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THE
NORTHWOODS
CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



Spring hawk watchers at the Straits of Mackinac.

—Steve Baker photo

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Supreme Court strikes down EPA regulation “overreach”

The U.S. Supreme Court in June struck down what some have called “burdensome” Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations that would have imposed new permitting requirements on large manufacturing facilities and power plants.

The regulations would have ultimately required a multitude of smaller facilities, including hospitals, churches, schools, apartment buildings and retailers, to comply with complicated greenhouse gas emission permitting requirements.

The 5-4 ruling, authored by Justice Antonin Scalia, declared that the regulation exceeded the authority granted to the EPA by Congress and violated the federal Clean Air Act.

The ruling stems from a case—*Coalition for Responsible Regulation vs. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*—where

Michigan joined Texas and 14 other states in challenging the regulations. The states opposed the EPA’s original “endangerment finding” under the Clean Air Act that greenhouse gases from new cars endanger public health and welfare because they contribute to climate change. The finding triggered the additional greenhouse gas regulations on “stationary sources.”

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette acknowledged that the first round of regulations applied only to larger facilities like power plants and oil refineries.

“A more significant problem,” Schuette said, “was the potential impact on thousands of smaller facilities, if the EPA lowered the regulation thresholds.”

Justice Scalia, in writing the majority opinion, said the statute “does not compel the EPA’s interpretation.” It would be

“patently unreasonable,” he said, “not to say outrageous,” for the EPA to insist on seizing expansive power that it admits the statute is not designed to grant.

“In the tailoring rule, the EPA asserts newfound authority to regulate millions of small sources ... and to decide [without regard to Congress] ... how many of those sources to regulate,” Justice Scalia wrote. “We are not willing to stand on the dock and wave goodbye as EPA embarks on this multi-year voyage of discovery. We reaffirm the core administrative-law principle that an agency may not rewrite clear statutory terms to suit its own sense of how the statute should operate.

“Were we to recognize the authority claimed by EPA in the Tailoring Rule, we would deal a severe blow to the Constitution’s separation of powers. Under our sys-

tem of government, Congress makes laws and the president, acting at times through agencies like EPA, ‘faithfully execute[s]’ them. The power of executing the laws necessarily includes both authority and responsibility to resolve some questions left open by Congress that arise during the law’s administration. But it does not include a power to revise clear statutory terms that turn out not to work in practice.”

Schuette said that to achieve real economic recovery, burdensome regulations must be cut.

“[The high court’s decision] is a victory for the rule of law and the Constitution,” Schuette said. “We are a nation of laws and unelected bureaucrats cannot simply run roughshod over those laws. We will continue to ... rein in overreaching policies that harm citizens, states and our economy.”

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Black River Blues

—North Woods Call photo

Frequent anglers in *The Big Wild* are probably familiar with the “Black River Blues,” song lyrics posted on a large rock in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. “Oh, Black River, what you do to me. Got my line downstream and water to my knees. Oh, Black River, look what you’ve done. I’ve forgotten all my worries and my troubles are gone.” The song may not have originated in the Mississippi Delta and it was probably never sung by bluesman Muddy Waters, but the river has been known to chase the blues away on more than one occasion. Those who want to keep Michigan’s forest resource managers from making any deals with the devil—like old Robert Johnson is said to have done at the crossroads—should make their voices heard about the Pigeon River Country’s proposed management plan (see story below).

DNR plans Pigeon River Country open house

An open house will be held July 31 at Vanderbilt to provide information and collect public comments on proposed management treatments for 2016 in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

The event is scheduled from 3 to 6 p.m. at the forest headquarters at 9966 Twin Lakes Road, Vanderbilt.

Each year, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel evaluate one-tenth of the state forest. The inventory provides key decision-making information for foresters and wildlife, fisheries and other resource managers. The age, health, quality and quantity of trees and other vegetation are assessed to enable DNR staff to make informed decisions. Timber management, wildlife and fisheries habitat, minerals, archeological

sites, recreational use, wildfire potential and social concerns are just some of the topics taken into consideration during this review.

Because the forest is inventoried approximately two years in advance, DNR officials said, a “year of entry” is assigned to indicate when treatments will be prepared. Information currently under review has a 2016 year of entry. This means that treatment activities on lands being reviewed this year will actually begin in 2016.

Proposed treatments, which may include timber harvesting, replanting and other management activities, are designed to ensure the sustainability of all forest resources.

“Open houses are a good way for interested residents, neighbors and stakeholders to learn about the

DNR’s proposed treatment plans and to share input with foresters and biologists before any final decisions are made,” said Bill O’Neill, chief of the DNR’s Forest Resources Division. “This year we’re inviting folks who might not be able to get to a meeting to share their comments with unit managers via email. When it comes to the health and sustainability of our state forests, we want the planning process to be as inclusive as possible.”

To more easily and efficiently oversee the forest resources, the DNR divides each management unit into smaller units or “compartments.” This year, the compartments under review are in Forest, Walker and Nunda townships (Cheboygan County); and Corwith and Charlton townships

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Straits hawk count sets record

Hawks migrating through the Straits of Mackinac reached a record count this spring with more than 43,000 birds spotted.

More than 800 of those tabulated were eagles, according to the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch, a new organization devoted to research and public education about hawks and owls.

Kevin Georg, a professional hawk counter from Pennsylvania, was hired this year to do the survey. He and local volunteer experts spent 481 hours tracking the raptors. They identified 16 species, including the first-ever ferruginous hawk, a western bird that is rarely encountered in Michigan.

More than 350 visitors came from nearly all Emmet and Cheboygan County communities to view the migration, as well as 29 other communities throughout Michigan. Also represented were the states of Delaware, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts and Minnesota.

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North Woods Notes

PCB & SALMON: A study by researchers from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources shows that concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have been declining in Lake Michigan salmon since the industrial chemicals were prohibited in the 1970s, according to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

NONMETALLIC LEASE: The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service has requested a direct nonmetallic mineral (sand and gravel) lease from the State of Michigan. The lease would cover Department of Natural Resources (DNR) mineral rights located in Brevort Township, Mackinac County, containing a total of 40 acres, more or less, described as: NW1/4 NW1/4, Section 13, T43N, R05W. Written comments from interested parties relative to the request may be submitted by July 30, 2014, to the Minerals Management Manager, DNR, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7952.

GREG PATTEN: Veteran Michigan conservation officer Greg Patten has been named 2013 Wildlife Officer of the Year by Shikar-Safari International. Patten was the subject of a late May 2013 story in *The North Woods Call* by former contributor Doug Freeman.

BIO-WASTE: A provision that allows certain bio-waste materials to be re-used for beneficial purposes reportedly cleared the Michigan Legislation recently. These substances include things like cement kiln dust, wood pulp and coal ash, according to a story by the *Great Lakes Echo*. Coal ash is the leftover residue from coal burned by electric power plants. The bill permits coal ash to be used in road construction, but it may also be used in agriculture as a fertilizer supplement, causing some environmental advocates to become concerned. Rep. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), the bill’s main sponsor, says that coal ash is completely safe and does not pose any environmental threats. However, Tiffany Hartung, a member of the Michigan chapter of the Sierra Club, says that coal ash is a toxic byproduct and should be treated as hazardous waste.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: The Michigan House of Representatives in mid-June passed a bill that reportedly makes energy efficiency upgrades more accessible for customers of the state’s utilities. House Bill 5397 passed with nearly unanimous bipartisan support on a vote of 108 to 2. The bill would provide financing to residential municipal utility customers for energy saving home improvements, such as updating appliances and weatherproofing. It was not immediately clear how the upgrades would be funded. The state senate was expected to take up the bill next.

KIPLING BOAT ACCESS: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced today that the Kipling Boating Access Site in Delta County will be closed on Monday, July 14, for channel dredging and installation of a new concrete boat ramp. The project is expected to be completed by Friday, Aug. 1.

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Our 61st Year: Looking Back to July 21, 1971

A boat ride to St. James

By Glen Sheppard

There is much magic in places like a trout stream you've known and loved since boyhood, a small lilly-pad dotted lake and a favorite grouse cover or squirrel woods.

It is the kind of wonderment most of us grow close to and feel a part of. We get to know the moods, the trees, what makes the gurgling, where the loons play, when the pat will flush. We come to consider a killdeer part of a family we've known for a generation.

Which, in a way, I guess, means that these places are personal and compact enough for us to relate to and feel comfortable with.

Big, beautiful, untamed Lake Michigan is something else. She (no man would be so unpredictable) claims 600-foot-long steamboats as a kind of savage sacrifice when the inkling strikes her. Like her sisters, Superior and Huron, no wise man has ever claimed to be her master.

Men and governments may seek to conquer the stars. But maybe that is easier, simpler, than learning to understand such mysteries as Lake Michigan.

The Call's editor, while he dearly worships and will forever fight for that South Branch of the Au Sable he has known virtually all of his life, could not live away from the shores of one of the three truly Great Lakes.

Anyone who lives constantly on the brink of conflict and disaster, it seems to me, must have something beyond his comprehension, something that truly humbles his troubles, to turn to at the end of the day. That something, for me, is a walk up the street to stand in awe at the endlessness of Lake Michigan.

Others in Charlevoix tell the same story. Some have tried moving away. They come back. "I can't live away from these lakes," one friend so sincerely explained.

"Out on the lake"—even if you can't get there tonight—you know this hour's, this day's, significance pales and all that becomes real is nature. There is nothing else.

So the other evening young Irv Drost and I decided to take the old, but fantastically rugged, Lyman out to drag our hooks on the bottom at 110 feet for lake trout. We cleared the pier heads and confessed that we don't really like scratching the bottom for lakers.

"Let's go to Beaver Island," I suggested.

As a college graduate, with a degree in fisheries biology, Irv should be more cautious. But he said something like, "Yeah, let's go."

The lake was already rolling enough that most of the lake trout trollers had pulled their lines from the fishing grounds only a few hundred yards from shore. But Denali II, despite her 12 years, is a game old gal. The compass works, the charts are beside the wheel and we've made the 35-mile crossing dozens of times.

The big, churning, glimmering seas are her life. She was built for them. All she asks for is a helmsman who understands she must become a part of—not a challenge to—the big waves.

So we turned her head on 341 degrees and settled back for a long, wave-by-wave journey.

The seas were, in comparison to some, kindly. There was a glitter, a brilliance in their center and a dark, somberness above and below. We rode up, hung a second and slid down. One by one. Wave by wave.

The sun, setting behind the big island of the Mormon king, outlined its eastern shore. Indians, for centuries, had paddled their canoes to this refuge. Early explorers had been intrigued by its massive aloneness.

As dusk came on, the lights of Sand Bay sparkled. Then, the further north we traveled, the lights of St. James harbor. Irv had not made such a reckless trip before, so was cheered by the assurance that the lights meant Denali was holding her course.

We slid into the harbor, the sun now down, and as if out of a play script, old friend Karl Kuebler was there at his dock to greet us. Within seconds, we had borrowed a car and arranged for bunks.

The thing to do, of course, was to go to town, latch onto a few beers, and spend a few hours sitting on the dock looking out over the harbor; soaking up the quiet and magic we had crossed the lake to find.

But it doesn't work that way today, even on Beaver Island. More than a mile away, we could hear the roar of radios (or record players) and people. Once "up town" at the famed Shamrock, we found nothing but people. They were jammed on every chair. Every stool. They all screamed. Outside they stood in tight knots, all hollering.

Here, 30-plus miles out in northern Lake Michigan, Irv's old polio wound nearly got him bashed in by a car as it sped through town and he, thankfully, managed to leap out of the way.

It was madness. Screams! Shouts! Roaring! Ugly (oh, so ugly) music!

Why? These dozens, maybe hundreds of people had crossed the great lake to escape. Hadn't they?

We managed to scream enough to buy six cans of beer and dash to the car. The people were closing in on Irv's equally fragile disposition. As we returned to the bunks, we noticed the waves had picked up to a good five feet—maybe six or seven. But I couldn't take any more.

Irv agreed he would rather take his chances with Dame Nature
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Blooming L'Anse

—North Woods Call photo

A portion of the Upper Peninsula community of Baraga can be seen in the distance, as the camera lense peeks through a flower garden in a small park on L'Anse Bay. The park in downtown L'Anse is a picturesque place for a picnic lunch and relaxation during the long drive from the Mackinac Bridge to Copper Harbor at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula. L'Anse, on U.S. Highway 41, is on the edge of the Copper Country State Forest and is a good stepping off point to explore the region's rich natural beauty.

Pigeon River Country State Forest open house

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(Otsego County).

Maps and information regarding proposed treatments will be available at the open house. The information can also be found at www.michigan.gov/forestry.

Anyone unable to attend any of the meetings may submit comments via email to Scott Whitcomb—whitcombs@michigan.gov—using the subject line "Pigeon River Country State Forest open house comment." All comments must be received at least three business days before each meeting.

The DNR will complete its formal compartment review on August 29 during another meeting at 9 a.m., also in the Pigeon River Country headquarters at Vanderbilt.

For more information about the state forest planning process, visit www.michigan.gov/forestplan.

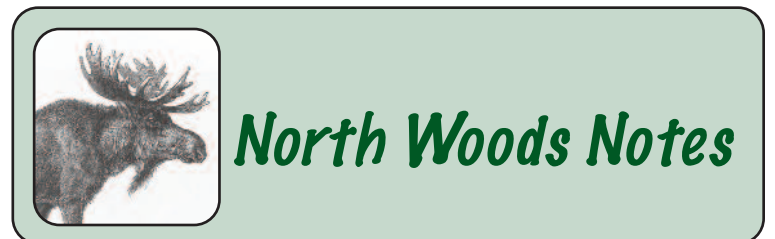
New state-record fish hooked in Michigan waters

Two state-record fish were caught recently in Michigan.

On May 25, Jared Gusler of Fairview reeled in a 17.5-inch, 3.77-pound brown bullhead from Alcona Pond in Alcona County. This surpasses the previous record set by Michael Kemp of Lansing in 1989.

On June 15, Joshua Teunis of Grand Raven caught a 38.25-inch, 41.25-pound black buffalo in Muskegon County's Bear Lake. This surpasses the previous record set in 2012 by Bryan Degoede of Kalamazoo.

"We've had 12 of Michigan's 56 state-record fish beat in the past 10 years, said Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter, "which just goes to show you how outstanding the state's fishing is."



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AUGUST NRC MEETING: The Aug. 14 meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will be held at the in the Upper Peninsula community of Munising at the American Legion, 610 W. Munising Avenue. The Sept. 11 and Nov. 6 meetings will at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaumont Road, in Lansing, while the Oct. 9 meeting will be at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, on Higgins Lake near Roscommon. On Dec. 11, the NRC will host its final meeting for 2014 at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

BLUE ECONOMY RESEARCH: From 2009 through 2013, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University landed nearly \$300 million in funding for water-related research and outreach. The 2,100 awards have led to innovations in a variety of areas, ranging from invasive species to monitoring water quality and finding ways to optimize water use in agriculture, according to "Innovating for the Blue Economy," a report shared at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference.

BALSAM WOOLLY ADELGID: The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development established a quarantine to protect the state's nearly 14 million fir trees from balsam woolly adelgid, an exotic pest which has caused the death of millions of fir trees in North America. Balsam woolly adelgid is a sap-feeding insect that attacks true fir trees, including balsam fir and fraser fir. Repeated attacks by the pest weaken trees, cause twig gouting, kill branches, and eventually destroys the tree. The quarantine generally prohibits the shipment of fir nursery stock and fir timber products into Michigan from infested states. Certain low-risk fir products are exempt, including Christmas trees and wreaths, and heat-treated timber products. The quarantine also allows fir seedlings grown under an active pest management program to be shipped into Michigan.

ELK LICENSES: Results of the license drawing for the 2014 elk hunting seasons have been posted on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings. Two elk seasons will be held in 2014. The first season will run Aug. 26-29, Sept. 12-15 and Sept. 26-29. The second season will run Dec. 6-14. An additional season may be held Jan. 14-18, 2015, if the DNR determines the harvest insufficient to meet management goals. A total of 30 any-elk and 70 antlerless-only elk licenses have been issued.

BEAR LICENSES: The results of the 2014 bear hunting license drawing have been posted at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings. A total of 7,831 bear licenses were available during the bear application period (May 1 - June 1). A total of 267 leftover bear licenses are available in the Bergland Management Unit (Sept. 25-Oct. 26) and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis as follows: Holders of Lifetime Comprehensive Licenses who were not selected in the drawing, beginning at 10 a.m. (EDT) Monday, July 7; unsuccessful applicants, beginning at 10 a.m. (EDT) Monday, July 14; and any hunter, including those who did not apply, beginning at 10 a.m. (EDT) Monday, July 21.

DRAW-DOWN: Draw-down of the Song of the Morning impoundment in Otsego County has begun. It will be followed by dam removal and restoration of the river channel and fish passage at the site.

White Lake delisting urged

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have proposed removing Muskegon County's White Lake from the international list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

As such, they are soliciting comments on the draft "final delisting report."

White Lake was polluted by a number of former manufacturing facilities and also experienced the loss of habitat due to lakeside development.

Eight "beneficial use impairments" caused White Lake to be listed as a Great Lakes Area of Concern in 1987. The DEQ has now determined that environmental conditions in the lake have improved to the point where these impairments no longer apply.

A link to the draft final delisting report can be found at www.michigan.gov/deq/aocprogram, under the heading 'Maps and Documents'

Written comments may be sent to John Riley, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Great Lakes, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973, or to rileyj2@michigan.gov by midnight July 24, 2014. All comments received by then will be considered prior to final action.

A public meeting will also be held from 6 to 8 p.m. July 21, at the White Lake Community Library, 3900 White Lake Drive, in Whitehall. For additional questions or information on this proposed action, contact Riley (517-284-5045), or John Perrecone (312-353-1149).

Public encouraged to comment on Graymont limestone mine proposals

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has acknowledged that it has received a land transaction application proposing the exchange of more than 1,700 acres of mineral rights in Chippewa and Mackinac counties.

The proposal, submitted by Graymont Inc., requests the exchange of Graymont-owned mineral rights near the town of Rexton in northern Mackinac County for state-managed minerals in the Hiawatha National Forest near Trout Lake in Chippewa County, according to an official news announcement released by DNR on June 20.

As reported in the late June edition of *The North Woods Call*, this application is separate from the company's previously submitted land transaction proposal to acquire approximately 11,000 acres in the eastern Upper Peninsula, which was already under review by the DNR.

Each application will undergo a separate review by DNR staff, officials said, and the two proposals will have no bearing on each other.

"Apparently Graymont feels that 11,000

acres isn't enough," said one opponent of the land and mineral deals.

"In the coming weeks, the DNR will process the application and it will be reviewed following the standard DNR land exchange policy and procedure," said Kerry Wieber, forest land administrator with the DNR's Forest Resources Division. "The procedure entails the 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. A review of the application will also be conducted by the DNR's Minerals Management section.

"Feedback from the public is a critical component of the review process and will be taken into consideration before any decisions are made."

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 exchange proposal. Creagh will make his decision at a future Natural Resources

Commission meeting once the review process has been completed.

Approval of the exchange would not necessarily mean approval of future mining activity in the national forest. DNR officials said. Any mining proposal from Graymont would require involvement from the surface owner, which is the U.S. Forest Service.

The public will have an opportunity to make comments at an upcoming Natural Resources Commission meeting. Additionally, the DNR has established an email address in order to allow ample opportunity for the public to comment. The address: DNR-GraymontProposal-Comments@michigan.gov. Comments will be accepted until a final decision is made.

For more information about Graymont's mineral exchange application or land transaction proposal, visit www.michigan.gov/graymontproposal.

Graymont has also posted an informational website about the project in an effort to keep interested parties informed.



Amended Complaint & Trial

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette in late June filed an amended complaint in the state's second case against Chesapeake Energy for charges of racketeering and fraud. The complaint was amended to include 12 additional victims of the corporate giant, resulting in a total of 20 charges of false pretenses in addition to one count of conducting a criminal enterprise. After the amended complaint was filed, company representatives were arraigned in Cheboygan District Court before Judge Maria Barton. A \$10,000 personal recognizance bond was set and a preliminary exam was scheduled to begin August 18. A preliminary exam for the attorney general's antitrust case against Chesapeake was completed in May and Judge Barton in early July ordered the trial to proceed. Both cases stem from the company's alleged activities during the state's May 2010 oil and gas lease auction. More in the next edition of The Call.

Asian carp control strategy

The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee has announced a coordinated strategy to protect the Great Lakes from silver and bighead carp, building on previous federal efforts to prevent self-sustaining populations from becoming established in the Great Lakes.

The 2014 Asian Carp Control Strategy introduces several new initiatives to the federal government's effort to control silver and bighead carp—including constructing a new electric barrier, expanding harvesting downstream of the electric barriers, testing the water gun and other potential control technologies, field testing a fish toxicant, constructing a permanent separation berm, and extensive monitoring of the Chicago Area Waterway System and the Illinois River. See www.asiancarp.us.

Guard takes some Camp Grayling expansion plans "off the table"

The Michigan National Guard has reportedly decided against pursuing lease agreements for military use on more than 30,000 new acres of sensitive recreational and river corridor lands in Crawford and Kalkaska counties.

The proposal, discussed recently in conversations with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and reported in the late June edition of *The North Woods Call*, had generated great concern among area conservationists.

According to Bruce Pregler, an attorney and president of Anglers of the Au Sable, Camp Grayling expansion maps were drafted in May by the DNR and envisioned turning over huge additional tracts of environmentally sensitive public recreation lands for infantry encampments and training.

But the top military official in Michigan now says those highly controversial expansion zones are "off the table," according to an alert sent out to Anglers of the Au Sable members by Pregler.

Major General Gregory Vadnais, adjutant general and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, informed the group that:

1) Camp Grayling will not seek to lease Draft Expansion Zones 2, 3 and 5 as mapped and preliminarily proposed in May by the DNR. Those zones included more than 30,000 acres of state land. The zones included both sides of the Manistee River

from M-72 to the CCC Bridge, large tracts on both sides of the Manistee in Frederic Township near the Deward area, and a large tract near the Kellogg's Bridge area of the North Branch of the Au Sable River.

While those areas are "off the table," the military may still want to connect with some existing training areas, according to Pregler's alert. That particular parcel may be further detailed at a later time, but Pregler said he believes the parcel will only be pursued after further discussion with and input from local stakeholders.

"General Vadnais told us he made the decision not to pursue Draft Expansion Zones 2, 3, and 5 after receiving a detailed letter of concern, dated June 9, from Anglers of the Au Sable and the International Federation of Fly Fishers Great Lakes Council," Pregler said. "After studying our letter, General Vadnais told us he understood and shared our concerns, and would comply with the letter's request—a denial of Draft Expansion Zones 2, 3, and 5."

Specifically, the June 9 letter raised the following serious concerns:

- Map zones 2, 3, and 5 were completely incompatible with military use. It is impossible to envision how infantry use could harmoniously co-exist with the current heavy recreational use of these public lands, the highly significant natural features of these lands, the sensitive wetlands and river corridors flowing through these lands, and the enjoyment of private property rights among

many private land owners within the boundaries of the proposed expansion zones.

- Map zones 2, 3, and 5 contained thousands of acres purchased by the public, for the public's recreational use. In other words, many tracts within the expansion zones were already spoken for—exclusively for recreational, not military, use.

The full text of the June 9 letter of concern was posted on the Anglers of the Au Sable web site, according to Pregler.

"The DNR's maps of Draft Expansion Zones 2, 3, and 5 were posted on our web site in early June," he said. The maps were reportedly created by DNR Forestry Division staff, and distributed within the DNR in early May.

DNR staff initially declined the Angler's request to review the maps, but they were provided to the organization by others within the department who were concerned about the Camp Grayling expansion that the draft maps envisioned.

Internal DNR emails obtained in May by Anglers of the Au Sable indicated that the military sought to acquire more than 50,000 additional acres in Crawford and Kalkaska counties for expansion of infantry encampments and training. Suggesting that the expansion was on a fast track, a DNR e-mail message stated: "We were advised we need to have potential areas identified by May, with a verbal agreement in place by Mid-July, then details of the agreement can follow."

Instead, General Vadnais responded to public concerns by assuring any future expansion plan discussions will include input from recreational stakeholders and will not impede on the Manistee and Au Sable river corridors.

"We are extremely pleased to receive General Vadnais response to our June 9 letter," said Pregler. "The general took seriously—and agrees with—our conclusion that Draft Expansion Zones 2, 3, and 5 are mainly recreational lands, sensitive river corridors, and sensitive wetlands that are simply incompatible with military use. We are very grateful to General Vadnais and other state leaders for their rapid consideration and response. In the end, we firmly believe their decision to decline Draft Expansion Zones 2, 3, and 5 is exactly the right decision for the river corridors our organization is duty-bound to protect."

Anglers of the Au Sable will continue dialogue with both the DNR and the Department of Military Affairs if other Camp Grayling expansion options are considered.

"The DNR Forestry Division gave everyone in the river corridors a pretty serious scare in May with the initial expansion maps," Pregler said. "General Vadnais is now giving us clear assurance that those maps for Zones 2, 3, and 5 are 'off the table.' We now look forward to open and respectful discussions among all parties going forward."

Opinion

Quote Box

"We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills and winding streams with tangled growth as 'wild.' Only to the white men was nature a 'wilderness' and only to him was the land 'infested' with 'wild' animals and 'savage' people. To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the Great Mystery."

—Chief Luther Standing Bear

The art of the false crisis

People have asked us why we're so skeptical about man-made climate change and certain other issues that many conservationists embrace wholeheartedly—particularly when scientific research, they say, overwhelmingly supports the doomsday prognostications.

Maybe it's because such skepticism is at the heart of good journalism—or should be—although few reporters these days seem to display any parallel suspicion, or even a healthy curiosity. Some ecological claims just don't ring true to us when the claimants appear to so completely disregard the truth in many of the statements they make.

A good share of these modern-day prophets—especially today's Democrat politicians and other leftists—seem to be masters at creating false crises that are aimed primarily at increasing their own power, or enriching themselves and their allies. They routinely whip their fellow citizens into an irrational frenzy, then insist we adopt dubious schemes that allow them to squander public and private resources on programs that never quite solve the problems at hand.

Given this, why should anyone believe what they say about anything?

Our skepticism might well be traced to one of Aesop's Fables—"The Boy Who Cried Wolf"—which we first encountered as children. In this fable, a shepherd boy repeatedly tricks nearby villagers into thinking a wolf is attacking his flock. When a wolf actually does appear, however, and the boy calls for help, the villagers do not come. They think it's just another false alarm, so the sheep get eaten.

Fear mongering—whether justified or not—can create a sense of paralysis and actually block social action.

We've long recognized the dangers of groupthink, where collections of like-minded people believe they are correct just because they agree on something and have become blind to all other ideas.

Don't forget that just over 14 years ago the experts were telling us that the turn of the new century was sure to bring calamity on us all—due to a supposed glitch in computer system designs that would cause chip-driven machines to malfunction after midnight on December 31, 1999. We were warned that our cars would not start, the nation's electric grid would shut down, financial records would be in jeopardy, businesses would be unable to operate and all manner of other problems would occur.

None of this happened. Yet the science and technology wizards weren't prescient—or honest—enough to figure that out and let us know that life as we knew it would continue apace. Instead, an apparently unnecessary industry sprang up to "protect" us from the inevitable and billions of dollars were needlessly spent the world over in preparation of what was known as Y2K.

We could be wrong in our cynicism, of course. We freely admit that the absolute truth—if it exists—escapes us in many areas. But we need to call these things as we see them. Anything less would be a shirking of our duty.

We apologize if this offends the true believers out there. But we'd probably all be better off if there were more skeptics and fewer people willing to blindly follow the latest Pied Pipers down the road to perdition—at least until we know whether they're telling the truth.

Fear & propaganda: Scaring us into the "climate change" agenda

There are some who would call this smart social marketing, but we call it propaganda, fear mongering and wasteful spending.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has given Columbia University a \$5.7 million grant for a so-called education project that uses games to "engage adult learners, and inform public understanding and response to climate change."

According to a story in Hillsdale College's *Imprimis* publication, the five-year taxpayer-funded effort creates games depicting horrible scenarios that could come about as a result of climate change, including a series of mock voicemails of people screaming, gasping for air and being swept away by waves.

"If the tsunami doesn't get us, the heat

might," one man says in a voicemail to his mother set in 2065. "I'm just calling to say I love you and I miss you and it might be the last time you hear my voice. Bye."

Other "callers" reportedly include a man screaming as he is suddenly swallowed up by a giant tsunami and a woman desperately gasping for air because she is "out of CO2 credits."

The website—known as Future Coast, which features, among other things, the fake voicemails—was created in response to NSF guidelines and you can be sure anyone who wanted to receive the agency's grant money would have to play along. "Game and game-like approaches motivate exploration and learning of complex material," the grant description states.

Other predictions in the voicemails in-

Just exactly what color is God, anyway?

I've been reading a book called "God is Red" by Native American scholar Vine Deloria Jr., which ostensibly contrasts Native American religious traditions with other faiths—particularly Christianity.

The author talks a lot about land, wildlife, plants and place—central characters in the belief system of American Indians and other indigenous people around the world.

Mostly, however, he lambasts western thought and culture, zeroing in on Christianity as the root cause of the "great weakness" of the United States—the alleged inability to respect or tolerate those who are different.

"The future of humankind," he says, "lies waiting in those who will come to understand their lives and take up their responsibilities to all living things."

On the surface, I think Deloria is unduly harsh on Christian beliefs and traditions. He often seems blind to the true nature of Christianity, or what its adherents are actually called to do and be. But who can blame him—given the violent disobedience, contempt for other living things and general hypocrisy of many who have called themselves Christian over the years? There are important lessons to be learned by facing these inconsistencies and thinking about the consequences.

Thousands of years of occupancy on their lands taught tribal peoples the sacred landscapes for which they were responsible, according to Deloria. It was not what people believed to be true that was important, but what they experienced to be true.

As a result, the vast majority of Indian tribal religions have a sacred center at a particular place—be it a river, a mountain, a plateau, a valley, or other natural features. This center enables them to "look out among the four dimensions and locate their lands, to relate all historical events within the confines of this particular land and to accept responsibility for it."

Thus, tribal religions are actually complex collections of attitudes, beliefs and practices fine-tuned to harmonize with the lands on which the people live.

Western European people, by contrast, "have never learned to consider the nature of the world

North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce refused to have missionaries around, fearing that they would teach the people to quarrel about God. "We may quarrel with men sometimes about things on earth," he said, "but we never quarrel about the Great Spirit. We do not want to learn that."

discerned from a spatial point of view," Deloria says. Christianity, instead, has tended toward dominance, control and defeat of the natural world, which is largely viewed in economic terms as something to be exploited.

Furthermore, we move from place-to-place with no concern for the sacredness of land, or important spiritual aspects of the locations from which we come. We even select our churches and religious affiliations based on social status, Deloria says, moving from denomination-to-denomination as our economic and employment situations change.

"The question that emerges," he says, "is whether land is a 'thing' to be used to generate income, or a homeland on which people are supposed to live in a sacred manner."

Sacred places, according to Deloria, are the foundation of all other beliefs and practices, because they represent the presence of the sacred in our lives. "They properly inform us," he says, "that we are not larger than nature and that we have responsibilities to the rest of the natural world that tran-

scend our own personal desires and wishes."

Although I myself am a Christian—with only a fraction of Cherokee blood in me—I've long been a believer in sacred places rooted in the history of our ancestors. And, like our Native American brethren, my spirit is renewed when I visit those places.

That is not to say that we should worship creation over the creator—as some do—but simply that we should recognize some things as sacred and others as profane.

The relentless advance of civilization always seems to overrun the more natural and holy things of life. We see that even with much of today's technology, which in many cases is enslaving us to the profane and destroying everything that gets in its way—including common sense.

Unfortunately for us and the planet, every human being—Christian, Native American, or whatever—is filled with contradictions. That's why none of us can redeem ourselves in a manner acceptable to the Great Spirit. But that truth does not give any of us a free pass. We are still accountable for our choices.

In the religious world of most native tribes, birds, animals and plants compose the "other peoples" of creation, according to Deloria. If Jews and Christians see the actions of a deity at sacred places in the Holy Land and in churches and synagogues, he says, traditional Indian people experience spiritual activity as all of creation becomes active participants in ceremonial life.

Regardless whether one perceives God as red, olive, brown, black, white, or some other hue, the earth and its inhabitants cry out for redemption and renewal.

And, as Deloria says, every society needs sacred places, "because they help instill a sense of social cohesion in the people and remind them of the passage of generations that have brought them to the present. A society that cannot remember and honor its past is in peril of losing its soul."

Share your thoughts and ideas

The North Woods Call

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Letter to the Editor

Outdoor skill and ethics: It's time to get back to the basics

Editor:

We as outdoorsman are being impacted on our credibility to call ourselves hunters or fishermen

Lets start by reviewing a common word and the definition.

Hunt: To pursue or harass game (wild animals) with the intent to catch or kill for food or sport.

I don't believe that hunting is done in the same manner as slaughtering cattle. With cattle, you feed them and kill them. Right?

Hunting involves finding tracks, or signs of the animal you wish to find—then finding it. Right?

I think most outdoorsman would agree there is a difference in the ability to kill animals, or hunt animals. Hiring a person to put you in front of animals to kill, or hand-feeding and habituating your prey, are not methods of hunting.

I would like to point out a few problems that in my opinion need to be addressed.

If the black bear truly has one of the most

powerful noses in nature, then what would stop the black bear from smelling human scent on the bait. For animals, it's eat or be eaten. So when the jelly donuts run out, they go looking for more. With their scent capabilities I believe they can smell the human sent left on the donuts, which might be one of the reasons why bear-people sightings are up.

There are so many of us that are losing the ability to hunt and fish properly. It's not entirely our fault, but also having self-proclaimed hunters, if you will—individuals that boast how great of a hunter they are, based on the amount of money they've paid or made.

We have local northern Michigan outdoorsmen exploiting our natural resources. It's creating a lot of animosity between the fellow hunters.

We now have people taking ownership of state land and animals, proclaiming that they are theirs. We have outdoorsmen illegally taking game—people like Kevin Johnson

from *Big Boy's Adventures* taking a black bear out-of-season and filming it (Details about this incident, which occurred during September 2012, have been unearthed via a Freedom of Information request and discussed by John Gunnell in the Early May 2014 edition of *The North Woods Call*).

In short, Johnson was arrested for shooting a black bear out of season.

I believe there needs to be more structure in rules and regulations for guide services—more than the free-for-all laws that exist in today's rules for Michigan guides. We don't have the resources to be taking the amount of animals we are.

I'm speaking from experience. My wife and I spend on average of 288 days in the woods and water of Michigan. It is alarming how many people we run into in the woods that can't use a compass.

"Do you know where I'm at?" they ask. "My GPS has died and I'm lost."

If I only had a nickel for as many times as I've heard this!

The point I'm trying to make is this: WITHOUT VISION THERE WILL BE NO NATURAL RESOURCES LEFT.

I have a son and a daughter who both partake in the out-of-doors. If we don't stop what is going on, they won't be able to enjoy the wilderness as we have, as our fathers did and theirs before them.

Keep to the basics. Learn how to use a compass and how to properly hunt animals. If you can't kill animals, you're only making one mistake! Time in the woods equals dead animals and success. If you don't have enough time, stop hitting snooze on your alarm clock!

A few words to live by: FISHING LURES CATCH MORE FISHERMAN THAN FISH!

Josh Leask
Gaylord, Michigan

Thanks for supporting *The North Woods Call***In defense of downstream anglers**

By John Gunnell

I slid into the river that late June morning just at daybreak, only to be completely surprised by the sound of splashing water up around a sharp bend.

At first, as fishermen will, I envisioned a mighty brown trout in an early morning rise. Short-lived was such imagery when I picked up the fog-clad figure of another fisherman making his tried and true upstream trek.

We met in the stream that morning with contrasting points of view regarding trout fishing—if I read his body language correctly. He had a "why in the hell are you fishing downstream" look of disgust on his face.

In a heartbeat, I could tell he categorized me as the so-and-so who spooked his trout and not possessing the wherewithal to know that real trout fishermen fish upstream. I was further convinced, perhaps prematurely, of an air of elitism when he came in full view with his Orvis rod, Stetson-quality hat and red kerchief neatly tied around his neck. Even with my limited blue-collar upbringing, his polite disdain of my presence could be read in his countenance.

We passed that morning—his direction on the stream long ago confirmed by legions of anglers throughout history while "downstreamers" like myself could only feel tolerated.

When I was a boy, my brother and I received a bamboo fly rod from our dad for Christmas. Total cost of such a fish pole was about \$12 in 1941. Dad took us fishing on Rum Creek and, to my recollection, we both started out standing on rocks in the creek (no boots) and fished downstream.

This experience unto itself did not in total point the direction for me becoming a "downstreamer." Dad, being no beginner, foresaw the alternative hazards of young boys falling prey to immediate snags when casting upstream. Quite inadvertently, this early experience played a part in influencing my life-long fishing habits.

The rationales for fishing downstream are numerous and usually elicit a hue and cry from my fly fisherman friends, who have some legitimate rationales for their time-honored practice of fishing upstream. Nonetheless, if all factors are considered, "downstreamers" can easily rival our upstream brethren.

First, in fairness, we should weigh some of the primary reasons fishermen fish upstream. Their lure is ideally cast above, or at an angle to, a desired target with little disturbance of fish due to sound or silt created by the angler. If a fish strikes, the fishermen usually maneuver their position according to the direction the hooked fish takes.

Most often, a hooked fish moving upstream when striking will quarter like a wounded buck, or move downstream in the general direction of the fisher-

man. Interestingly, a fish hooked by either an upstream or downstream fisherman can often be expected to take similar escape routes, thereby negating the up or downstream advantage regarding the best position to catch the fish.

While lack of silt and sound appear to favor the upstream approach to trout fishing, an opposite point of view on these two factors is usually the response of downstream anglers. Their view is that, in contrast, quietness in the stream can be easily matched, or improved upon, when moving downstream while silt stirred up by wading and carried down is not detrimental, but serves to benefit—often causing non-feeding trout to commence feeding.

Downstream fishermen further believe that more fish are caught in the middle to bottom stream areas, often under-fished by the upstream fisherman who faces greater challenges in lure presentation and placement. On balance, there are far more stream fishermen who fish with lures other than dry flies, that fish longer periods of time and who cover more stream area with greater success because of the ease of movement downstream.

Please understand there is no quarrel with those who choose to fish upstream and use expensive rods. I, too, own an Orvis and dry fly fish upstream, particularly when the water is low and other conditions dictate.

Flashing back to my early morning encounter with the upstream fisherman, my story continues.

About 1 p.m. that day, after having walked the woods back upstream for quite a distance, I ran into my early morning acquaintance headed back down. When he saw me, he lighted up, as if to make me feel that he was glad to see me. He even asked me how I had done.

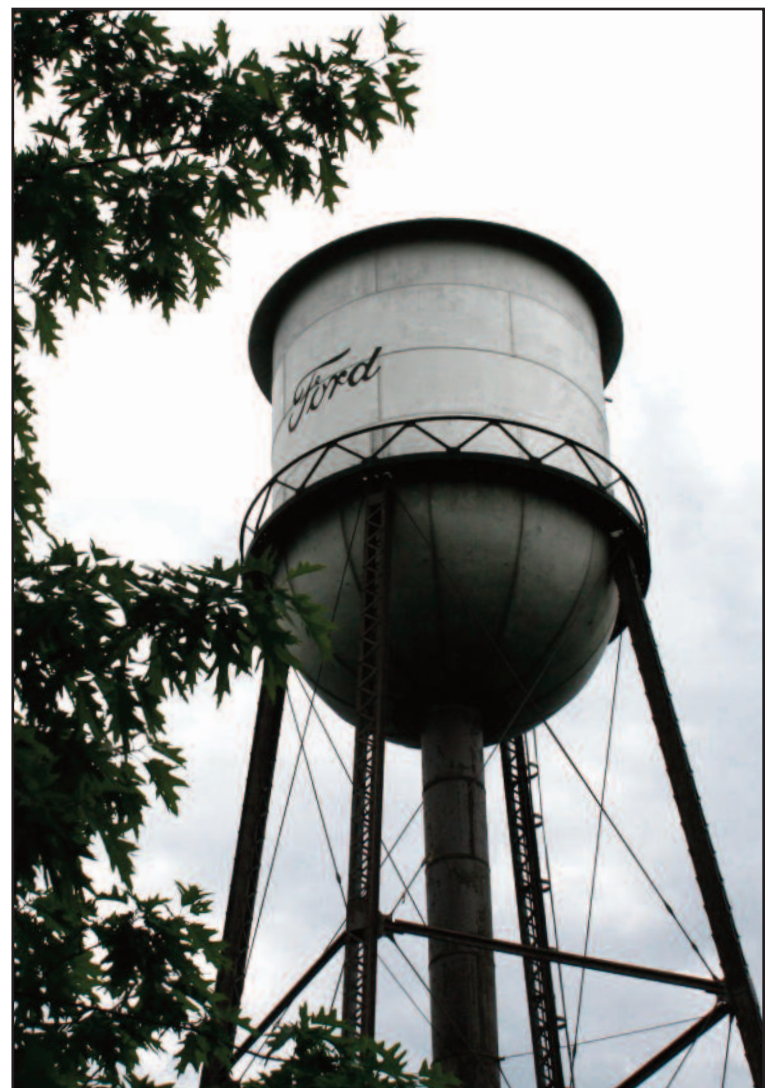
Yet, before I could open my mouth, he proudly displayed an 11-inch brown trout. Upon completing a detailed description of his catch, he forgot to inquire further about my luck.

On this occasion—setting aside my tendency to downplay my own success—I enjoyed showing him my four trout, including a 17-inch rainbow. With rapt attention and forgetting his earlier aloofness, he asked what I had caught them on. When I replied, "Waxworms," he smiled questioningly, marveling at my fish. Like a schoolboy, he asked me if he might see what a waxworm looked like.

At this moment, I realized that I had misjudged this man. Soon on, as if by trout magic, an "upstreamer" and a "downstreamer" set aside their directional preferences and became kindred spirits.

For me, the moral of this experience is this: First impressions need not always be lasting impressions.

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

**U.P. Industry**

—North Woods Call photo

A leftover water tower in Pequaming, Michigan—along with Henry Ford's former summer home, the company store and some additional buildings—are reminders of when the Ford Motor Company owned the Upper Peninsula community and operated a lumber mill there. Today, the abandoned industrial site in L'Anse Township of Baraga County boasts many new homes and summer residences.

Straits of Mackinac hawk count

(Continued from Page 1)

More red-tailed hawks (9,702) were counted than at any of the other 270 hawk sites in the United States. Many people were reportedly surprised that no black vultures were seen, since a few were counted during both of the last two years.

The final count by species was: 649 bald eagles, 164 golden eagles, 122 ospreys, 82 northern harriers, 1,836 cooper's hawks, five northern goshawks, 58 red-shouldered hawks, 26,709 broad-winged hawks, 9,702 red-tailed

hawks, one ferruginous hawk, three swainson's hawks, 37 American kestrels, 26 merlins, 3,467 turkey vultures, 11 unknown accipiters and three unknown buteos.

The data appears on the websites of the Hawk Migration Association of North America and e-Bird, and is being archived by the University of Michigan Biological Station.

Owls will be surveyed on the north side of the Straits this fall before they head south to wintering territories.

Celebrate conservation!



All Outdoors

By Mark Karaba

The true joys of trout fishing

I often times consider how mysterious and complicated fly fishing must appear to those who would try to sort it all out on their own. Or to those who may have, at one time or another, picked up a magazine about fly fishing, and thumbed through the photos of some happy angler in a handsome setting, holding a freshly caught trout.

Many, I suspect, have thought about how they would like to try the sport, but seem intimidated by the “gear” overload. To those not initiated into the world of fly fishing, it can be overwhelming indeed.

The worst thing that could happen to a person who is considering getting started in the sport would be to step into a high-end fly shop and check prices on fly rods, or pick up a catalog dedicated to fly fishing and try to sort out the overwhelming availability of rods, lines, leaders, flies etc.

To be serious about getting started, the beginner needs a mentor of sorts to help clear the path to better understand, most importantly, what you do NOT need to get started.

I, for one, was the someone who learned nearly all I know of the sport through trial and error. Yes, I was the guy in 1972 who probably had the fly line threaded through the hook keeper on my fiberglass fly rod. I don't remember what got me interested in trout fishing. No one in my family fished for trout. Yet, there I was, head-over-heels in love. Obsessed with streams and trout, and I was on my own.

The owner of the local sporting goods store was a patient and kind gentleman, and he trout fished. At some point, I purchased a fly rod from him. He must have realized that this purchase by me was, in my eyes, an entitlement to the answers of a thousand MORE questions by me! So he firmly, yet graciously, suggested I go to the library and check out the book “Trout” by Ray Bergman. I did. I read that book and re-read certain chapters for a couple weeks.

I then went to the creek close to my house and fished with a nymph, dead-drifted upstream. I cast from the same spot, to the same run, for a longer time than I would ever do today. Then, on maybe the 30th or 50th cast (I don't remember), the line twitched forward a bit, and I set the hook. I landed that brown trout. It was 26 inches long and weighed 6 lbs. That Was in 1976. The fish is mounted and still hangs on the wall of the cabin in Grayling.

I have my own copy of that book. It was given to me by a friend. It sits in a prominent place on my shelf. It is still an important work and is very collectible. It covers much of the information for a beginning fly fisherman that is timeless.

In today's world—with all the information available at ones fingertips—the learning process has been made much easier. Still, I feel that a mentor/instructor can speed the process along with information pertaining to what you need to be proficient enough to have a beginning level of success, and what you DO NOT need to catch trout with a fly..

I myself, however, would not be considered a minimalist. I own more fly rods than I care to admit. When left alone in a dark closet, they appear to multiply. One day you open the door and find that the 6 and 9 weight rods have apparently given birth to 3-4-5 weights that are nestled in a cocoon or a swaddling cloth, which is even monogrammed to bear its name and weight.

The fly fishing scene of today is of a different era altogether. Just pick up a current issue of a *Fly Fishing* magazine and—if you can get your hands on one—any issue of a vintage copy of the same publication from the 1970s or 1980s, and you will see what I am referring to. The writers of that era wrote with classic prose, even when describing a technique or method. Most of the names of the writers were iconic in the outdoor world. The fly patterns were classic and traditional, and not nearly as innovative in general. (This commentary is not in any way a criticism of today's writers or the ever expanding complexities of today's fly patterns. It is more about the comparisons of today's fly fishing world and the days that we few dinosaurs remember).

Fly fishing today, as with most things in today's world, can be very technical. Certainly that is the case if one considers the overall scope of equipment available that some deem proper or necessary.

The truth is that nothing has changed at all. It is still about a fly rod, a fly line, a leader and a fly. Your grandfather's flies will still catch trout. That old fiberglass rod will still cast a fly, although maybe not with the grace and form of a modern graphite rod. You could still wear those old patched Red Ball waders and hang the old wicker creel over your shoulder, although you may want to post a sign on it to explain it is for carrying your flies and gear (The sight of a wicker creel worn by a fly fisherman today would send shock waves through the modern brotherhood/fraternity for those that have never eaten a trout, let alone considered it).

I remember those days. Simpler times. Days of excited anticipation of learning and discovery. Of staying up late to read Ray Bergman, Joe Brooks, Vince Marinaro and anything else I could find or afford that I thought held the key to unlock the mysteries of fly fishing and trout.

I think back to many years ago, when I could not drive across a stream or river without stopping and looking, and wondering. Times when I was obsessed with learning to READ the water. Knowing that a stream held trout was one thing; I had to learn where they were in the

(Continued on Page 7)

Letter to the Editor

Thoughts about the Michigan wolf hunt debate

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter originally appeared in the Petoskey News-Review in response to a related story in that publication.

Editor:

I must comment regarding the wolf hunting article posted Wednesday, May 28. Every time I read it over, I think to myself that the main thing negatively affecting the population of humans in the Upper Peninsula is the legislators of Michigan.

And it now appears many of Sen. [Tom] Casperson's colleagues are buying into the senator's misleading storytelling. Sen. Casperson misled a congressional committee with his exaggerated story of wolves at a day-care cen-

ter. I guess that's what Casperson is worried about when he said he fears opponents of wolf hunting will successfully use “30-second sound bites” in political ads to persuade downstate voters.

I am a hunter, basically limiting that activity to deer hunting. It must be learned behavior to fear and hate wolves, because I respect the wolf and all other animals that can survive in the wild.

Most humans would die in the woods if it were not for guns, sleeping bags, tents and matches. I can imagine most proponents of wolf hunting are afraid to go into the wild without a weapon—such is the rhetoric I've been hearing.

I have encountered wolves in the wild a couple of times, once as close as 15 feet. I hear them dur-

ing hunting, or while staying in the woods. I hear them at times when I step out my door in the town where I live.

If the reason for the wolf hunt was based on “science,” there would have been no reason for Sen. Casperson to comment at a Natural Resources Commission meeting in an attempt to influence the commission. The recent hunt was lobbied by special interests. We've had enough of that.

It seems that Casperson and colleagues want this hunt based on pure bull, forgetting entirely about a pure Michigan.

Richard Sloat
Iron River



Fading U.P. History

Travelers across Michigan's Upper Peninsula can still get a flavor of the region's early architectural heritage if they want to veer a block off U.S. 41/M-28 and cruise through downtown Michigamme. This old store on the main drag looks like something out of the Old West, but it is firmly anchored in the north woods. Nearby on the main highway is the Mt. Shasta Lodge, which appeared prominently in Hollywood Director Otto Preminger's “Anatomy of a Murder” with scenes featuring Jimmy Stewart, Lee Remick and Duke Ellington. The movie was shot in Marquette County during the spring of 1959.

—North Woods Call photo

Teaching youngsters about the great outdoors

When I first began teaching science in the public schools, I had two “biology” classes that were outside the norm.

We realized that these kids—mostly boys—wouldn't go on to college and we were concerned that they may even not graduate. So we tried to use what nature offered to get them interested in the biology curriculum.

Since most were hunting, trapping and fishing enthusiasts, we worked from that angle. We used the life cycles of aquatic insects, habits of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. This worked into the classifications, body structure, habitat and importance of conservation.

We took many field trips to streams and outdoor locations. Of course, we had to include camping, hiking and hunter safety.

Being a hunter safety instructor, all my kids took and passed the course. We even could handle firearms in the school at that time, but not today.

In fishing, we had to learn why certain fish like specific types of aquatic habitat, water temp, etc. We learned the features of fish so

they could be positively identified.

This, to me, was a back door type of learning. By taking what things they were interested in, we could lead them to search in a scientific manner.

Today, I see some of these kids grown up and they have become successful in life, as well as accomplished sportsmen.

Some of you may remember the old Herter's catalog. We got a lot of items from there for the classroom. Books on living in the outdoors, camping and hiking. We got sets of fly-tying equipment and fishing items. One class even got into gun stock refinishing.

To illustrate the proper methods of crossing a fence, and getting into and leaving a rowboat, we turned over our lab tables and made them into fence posts, or a makeshift boat. In the spring, we even had a session where we collected wild edible plants and had a

lunch with wild salad.

This reminds me of a book review I did for *The North Woods Call* some time ago. “The Hatch Guide For Upper Midwest Streams” by Ann Miller is a must for you who are going to be fishing our great streams. This book is the epitome of learning about fishing our streams and fly tying. Not only does it identify nearly all the mayflies, caddisflies, and stoneflies of the upper midwest, the book has colored photographs of each and the tied flies that represent them. In the back of the book are the specific directions on how to tie each fly.

Any stream or trout fisherman that ties flies must have this book. Thousands of hours went into collecting this information from all over the Upper Midwest.

Summer is here and it's time to get out there and enjoy our streams. And, of course, take a kid along with you.

The Natural World

By Richard Schinkel



Conservation Officer Logs (6/8/14 through 6/23/14)**Rip Van Winkles, a sneaky snake, a lost toddler, bear tales and a turkey burglar****DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)**

CO Mark Leadman was patrolling Harlow Lake on Monday after the Free Fishing Weekend. Two subjects were observed walking back to a tent set up across the road from the lake. Both subjects were carrying fishing poles baited with fresh worms. The two subjects denied they had just been fishing and stated they had fallen asleep next to the lake on Sunday and were just now returning to their tent at 3 p.m. the following day. CO Leadman did not believe their story and then pointed out that they were camping where prohibited and were also camping without the required camping permit. Numerous denials about fishing led to both Rip Van Winkles being ticketed for camping where prohibited.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Kevin Postma was checking anglers in Brimley when he observed a boat with one person on board fishing with five lines. CO Postma waited for the boat to return to the launch at which time he contacted the angler. The CO helped the angler tie off and then checked his license and inquired about his luck. CO Postma then asked the angler why he would have five lines running out the back of his boat when he was the only one on board. The angler advised that CO Postma must have seen the extra rods in the holders but the lures were actually attached back to the pole and they weren't fishing. CO Postma explained to the angler that the monofilament line reflects very nicely in the sun and all the lines were quite visible. The individual had three DNR priors with one of them being "fish with too many lines." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson was in the area of Van Cleave Park in Gladstone when he was approached by a large frantic group, which included a few lifeguards. A pine snake that appeared to be close to four feet long had made its way into the children's play area. Officer Ferguson was able to calmly and safely remove the reptile and return it to a more suitable location.

CO Michael Evink received a complaint of numerous traps that had not been removed at the close of trapping season. Officer Evink contacted **CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon** and **PCO Rob Freeborn**. The three COs located numerous traps on Stanley Lake, one of which revealed the trapper's identity. When the COs ran a file check on the trapper, they found he also had a felony warrant for his arrest. The COs met up and were able to locate the trapper. A ticket was issued for leaving his traps out, and the subject was arrested and lodged in Alger County jail on the felony warrant.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

While working on the water during a midnight walleye fishing patrol, **CO Steven Speigl** observed a motorboat ripping through a slow, no-wake channel. After being yelled at by several other anglers and boaters, and being stopped by CO Speigl, his excuse was he didn't know it was a no-wake area. He was educated via a ticket.

CO Eric Bottorff, **PCO Paul Fox** and **Sgt. Greg Drogowski** spent most of a day assisting in the search in a heavily wooded area for a lost 22-month-old child wearing only a diaper and shirt. After almost nine hours, the child was located, alive and well, except for bug bites and scratches.

CO Nick Torsky responded to two complaints of bear-human conflicts. The first bear broke into an enclosed porch and the door shut behind it. It was discovered when the homeowner was getting ready to leave and saw the bear asleep on the floor of the room. The bear eventually pushed open a window and left. The only items that were disturbed were the bird feeders that were stored in the room. The second complaint occurred when a person was walking a dog and came across the bear that attacked the dog, causing minor injuries.

CO Mark DePew responded to a complaint of a turkey breaking into a house, where a tom turkey flew through a picture window. CO DePew was able to net the bird and release him back into the nearby woods.

**DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)**

CO Sam Koscinski received information from the Wexford County Sheriff Department about possible bombs being constructed. CO Koscinski patrolled remote areas on his ORV and in his patrol truck and located evidence in the bomb-making case that the local deputies were working on. Collected evidence and the location were turned over to the deputies for follow-up with their investigation.

CO Troy Mueller reported that an individual who went to trial on multiple illegally taken deer, turkey and raccoons was assessed nearly \$4,000 in fines, costs and restitution, and sentenced to more than 100 hours of community service, loss of hunting privileges for four years and condemnation of his firearm.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

CO Jason McCullough received information that a subject had shot a bobcat in early December prior to the bobcat season. A check of the computer license system revealed that the subject had obtained his bobcat license several days after killing the bobcat. When contacted by CO McCullough and **CO Steve Lockwood**, the subject told the COs that he shot the bobcat because it was in his back yard and his grandchildren had been playing in the back yard. After talking with the subject, the COs were informed that the bobcat was in the back yard of the residence the day after the kids were in the back yard playing. The subject said he saw the bobcat in his yard and shot it. The bobcat ran a short distance away where the subject shot it again and killed it. Evidence was seized and enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

While patrolling local state game areas, **CO Seth Rhodea** located a vehicle parked at a dead-end road. When the CO attempted to contact the occupants of the vehicle, it sped off, driving down the wrong side of the road with one of the passengers throwing baggies of marijuana and other drug paraphernalia out of the window. The vehicle stopped and the occupants were contacted with the assistance of the Michigan State Police. The items thrown from the vehicle were recovered and the occupants of the vehicle are facing numerous charges.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly was traveling on I-75 on his way to Belle Isle when a vehicle he observed in his rear view mirror caught his attention. The Sgt. noticed that the

vehicle was traveling at a very high rate of speed and in a careless manner. The Sgt. stopped the vehicle for traveling at speeds over 90 miles per hour and careless driving. When the sergeant made contact, the female driver was on her cell phone and refused to roll down the window, or display her driver's license. It turned out that the driver had called 911 and did not think a conservation officer could stop a vehicle. The dispatcher told the caller that she had better display her driver's license, or she would be going to jail. At this time, the driver held her license up to the closed window. The sergeant wrote the information down on a notebook, returned to his patrol truck and came back with a ticket for careless operation and speeding.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

CO Paul Higashi responded to a complaint in St. Joseph County of campers who were reported to be taking overlimits of bass at a local campground. On his second day of conducting surveillance he contacted a mother, her son and his girlfriend who were in possession of 60 undersized bass, which were 45 more than the legal limit for the three of them. A thorough inspection of their campsite and interviews with the three suspects also revealed evidence of \$3,000 in stolen property from three different dollar stores in the area, as well as outstanding felony warrants out of Indiana. The Centerville Police Department was called in for assistance and confessions were obtained. The subjects were charged for the fishing violations along with retail fraud.

CO Steve Orange investigated a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint in Kent County where two subjects were observed taking a snapping turtle during the closed season. Follow-up at a local residence led to the recovery of a 20-inch snapper still in good condition. The turtle was released to the wild and the subjects were ticketed for the violation while receiving an education on Michigan's turtle species and harvest regulations.

COs Ivan Perez and Greg

Patten conducted a patrol in the Manistee National Forest related to ORVs and trucks destroying wetlands. Working with the US Forest Service (USFS), COs contacted and ticketed two operators for illegal use and further discovered the individuals had posted photos in recent days to a social media web site of their illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)

CO Jeff Goss and **PCO Matt Page** responded to a RAP complaint in Hillsdale County, referencing possible trespassing activity. The complainant advised that she had been hearing shots on the back side of her property. After further investigation, the COs found that all shots heard were well beyond the property line. COs were unable to locate any subjects on the complainant's property.

DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

CO Lacelle Rabon received a RAP complaint of a deer being stuck or fallen down in a ravine at the rear of a hotel near Metropolitan Airport. On arrival, CO Rabon located a deer trapped in what appeared to be a vacated swimming pool full of weeded growth. The local fire department, animal control, Department of Public Works, and personnel from DNR Wildlife Division had been on the scene. Because of the large crowd of spectators, CO Rabon made numerous telephone calls to wildlife rehabilitators, Michigan Humane Society and other animal rescue facilities. With the assistance of the Department of Public Works and some of the spectators, a makeshift ladder was made from wooden pallets and food was placed at the top of the ravine. The following day the deer walked out of the ravine and ate the food, and returned to the wild. The spectators and the complainant were notified by telephone and thanked for their assistance.

BELLE ISLE

CO Rich Nickols was directing traffic so a wrecker could pull out a stuck truck. A vehicle approached and stopped to see what was going on. When the vehicle stopped, CO Nickols could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. CO Nickols returned to his patrol vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The driver admitted to just smoking a marijuana cigarette. The driver was arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs. During a search of the vehicle, additional marijuana and an unregistered handgun were located hidden in the vehicle. The vehicle was impounded and the subject was lodged in jail.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau worked his assigned shift with **PCO Chris Reynolds** with many positive contacts on the island. The fishing activity on the island is increasing, including several found to be fishing without licenses. Tickets and warnings were issued.

The true joys of trout fishing*(Continued from Page 6)*

water. The very memorable chance of meeting some 'old timer' (someone MY age now) on the water and the questions I would ask and seek answers to. Some would give me a fly, which I cherished.

Once during one of these encounters with an older gentleman, we sat on a log in midstream and I listened to his long experienced observations about trout, and that particular stream where we sat. I remember not wanting that moment in time to end. This was someone who KNEW the secrets and was sharing them with me.

I sometimes went out of my way to sidle up to one of these sages and casually start up a conversation—which usually falsely implied that I knew what I was talking about. Looking back, I am quite sure my lack of knowledge was transparent when I spoke over my head, all the time under the guise of "gaining knowledge."

The truth is, the real joy in trout fishing is where it takes place. The cold, clean water and the fresh air that is always better than at home. When you finally get to the point where you are able to cast a fly, catch trout occasionally, feel confident in your ability and relax, then you can pause to look at the river and your surroundings. And if the sun is shining, the trees and bushes are alive with birds, and the wildflowers are in bloom along the banks, then you will truly begin to see what all the fuss was about.

A boat ride to St. James*(Continued from Page 2)*

than the crowd in St. James. So we fixed up Denali and turned her bow on the 161-degree course, back to Charlevoix.

It was hairy until we got the timing down. Then, as Denali settled into the pitch of the seas, we sat back and rolled it out.

The moon lit a shimmering streak across the tumbling crests. I cut back on the throttle and let Denali find her own pace. As the miles between us and those crazed people lengthened, we secretly wished it could end here. Away from them.

Why must people fear quiet, nature and aloneness?

Final Shot

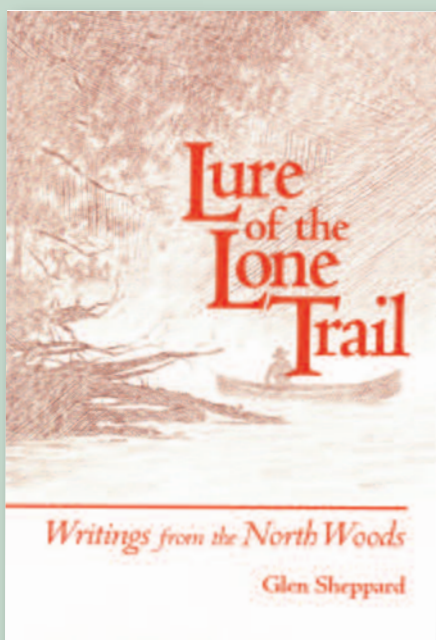


Hiawatha Country

—North Woods Call photo

The iron-rich Tahquamenon River water sometimes resembles root beer as it rushes over the precipice at the Upper Tahquamenon Falls in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This is the land of Longfellow's Hiawatha and boasts one of the largest waterfalls east of the Mississippi. A maximum flow of more than 50,000 gallons of water per second has been recorded cascading over the nearly 50-foot drop. The Ojibwa Indians once camped, farmed and fished along the river's banks. It may seem unreal today, but the Call's editor remembers a time during the 1950s when visitors could walk along a rock ledge underneath the falls.

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Northern conservation network folds

Those familiar with the Northern Michigan Conservation Network will be saddened to hear that the website is folding its tent for the foreseeable future.

In a June 29 "thank you" note posted on the site, Senior Editor Paul Rose pointed to "personal reasons and a series of events which have caused us to reassess the need for this initiative" as the primary reasons for the decision.

"Although the issues which have occupied the pages of this website are likely to resurface again over time, it has become necessary for us to leave it to others to do the 'heavy lifting' on such matters," he said. "Thankfully, here in Michigan we are blessed with no shortage of dedicated sportsmen/conservationists who are better positioned to continue to deliver these messages in a more effective manner than we are—leaving us to conclude that one less voice is unlikely to be missed."

"The Northern Michigan Conservation Network has been informative, well-balanced and carefully researched since its founding a few years ago," said

Mike VanBuren, editor of *The North Woods Call*. "Its strong and clear voice will be missed by many, including us."

Rose said the network is not entirely going away, although its commitment to the regular development of original content will be ending.

"While one should never say, 'never,' at least for the foreseeable future we will be leaving these issues to others to advance and debate," he said.

Since its beginning, the network has been dedicated to connecting conservation-minded hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts to the issues facing Michigan forests, waters and wildlife. To that end, some of the state's foremost conservationists and environmental policy experts have contributed content and advice.

"We would like to thank all who have supported [us] through their contributions of written content, 'insider tips,' and topic suggestions," Rose said. "Still others are owed a debt of thanks for their counsel, editorial review and comment."

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