at boat landings and other fishing locations.

Explore the human-nature connection

Huron Pines and North Central Michigan College are partnering on a five-session course for community members who enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, birding and other outdoor recreation activities, but lack a technical natural resource background.

The course, which begins July 9, will consist of indoor classes on Wednesday evenings at the University Center in Gaylord and Saturday morning field excursions into the woodlands and rivers of Otsego County.

Instructors from the Gaylord-based Huron Pines

organization, along with guest speakers from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, will teach about river ecology, wildlife management and human impacts on the environment.

Cost is \$80 for the entire series. The Otsego County Community Foundation has provided additional funding for the program.

For more information, contact Joy Leisen at (989) 448-2293, Ext. 26, or joy@huronpines.org. To sign up, visit www.huronpines.org/community.

Space is limited to 20 participants, so don't delay.



Space Cow

—North Woods Call Photo

This sculptured cow—perched atop a whitewashed silo between two red barns—attracts summertime visitors to the Gilbert Dairy's farm store in Marquette, where a host of fresh dairy products, including delicious ice cream, can be purchased. It offers a pristine view of America's agricultural system, which is the envy of the world. Yet many environmentalists insist that the country's system for growing, packaging and preserving food can be detrimental to human health. Such claims are a fairly easy sell to those who have found it necessary to research the suspected causes of the nation's seemingly runaway cancer epidemic. Pesticides, herbicides, hormones, preservatives and a host of other frightening additives—not to mention air and water pollution—could well pose a greater threat to mankind than the current hysteria over climate change. Might it be more productive to focus public policy efforts on food purity?

Michigan dam removal projects make progress

Six projects that received \$2.35 million in 2013 as part of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Dam Management Grant Program are steadily making progress in their efforts to remove or repair local dams.

Grant recipients are using the funds to remove dams without economic purpose, or to repair dams with economic purpose that have imminent public safety issues and are deemed in unsatisfactory condition, or under order by the Department of Environmental Quality's Dam Safety Division.

"Projects are moving smoothly for the six recipients," said Chris Freiburger, coordinator of the Dam Management Grant Program. "The recipients all are working hard to complete their projects and to meet the goals of the program."

The six recipients include:

- * The Conservation Resources Alliance in Grand Traverse County was awarded \$357,725 to fund the Boardman Dam removal—phase II project. This project is actively completing all the needed planning, while removal is set to begin in 2015.

- * The DNR's Wildlife Division in Allegan County was awarded \$725,000 to fund the Kalamazoo River—Otsego Township Dam repair project. This DNR-owned site has legacy chemical contamination issues, which will be remedied by building another structure in the summer of 2015.

- * The Ionia Conservation District in Ionia County

was awarded \$994,975 to fund the Lyons Dam removal project. This project has been slowed by discovery below the dam site of the snuffbox mussel, a federally endangered species. The district used a portion of its funding to complete a mussel survey to better understand locations of the endangered mussel, determine habitat needs, and ultimately improve habitat for not only the snuffbox mussel but also fish found in the Grand River. The project is now focused on completing the needed planning for removal of the dam.

- * Friends of the Shiawassee River in Shiawassee County was awarded \$162,700 to fund the Shiawassee Town Dam removal project. Removal is slated to begin later this summer with completion by this fall.

- * The city of Vassar in Tuscola County was awarded \$40,300 to fund the Vassar Dam removal project. This project is nearing completion as the dam structure has been removed, and the site landscaping should be completed by this summer.

- * The city of Wakefield in Gogebic County was awarded \$69,300 to fund the Sunday Lake Dam spillway gate replacement project. This project was completed in March.

To learn more about the Dam Management Grant Program, visit www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants.

—Michigan DNR report

New Great Lakes conservation initiative created

The Great Lakes have been designated as a Critical Conservation Area, which means the region will be eligible for increased funding from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program under the new U.S. Farm Bill.

The new conservation initiative will strengthen the region's ability to address priority watersheds with

the greatest conservation needs. This will enable the Great Lakes states, regional organizations, landowners and other partners to respond to local priorities related to soil erosion, habitat protection and water quality, while safeguarding the health of the Great Lakes.

Ken Johnson, chairman of the

Great Lakes Commission, said that expediting implementation of and ensuring funding for new Farm Bill programs has been a longstanding priority of the Great Lakes Commission.

"We are pleased to see that water quality protection measures are now being implemented," Johnson said.

Conservation Officer Logs (5/1/14 through 5/26/14)**Monster trucks, “religious freedom,” speared girlfriend & scarey “rattlesnake”****DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)**

CO Marvin Gerlach reports that a subject convicted of taking a deer without a valid license during the 2013 deer season paid \$1,000 in restitution and \$450 in court costs and fines. The subject also lost hunting privileges through January 1, 2018.

CO Brian Bacon and **Sgt. Marc Pomroy** conducted an ORV patrol in Dickinson County to target operation in prohibited areas. A large gathering of modified mud trucks was found tearing up part of the ORV trail system in an area where the COs have had complaints before. The large group was rounded up and the violations were addressed with all of the vehicles found operating in the closed area.

CO Ryan Aho conducted an on-the-water patrol of Deer Lake. As CO Aho was checking vessels near the access site, he was informed that people loading a boat at the ramp had emptied a cooler into the lake once they saw CO Aho. CO Aho made his way to the ramp to detain the subjects while a witness retrieved the floating fish that he saw the suspects dump into the lake. The suspects admitted to keeping the walleye and were found to be in possession of live bait as well. Citations were issued for all of the violations present.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Jared Ferguson was patrolling the eastern half of Indian Lake when he checked a fishing hole off the Copenhagen Bridge where he and Sgt. Shann had previously written tickets for fishing without a license. CO Ferguson made contact with one individual on the bank who said he was 17-years-old and didn't need a license. Further investigation by CO Ferguson revealed the person was really 18, so he also provided false information and was advised even at 17 he still needed a license. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Darryl Shann assisted Lt. Terry Short with a report of a net in the narrows on Little Bay DeNoc near Saunder's Point. The suspected net was reported by several anglers who had lost gear in the area and assumed it was from a lost net. Five hours of grappling the area found nothing.

CO Mike Hammill was checking a local lake, speaking with anglers and looking for fishing licenses. CO Hammill contacted one angler who had a nice mess of fish. When asked for his fishing license, the angler said he had left it in his truck. The angler handed CO Hammill the correct color fishing license—just several years old. Upon further checking it was determined that the angler was fishing without a license. Action was taken.

COs Jeff Panich and Kyle Publiski came across a subject fishing. CO Panich asked the angler for his fishing license, which the angler explained was back at his cabin. Further investigation revealed that he had a fishing license, but had a problem with his boat registration. Although the

boat had valid registration stickers on both sides, it came back expired since 2011 to a different subject. The angler was illegally using his valid registration from his smaller fishing boat to cheat the system and save money. After CO Publiski issued the angler a ticket for failing to register his boat, the man explained the worst part was going to be explaining the ticket to his wife, who told him not to put the registration stickers on the larger boat.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

A complaint of two wild turkeys taken during the closed season by two road-hunters, who claimed they had the right to do so under tribal law and the religious freedom act of the U.S. Constitution, resulted in both suspects being arrested on warrants by **COs Duane Budreau** and **Matt Theunick**. After being arraigned, they both plead guilty. They face penalties including \$2,000 reimbursement for the wild turkeys taken, fines and costs, forfeit of the firearm used, and loss of hunting privileges for the next four years.

While on patrol, **CO Duane Budreau** observed a couple of subjects on the side of the road, one in rubber boots. Upon contact, one jumped in the backseat of their vehicle, leading CO Budreau to look for a third subject. After a short walk into the woods to a nearby creek, CO Budreau found a subject attempting to spear steelhead. When the violator saw CO Budreau, he shouted, “DNR” and threw the spear across the stream, actually striking his girlfriend in the leg with the spear. Tickets were issued for attempting to take steelhead with an illegal device and fishing without a license.

CO Mike Feagan observed a vehicle run through a stop sign right in front of him. After making a traffic stop and contacting the driver, he was informed they were late for their “tee time” on the golf course. A ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

CO Carla Soper observed three ORVs illegally operating on a power-line which runs along the Lake/Manistee County line. CO Soper activated the emergency lights on her patrol truck and only one of the three stopped as directed. CO Soper made contact with the operator of the ORV that had stopped and was able to obtain information concerning the identity of the other two ORV operators that had fled. The one operator contacted his companions via cell phone and convinced them to return to the scene, which they did by car. CO Soper then followed them back to their camp, where they had hidden their ORVs. CO Soper issued tickets for illegal operation, while other camp members not associated with the ORVs began to be verbally abusive to the CO. One particular individual informed CO Soper that he needed to “kill someone” and as she left, he made a gun with his fingers and simulated firing at her. CO Soper con-



tacted the Manistee County Sheriff's Department and provided information on this individual and his actions. Approximately two hours later the Manistee County Sheriff's Department went on a complaint of a disorderly subject at a grocery store. The Deputies ended up arresting the subject, who turned out to be the same individual CO Soper had been threatened by. Once in custody, the individual went ballistic and tried to kick out the windows of the patrol car while continuing to state that he “needed to kill someone.” A search of his vehicle revealed a loaded .22 cal. rifle. The subject was lodged in the county jail, where it was ascertained that he had recently been discharged from a mental facility.

CO Justin Vanderlinde was the first to respond to a complaint of a rattlesnake on a playground with children. Investigating, the snake was mistakenly identified and was actually an eastern hognose snake and not dangerous. Earlier in the week, CO Rich Stowe responded to a similar complaint, except this time it was suspected to be a python. When CO Stowe arrived, he was able to positively identify the snake going through the threatening postures as a harmless eastern hognose snake.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

CO John Huspen followed up on a lead that took him to a subject who was out turkey hunting. He admitted to have already taken a few shots at turkeys before being contacted by the CO. Good news is that turkey season was still open; bad news is that the subject did not have a valid turkey kill tag while afield hunting. CO Huspen took appropriate enforcement action.

With some sketchy information to go on, **CO Matt Liestenfelt** followed up on a complaint about a subject who had reportedly killed a woodcock earlier in the spring. The CO was provided information and photos through which he was able to recognize a cabin that sits on a local lake in Missaukee County. CO Liestenfelt made contact with the owner of the cabin and conducted an interview into the alleged violation. The subject eventually admitted to shooting a woodcock back in April, and also admitted to shooting it with a rifle. Charges are pending.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

CO Nick Atkin was checking anglers when he witnessed a vessel causing a large wake through-

out a slow no-wake zone. When the CO confronted the boater about the violation, the man stated, “You got me, I knew better.” Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly watched two anglers fishing from a boat on the Shiawassee River. When Sgt. Kimmerly made contact with the anglers he found they had wall-eye, catfish, white bass and sheep head on the stringer. The angler said they were having a great day. Sgt. Kimmerly then asked them for their fishing licenses. The driver advised that he forgot to buy one this year. Sgt. Kimmerly then advised them that there was no registration sticker on the boat and would like to see the paper copy. They said the boat was not registered. Sgt. Kimmerly then asked to see two life jackets and they stated they forgot to bring them. Tickets were issued.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

CO Gary Raak made contact with a subject riding his ORV in the Middleville State Game Area with a young child on his lap, without helmets, in a closed area climbing a steep wooded hillside that had been severely damaged by illegal ORV activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Mshar conducted a routine taxidermy inspection and located five illegal fawns and four turkeys without licenses along with numerous record keeping violations. The investigation continues related to the illegal animals taken and warrants will be sought once it concludes.

CO Brad Brewer was checking shore fishermen when he approached a subject wading and fishing in the water. CO Brewer observed undersize bass in the subject's bucket. When the subject saw CO Brewer, the subject fell down in the water, completely submerging, and lost his fishing pole in the process. CO Brewer finally convinced the subject to come to shore and he was found to be extremely intoxicated. The subject had seven undersize bass and two warrants for his arrest. The subject was cited and lodged on the warrants.

DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)

CO Todd Thorn was patrolling state land near the Michigan State Police Secondary Complex and went to an area that is popular for bass fishermen. Two men were standing near a pickup truck and looked worried when CO Thorn arrived at their location. CO Thorn began to ask questions and learned that the men were attempting to remove an SUV from a two-track on state land, where it had been stuck for more than a day. CO Thorn then learned that the owner of the vehicle had a suspended driver's li-

cense, had placed an improper plate on the vehicle, and had failed to register the vehicle since he had purchased it. The vehicle was impounded and removing the vehicle from its stuck location was not easy. The wrecker service had to bring a bulldozer to the location to get to the SUV and after it was all said and done the owner was left with a \$1,000 impound bill. Enforcement action was taken against the owner of the vehicle.

DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

CO Jason J. Smith along with an MSP Trooper were called in to locate a drowning victim in the Rouge River. After 40 minutes, the officers located a body and turned it over to the Down River Mutual Aid team. The victim had been missing for about a week.

COs Mike Drexler and **Jason Smith** were checking anglers in Belleville when CO Drexler checked an angler who was fishing with more than three lines. The angler had three poles with lines in the water and two spools of line wrapped around dock posts, all five of which had live bait. The angler claimed he didn't know how many lines he could use. Enforcement action was taken.

BELLE ISLE

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly made numerous warrant arrests including felony warrants for passport forgery. Sgt. Kimmerly also arrested a suspect in a stolen vehicle and during another stop made contact with a suspect carrying a pistol, with a CPL, but who was smoking marijuana and refused to open the car door. Access was finally gained and the driver was arrested.

While checking anglers on Belle Isle, **Lt. David Malloch** and **Sgt. Troy Bahlau** contacted a husband and wife who were fishing. The pair had six lines in the water and the husband was adamant that his wife was not fishing. The husband was cited for fishing with too many lines. A couple of hours later the COs drove past the husband and wife who were fishing in a different location. As the COs drove by, the wife looked at them and dropped her fishing pole. She did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Fish was stopped by a gentleman leaving the Detroit Yacht Club. He told CO Fish that he is a marine contractor and that had been doing work at the Yacht Club for years and had stopped because of problems on Belle Isle. Now, because of the law enforcement presence on the island, he was back doing contracting at the Yacht Club and wanted to say “thanks.”

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Graymont proposal reviewed

A proposal by Graymont, Inc. to acquire more than 10,000 acres of state-managed forest land in northern Mackinac County near the town of Rexton under review by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The company wants to develop a limestone mine at the location.

The DNR is currently processing Graymont's applications and reviewing them following standard policy and procedure. The procedure entails a review of the proposal by staff at multiple levels in each of the resource-managing divisions within the DNR—including Forest Resources, Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and Recreation.

Graymont officials said there are two applications under consideration. In addition to the Land Transfer Application submitted in 2013, a second application requests an exchange of mineral rights involving areas in the Hendricks and Trout Lake townships. The proposed exchange would involve Graymont transferring its mineral rights on approximately 1,700 acres of state forest land near the Fiborn Quarry. The state already owns the surface of these properties and wishes to consolidate its ownership interests, by owning both the surface and the mineral rights.

The state would transfer mineral rights on an equivalent area, approximately 1,700 acres located

in the Hiawatha National Forest, to Graymont. The surface of these properties is owned by the federal government, represented by the U.S. Forest Service.

About 260 acres of the mineral rights that the state would transfer to Graymont under this application were included in the Land Transfer Application. The total area involved in both applications is within the estimated approximately 13,000 acres desired for the overall Graymont project.

A review of the project proposal will also be conducted by the DNR's Minerals Management Unit. As a result of this review, staff will make a recommendation to DNR Director Keith Creagh, who has the authority to make a final decision on the proposal. Creagh will make his decision at a future Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Public comment will be taken by the DNR until a final decision is made.

Graymont, meanwhile, appears confident that the project will be approved. According to its "Rexton Project" website, a project information office is under construction in the community and was scheduled to open this month (See editorial on Page 4 of this edition). A local resident has also been hired, they said, to serve as a "point of contact" to allow immediate face-to-face access to a company representative.

Final Shot



—North Woods Call photos

Totems of the far north

Alaska's oldest federally designated park was established in 1910 to commemorate the Battle of Sitka—a conflict between Tlingit natives and Russian settlers—which took place on the point of land where the Indian River flows into Sitka Sound. The Sitka National Historic Park on Baranof Island includes several totem poles carved and donated by native people from villages throughout southeast Alaska. None of the original totem poles came from Sitka, however, although this art form is very much a part of Tlingit tradition. The original collection of poles had been displayed at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Many of the poles currently located along the park's two miles of wooded pathways are copies of deteriorating originals that can still be seen in the visitor center.

U.P. fish kills may be common after harsh winter

Upper Peninsula anglers and others enjoying the outdoors might discover a higher-than-average number of dead fish or other aquatic creatures—such as turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish—this summer, following heavy ice and snow cover this past winter and spring.

"Winterkill is the most common type of fish kill," said Gary Whelan, DNR Fisheries Division research section manager. "Much of the U.P. saw very deep ice and snow, so winterkill may be particularly common this year in shallow lakes, streams and ponds. These kills are localized and typically do not affect the overall health of the fish populations or fishing quality."

Winterkill occurs during especially long, harsh winters—similar to the one experienced this year. Shallow lakes with excess aquatic vegetation and soft bottoms are particularly prone to this problem. Fish

and other aquatic life typically die in late winter, but may not be noticed until a month or more after the ice leaves the lake, because the dead fish and other aquatic life are temporarily preserved by the cold water.

"Winterkill begins with distressed fish gasping for air at holes in the ice and often ends with large numbers of dead fish that bloat as the water warms in early spring," Whelan explained. "Dead fish and other aquatic life may appear fuzzy because of secondary infection by fungus, but the fungus was not the cause of death. The fish actually suffocated from a lack of dissolved oxygen, caused by decaying plants and other dead aquatic animals under the ice."

Dissolved oxygen is required by fish and all other forms of aquatic life.

—Michigan DNR report

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If you have stories to share about *The North Woods Call* and its past publishers, or photos and background information about the newspaper's role in Michigan conservation history, please contact us at: editor@mynorthwoodscall.com. We're still hoping to put together a history book sometime.

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