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Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953

"Ample evidence" of bid-ripping, Schuette says

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette in May filed a brief urging that the state's case against Chesapeake Energy (People vs. Chesapeake) go to trial on two counts of anti-trust violation and one count of attempted anti-trust violation.

The brief says there is "ample evidence that the defendant's conduct constituted bid-ripping" during the sale of oil and gas leases on land managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Chesapeake Energy was charged with the alleged illegal activity along Encana Oil & Gas USA.

The two firms were competitors for Michigan oil and gas leases, the attorney general said, but they allegedly discussed and executed a plan to withhold contract offers from both private landowners and the State of Michigan by dividing their bids during a May 2010 auction.

The activity drove down bid prices from $1.510 to $50 per acre, state officials said.

Encana settled its portion of the case during a pre-trial hearing in April. The company was ordered to pay the state $5 million.

Chesapeake, however, was continuing to fight the charges at this writing and has reportedly accused Michigan prosecutors of "cherry picking the company's internal e-mails to suggest its former chief executive officer invited Encana to join in the alleged caper."

According to prosecutors, Chesapeake's e-mails included suggestions that the two companies "throw in 50/50" on the bids, "rather than bash each other's brains out." In a later note, the CEO, who left the company last year following a shareholder revolt, said the firms could save "billions of dollars in lease competition."

Company attorneys, however, said other portions of some of the same e-mail messages show that former CEO Aubrey McClendon, was open to competition. "The only evidence the state can point to is a select group of documents in the case," they said, "but the documents taken as a whole make abundantly clear that no agreement was reached. Theories and speculation are not evidence."

Nevertheless, Chesapeake re- mained charged with conspiring to restrain trade, in violation of Michigan's anti-trust laws. It

Alleged judge dismisses lawsuit against DNR

Allegan County Circuit Judge Margaret Bakker on May 2 dismissed a lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that was filed by a citizens' group seeking to nullify state mineral leases.

The suit cited leases sold for 12,000 acres of land in the Allegan State Game and Recreation Area.

Bakker apparently was not persuaded by the argument that the matter was ripe for decision at this stage, because transferring substantive property rights to oil and gas companies. Instead, she agreed with DNR attorneys and found that there is no "loss or injury" until and unless the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)—a separate agency—issues permits to drill.

A similar lawsuit in Barry County had already been dismissed by a judge there.

Members of Michigan Land Air Water Defense (MLAWD), which filed the legal action, said they "respectfully disagree" with the court's analysis, which they believe relieves the DNR from its re sponsibilities to uphold the public trust and enforce the Michigan Environmental Protection Act. That duty, they said, includes the creation of an environmental assessment, or impact statement, from the DNR.

DNR attorneys argued that requirements of the Environmental Protection Act did not apply in this situation. The leases, they said, are classified in such a way that the DNR doesn't have to study and report on the environmental impacts.

All of the leases in question are "nondevelopment," they said, and there is no development of the land surface of any kind."

The MLAWD attorney did not receive the court's opinion until May 12, they said, and the group is now evaluating both the strength of a possible appeal and whether it can hope to raise funds sufficient to carry an appeal forward.

"While we're disappointed in Judge Bakker's ruling, MLAWD remains committed to educating the public about the need for a strong, independent DNR," the opinion said.

(Continued on Page 2)
**Our 8th Year: Looking Back to May 18, 1971**

**An essential environment**
By Glen Sheppard

This column was recently reminded of why The North Woods Call’s editor is often considered a radical, an alarmist, by Department of Natural Resources chiefs, and industrial and real estate exploiters. The reminder was our first trip downtown in about 18 months. How, indeed, can people living in “that environment” take serious the warnings of people who see a few dozen—or even a few hundred—more cottages, or a few more miles of highway in thousands of acres of forest, as a threat to “their environment”? More to the point, how can we expect people who will tolerate the gross crime against nature that spreads in every direction south of Farrell to understand and care for the north country? The Call’s editor had forgotten. It was a shock. Literally.

By the time I reached Lansing, after driving for 80 miles without once seeing an area where man’s presence was not dominant on the landscape, I was shaking. I was too embarrassed by my quixotic hands to try to light my pipe when I met Mrs. Willard Wolfe, Dr. John Tatum and Walt Pomroy. They were kind enough not to laugh.

Obviously, people—even those of the same blood and skin color—are radically different. Just as less ominous creatures of the same family are different.

It can readily be argued that the highly trained, tense show dog is the ultimate of his race. But some of us would argue that the wild, unrestrained wolf—which can’t survive the tense, cluttered world of the much-prized show dog—is far more “real.”

On two occasions, I have seen people in passing cars give no more than a moment’s glance at bald eagles that were only a few feet from the highway. To these people, this symbol of naturalness and freedom meant nothing. Yet it is almost a sure thing that some of them have placed considerable value on a caged bird that twittered and sang on cue.

Not that there is anything wrong with the caged bird, the artificial dog, or men who will live in a caged, fouled, unnatural environment. They, like the wolf and the eagle, belong. It is only that it is a shock to be exposed to their habitat.

And it is beginning to be reminded that persons who can survive in this dismal, unreal habitat control what is happening to the habitat that the “lesser” creatures require if they are to survive.

Robert Service’s lines tell it well:

The pulace, the howl howl next door,

The insolent towers that sprawl to the sky,

The crack and the crush and the roar,

I’m trapped like a fox and a fear for my pelt;

I cower to the crash and the thunder,

... We’re nothing but brute with a little veneer;

And nature is best after all.

There are, of course, truly flexible men. Men, who like deer, can move between a forest and urban environment with no apparent loss of stability, judgement, or values. There are others who “fit” in one environment, but can “visit” the other without obvious shock.

And neither are the localities. Those who can live in places like Midland County—w ith its 63,769 people, stinking air, filthy environment. And there are the “inbetweeners.” Those who can live in places like Genesee County, or Oakland County.

These candid observations may prove nothing. The only thing this column was sure of was that pure joy of being back in the north country.

The Sable River the next day was never more perfect. Mayflies were hatching. Trout were taking. The fragrance of the humble jack pine and the roving neighbors in the swamp. An old friend, a cedar tree, whose trunk is now perfectly bent to my back counter hundreds of years of mapping the river.

The endless horizons of no longer unsullied Lake Michigan. A vision of a long canoe, paddled by gaunt men, nearing Beaver Island, which stood out in the distance. The big, red hound, who sat panting in my ear, wanting to romp down the beach, but willing to wait while I watched the sun dance on the water.

This environment is essential to the survival of some people.

**Giving polluters a break?**

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently cut two of Michigan’s largest polluters a break when it lowered air quality standards to meet the needs of Marathon oil refinery and Severstal steel plant both in Detroit. According to the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV), instead of protecting the health of Michiganders living near both industrial plants and the quality of the air we all breathe, the DEQ weakened the rules so that both plants can continue letting loose toxic chemicals without facing penalties.

Several state records are especially egregious. MLCV officials said, with 38 air quality violations to their name.

The DEQ should push back and hold them accountable, they said, rather than changing the rules in their favor.

**Support the conservation of natural resources in the Great Lakes region**

**Halls of Famers**

The newest class of Michigan Environmental Hall of Fame was inducted April 10 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids. The inductees included Norm Spring, Joan Wolfe, Don Inman, Dave Dempsey, Ralph Bailey, Tom Washington, the Clinton River Watershed Council, Mayville Elementary School, and the wolf/moose project on Isle Royale initiated by Durward Allen. Present to accept the awards for themselves or others were (from left) John Vucetich, Don Inman, Anne Vaara, Susan Kelsey, Patricia McNinch, Cindy Wilson, Jim Morden, Dave Washington, Norm Spring, Dave Dempsey and Joan Wolfe.

**Allegen judge dismisses lawsuit**

(Continued from Page 1)  The public about oil and gas development and under Michi gan’s public lands,” the group said in a prepared statement released following the ruling, “and we will not be hoodwinked from keeping a close eye on the status of mineral leases and drilling permits in southwest Michigan.”

During an April 10 hearing on the matter, attorney John Olson, who represents MLAWD, argued that the DNR should have been held to tighter standards when it auctioned the leases in 2012. He said the state’s piecemeal review of individual applications amounts to “death by a thousand cuts” of sensitive wilderness areas.

“They’re not looking at the bigger picture,” Olson said, noting that it is the state’s constitutional duty to consider the impact of drilling begins with the leasing process.

But Dan Boch, the lawyer representing the DNR, said the agency was following the law when it auctioned of “non-development” leases that do not allow for drilling or exploration. Protests should only be raised if and when oil companies apply for drilling permits on the land they leased, he said, and no permits have been sought since the sale.

**“Ample evidence” of big-riding**

(Continued from Page 1) faces a top fine of $1 million on each of the two criminal conspiracy counts.

DEQ officials have repeatedly analyzed the sale results and testified that Encana was sole buyer of the leases Encana won, while Chesapeake was the sole bidder for 91 percent of the leases it won, according to the attorney general’s office.

**DEER LAKE:** —Photo courtesy of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs

**JUNE NRC MEETING:** The June 12 meeting of the Michigan Nat ural Resources Commission (NRC) will be held at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaufort Road, in Lansing. The Sept. 11 and Nov. 6 meetings will also be held at that same location, while the Oct. 9 meeting will be at the Ralph A. MacMullin Confer ence Center, 104 Conservation Drive, on Higgins Lake near Ros com mon. Other NRC meetings during 2014 will be July 10 at the Outdoor Adventure and Discovery Conference, 1801 Atwater Street in Detroit; Aug. 14 at the American Legion, 610 W. Munising Avenue in Munising; and Dec. 11 at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

**ENBRIDGE RESPONSES:** Enbridge company representatives reportedly met recently with state officials in Lansing and provided a significant amount of information requested in a recent letter from Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant. As reported in the late May edition of The North Woods Call, Schuette and Wyant had asked for extensive documentation about the known condition, monitoring and maintenance practices relating to two 61-year-old pipelines that lie at the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac.

**MANURE SPRAYING:** While reportedly a rare practice these days, spraying manure on farm fields has taken on new urgency as more dairy farms consider doing so. A Wisconsin group is studying whether to toughen regulation of manure irrigation, according to a story in the Great Lakes Echo. The practice is regulated under current law with restrictions on spraying too close to homes and wells, the online publication said.

**DWINDLING ICE:** Lake Superior was still about three percent covered with ice, according to a report issued on May 20. The areas packed with frozen water included the head of the lake and the Apostle Islands—more than has been seen during late May in the past 40 years.

**CEDARS FOR THE CEDAR:** Cedar trees were recently planted along Gladwin County’s Cedar River, one of the highest-quality trout streams in the Saginaw River Watershed. A local partnership of 75 Gladwin High School botany students, Department of Natural Resources staff, and volunteers from the Leon P. Murtuch Chapter of Trout Unlimited and The Little Forks Conservancy planted 100 cedar saplings along the Cedar River.

**BUD SLINGERLEND:** Most of you probably already know this, because we’ve almost a year late acknowledging the passing of Michigan conservationist and forest representative Bud Slingerlend. In addition to his service in the Michigan House of Representatives, he was a member of numerous sportmen’s, hunting, trapping and conservation clubs—serving many in the capacity of president or director, including as past president of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUC). He was also a longtime member of the Pigeon River Advisory Council. Much too late, we know, but still worth mentioning.

**DEER LAKE:** The Michigan Department of Environmental Qual ity has sent the U.S. EPA a letter asking the federal agency to remove Deer Lake in ischemping from the federal list of environmental Areas of Concern.
Anglers asked to monitor bait

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials have asked anglers to monitor their live bait purchases to look for juvenile Asian carp. The DNR is doing many things to prevent adult Asian carp (bighead and silver) from entering the Great Lakes, but many people don’t realize that juvenile Asian carp pose a threat to the state’s waters as well,” said Nick Popoff, DNR fish-eries biologist and regulatory affairs specialist.

According to Popoff, juvenile Asian carp can be confused with certain bait fish – such as a gizzard shad, emerald shiner, spot-tail shiner or golden shiner. Michigan bait is often transported across state lines, including from areas with breeding populations of Asian carp, Popoff said, “it would be easy to transport juvenile Asian carp to make their way into the bait supply without anyone realizing it.” To assist anglers and the public in identifying juvenile Asian carp, the DNR has developed a video that showcases five character-istics viewers can use to distinguish between juvenile Asian carp (bighead and silver) and common bait fish. These characteristics include body color, scale pattern, eye size and location, mouth shape and location, and the presence or absence of keels on the bottom side of the fish. People can watch the video on the DNR’s Asian carp website: www.michigan.gov/asian carp. The video also describes what anglers should do if they find an odd fish in their bait.

To hunt or not to hunt, Michigan wolves

Now that there are at least two anti-wolf hunting proposals on the November ballot and petition signa-tures for another proposal supporting the activity are being collected, it might be helpful to take a closer look at the two sides of this issue. Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, the group push-ing for repeal of the state’s wolf-hunting season, says a “trophy hunt” is an unnecessary waste. No one eats wolves, anyway, the group says, and such a season would subject wolves to cruel and inhuman practices.

Further, the public is not in danger and wolves are an invaluable part of Michigan’s ecosystem. The group claims there is no sound science to justify such a hunt, which represents an “egregious power grab” by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission of authority once held by the state legis-lature.

“Michigan voters clearly value their right to protect wildlife from unsporting and inhumane prac-tices,” according to a fact sheet issued by the organization. “In 2004, they overwhelmingly re-jected a law to allow sport hunting of mourning doves. And in late March of 2011, our coalition of Michigan citizens, conservationists, Native American tribes, scientists, veterinarians, and animal welfare groups turned in more than 255,000 signatures from Michigan citizens to place Public Act 520 of 2012, which allows state management of wolves as a game species, on the November 2014 ballot for a referendum vote.

“The state’s voters deserve to have a voice in how our wildlife is managed. We can’t rely on politi-cians, bureaucrats and special interest groups to make decisions without voter oversight. We need checks and balances to ensure our wildlife, which is held in the public’s trust, will be managed with the best available science.”

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), which is challenging the repeal effort, says Keep Michigan Wolves Protected had fewer signa-tures (183,000) on their second referendum petition than their first, showing diminishing public support. Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management—the alternative effort supported by the MUCC that prefers the legislation known as “The Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act”—will collect more than 350,000 signatures, the organization says, a larger number than either of the anti-hunting efforts did.

Two straight polls show public support for the wolf hunt over 67 percent, according to the MUCC. “The Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act will make sure that decisions about game species and fisheries orders are based on sound science,” MUCC officials said in a recent news release, “which can only be assured at the Natural Resources Com-mission, where they are required to use sound sci-ence, rather than misleading political ads financed by out-of-state anti-hunting groups.”

“The Keep Michigan Wolves Protected referen-dums are funded, organized and staffed by the Hu-man Society of the United States HSUS), HSUS opposes public hunting rights, as it states on its web-site. It opposes all hunting for “fun, trophy or sport,” (and it always claims the hunting seasons it attacks are for “fun, trophy or sport,” even when clearly au-thorized by state biologists for food, fur, population and habitat management, property protection or human safety). It opposes all hunting with dogs, and [says] that any killing of wildlife must only be done by “responsible officials.” In other words, not by li-ence holders.”

Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, however, says these efforts to stop wolf hunting are not about re-stricting hunting rights. The Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act is about trying to “block voter voices on wildlife protection,” the group has said.

Much more debate on this issue will undoubtedly occur leading up to this fall’s election.

Researchers look at PBB & health in Michigan’s Gratiot County

Researchers from Emory Uni-versity in Georgia have returned to Michigan’s Gratiot County to continue to examine whether the health of residents and chemical plant workers was harmed from chemical contam-ination that occurred during the 1970s.

The concern is whether con-tamination left by the Velsicol Chemical Co. in St. Louis, Michigan, has long-term health consequences for the county’s residents.

A total of 280 community members participated in two days of blood drawing and a 10- day reproductive health screen- ing clinic in March.

The study stems from when P BB — polybrominated biphenyls — manufactured at the former Velsicol plant was ac-cidentally mixed into cattle feed used on farms throughout the state in the 1970s.

People who ate the contami-nated meat, and chemical work-ers and their family members may have traces of PBB and other chemicals produced at the plant in their bloodstream, said Marcus.

Marcus said her team has al-ready seen health problems in some of its previous research. “We did find that there were more cases of breast cancer among highly exposed women than you would expect in a pop-u-lation of this size,” said Mar-cus. “We also found increased risk of thyroid problems, partic-u-larly among men.”

Farley Mowat in younger years, known for much environmental and social issues. He called Canada’s treatment of aboriginals “abominable,” and said Canada’s annual seal hunt was, “perhaps the most atrocious single trespass by human beings against the liv-ing world that’s taking place today.”

A frequent guest on Canadian television and radio, he had taken out recently a Canadian Broadcasting Corpora-tion radio program to condemn a plan to set up Internet hot spots in several of Canada’s national parks.

Calling it a “disastrous, quite stupid, idiocy concept,” Mowat said that parks should be for the preservation of nature. “Human beings,” he added, “should be kept out of them as much as possible.”

Chronicler of the far north

Canadian author Farley Mowat dies

Farley Mowat, one of Canada’s most popular and prolific writers who championed wildlife and na-tive rights, died May 6 at the age of 92.

Mowat—a lifelong naturalist who wrote some 40 books—was perhaps most widely known for his 1963 book “Never Cry Wolf,” in which he recounted his adven-tures as a biologist on a mis-sion to study Arctic wolves in the Keweenaw Barren Lands in northern Manitoba. The book provoked widespread de-beate over its sympathetic por-trayal of an animal that many Canadians thought should be ex-terminated.

He also wrote such classics as “People of the Deer,” a 1952 book about the struggles of an In-nuit group in the Northwest Ter-ritories, and a follow-up book entitled “The Desperate People.”

He was sometimes criticized for playing loose with the facts, but defended the practice saying he never let the facts stand in the way of truth. He blunted the lines between fiction and non-fiction, he said, to dramatize his cause.

“I was writing subjective non-fiction all along,” Mowat told an interviewer in 2012.

Never one to shy away from controversy, Mowat was outspo-

Old Fort Wilkins

Historic Fort Wilkins at the tip of Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula beckons summer visitors to explore some of the state’s past. Below, the early June afternoon sunlight illuminates the interior to one of many buildings that have been restored and opened for viewing by history buffs. There’s a campground next door and it’s only a short bike ride into Copper Harbor.

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Opinion

Quote Box

"Human beings are, of course, a part of nature, as much as griz -
zy bears, or bees, or whales, or sorghum cane. The cities of human beings, however, are a part of a part of nature, just as the colonies of prairie dogs, or the beds of oysters... Dull, inert cities, it is true, do contain the seeds of their own destruction. But lively, diverse cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration, even enough to carry over for problems and needs out -side themselves."

— Jane Jacobs

If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it

The ongoing debate over the planned removal of a perched headwater from the Escanaba River, a key tributary to the Watershed Project, the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the ESCONI Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is heating up. The ongoing debate over the planned removal of a perched headwater from the Watershed Project, the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the ESCONI Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is heating up. The ongoing debate over the planned removal of a perched headwater from the Watershed Project, the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the ESCONI Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is heating up. The ongoing debate over the planned removal of a perched headwater from the Watershed Project, the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the ESCONI Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is heating up. The ongoing debate over the planned removal of a perched headwater from the Watershed Project, the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the ESCONI Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is heating up. The ongoing debate over the planned removal of a perched headwater from the Watershed Project, the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the ESCONI Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is heating up. The ongoing debate over the planned removal of a perched headwater from the Watershed Project, the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the ESCONI Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is heating up.

North Woods Call reader survey

Response to the 2014 North Woods Call reader survey has been somewhat anemic. We take that to mean you are either satisfied, or too polite to complain. Other responses we received so far, comments have included “it’s great,” “now the Call is fair and balanced” and “I like the diversity and timeliness of natural resources-related news.”

One reader added that he appreciates our focus on the “ethi -cal,” even if it isn’t popular. “This should be our highest calling,” he said, “even if it isn’t popular.”

Another respondent said that most of the news covered is “readers can do to help.

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Adverse reactions always on request

A Newshound Publication

Share your thoughts in The Call

Man & climate change: Seeing is believing?

Some folks tell me that man -made climate change is the most important issue facing humanity. Others claim that this is a bunch of bunk.

Personally, I have no reliable way of knowing for sure, but—as readers of The North Woods Call have already seen—I’m in a bit of a quandary on the current downtown compass.

It’s not that I don’t respect human activities, and I’ve been suspicious of the Faustian bargains we’ve made with fossil fuels, nuclear energy and a host of others. However, I don’t think that every one of us, I’d love to see greener, cleaner and more afford -able forms of energy developed.

For eight years, my family and I spent a week each August camp -ing in one of Michigan’s finest state parks. The last five or six years that we camped, however, it was decid -ed cooler at the same location and we sometimes had to wear sweaters during the day.

All of these things can be at -tributed to climate change, I sup -pose—or at least evolving weather patterns. But how many of them were actually caused by human activity that would suggest we’re in imminent danger of mass extinction, and deadly—that we don’t clean up our ecological acts?

None of this, of course, means that air, water and land pollution doesn’t occur at various levels, or that human beings are not capable of fouling the earth. Such homo sapien missteps certainly have manifested themselves at places like Love Canal, Three Mile Island and Donora, Pennsylvania, among other locations.

And if something as serious as man-made climate change is actu -ally occurring, and it threatens our very survival, we need to sound a clarion alarm. But we should also be encouraged to challenge such radical ideas.

It’s not unreasonable to expect that clear and convincing argu -ments be made—free from politi -cal gamesmanship, and the demonization of anyone who questions the veracity of these facts.

Who has ever known a trained meteorologist who could predict next week’s weather with 100 per -cent accuracy? What would we expect without question the predictions of what the worldwide climate will be like
decades, or even centuries from now? And why, for Heaven’s sake, would we base costly carbon tax on unverifiable squabbling regulations on politi -cal and scientific guesswork—however, in the near future be—that may well be proven false and, in some cases, already has.

Back when I studied weather and climate science in a degree -ation minor at Central Michigan University, nothing was said about global warming, or climate change. Today we learn about the natural forces that shaped our physical environment and how, at least we could understand the weather changing from day-to -day. Anybody who thought they could unequivocally tell us what the weather would be like, a month, or year from now, would have been ostracized as some -thing akin to Elie Gould. These days, old Elmer is embraced.

I’m not omniscient enough to say without hesitation who is right, who is wrong, but I do feel that we should all be considerate of those who think different.

The best we can do is rely on our own intuition, personal expe -riences and powers of reason to sort through the various theories. Unfortunately, normal public dis -course is notoriously unreliable—and, perhaps somewhat, the most noise appear to have stealth motivations that have nothing to do with saving Mother Earth.

Nevertheless, we ought to be able to speak like adults about such subjects and seek the truth wherever we may find it.

As it is, we seem to be collec -tively living the words of Julia Ward Howe’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic” by “trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.”

Sorry for the anger we are harvesting stems more from self -ish ambition and human-gener -ated antipathy toward one another. It is only a matter of time before the or -dable empirical evidence that shows our often confused species is destroying the Earth.

Which, by the way, actually be -longs to God, not us.
Harm. The bad news was that his fishing rod went down with him and did not come out unscathed. Finally, my suspicions were true; the evening had not gone down in the annals of history as one of the grand hex fishing nights.

Act III: Sunday Night

Our last act is short and bittersweet. After a day of drying clothes, finding fly rod tips, and mending our holes in our lives, we had truly a lovely dinner of perch and shrimp, and offered Joe a few humble Father's Day gifts. He thanked us profusely and offered up a toast to the day, to the family, and to the river. The canoe was still beaming and the river was practically begging Joe to come and play with the trout. Alas, our hero was forced to exit stage left into a car and stay home due to an urgent work matter. Even worse, they three girls remained at the river for another night, enjoying the sweet sounds of the fisher people as they heeded the call of the river. We did not mention that the hex count was up in the daily census the following morning.

The happy ending is that Joe was able to make it all the way to the river and return home for a few short days later, for a real fishing adventure with three buds. The happy ending could result in Hex Hatch 3.

Have I mentioned that I don’t care for trout fishing today or tomorrow or the next day? I am not interested in the trout world, because the club had failed to advise the development would harm the club, its programs, and its members and therefore lacked “standing” to sue. "Manmade objects are sometimes parties to litigation," Douglas wrote. "... So (Continued on Page 6)
The essence of spring

As I watch the “greening up process” here in southern Michigan, I am overwhelmed with options of seasonal, necessary chores, or the many items on the “to-do” list that present themselves this time of year. Some of the obligatory options would be the lawn, preparing the garden, trimming shrubs, or transplanting the white pine trees that did not get planted in their final resting place last year. And the list goes on. The “to-do” list. The chores are not unpleasant or dreaded. They can be very satisfying and fulfilling.

This perpetual malady we see as “spring fever”—in my case at least—is not caused by the extended period of daylight, or the warming temperatures alone. No, it is caused by the anticipation of joyful options in the out-of-doors. It is most likely brought on by the realization that the woods and streams of Michigan, once again alive, and being re-born with opportunities to explore and seek soul-cleansing satisfaction, that makes us endure the hardships of winter—and sometimes life in general.

It is the springtime that those of us who care about birds and trout and mayflies and wildflowers live for. This is OUR time of the year. This is the NEW YEAR!

Who should speak for nature? (Continued from Page 5)

It should be as respects valleys, alpine meadows, rivers, lakes, estuaries, inlets, ridges, groves of trees, swamps, or even air that feels the destructive pressures of modern technology and modern life. … Those who have that intimate relation with the inanimate object about to be injured, polluted, or otherwise modified by man, are our spokesmen. … The problem is to make certain that the inanimate objects, which are the very core of American’s beauty, have spokesmen before they are destroyed. It is, of course, true that most of them are under the control of a federal or state agency. The standards given those agencies are usually expressed in terms of the “public interest.” Yet “public interest” has so many differing shades of meaning as to be quite meaningless on the environmental front. … [And] the pressures on agencies for favorable action one way or the other are enormous.

The federal agencies of which I speak are not venal, or corrupt, but they are notoriously under the control of powerful interests who manipulate them through advisory committees, or friendly working relations, or who have that natural affinity with the agency which in time develops between the regulator and the regulated.

... Before these priceless bits of Americana (such as a valley, an alpine meadow, a river, or a lake) are forever lost—or are transformed as to be reduced to the eventual rubble of our urban environment—the voice of the existing beneficiaries of these environmental wonders should be heard.

That is why these environmental issues should be tendered to the inanimate object itself. Then there will be assurances that all the forms of life which it represents will stand before the court—the peregrine woodpecker, as well as the coyote and bear; the lemmings, as well as the trout in the streams. Those inarticulate members of the ecological group cannot speak, but those people who have so frequently the place to know its values and wonders will be able to speak for the entire ecological community.”

Amen. Let’s remember that when citizen voices speak, above with nasty (rufous) sides and white underparts, and the eye is red. The female replaces the male with brown. You will see them scratching beneath your feeders. The call is unique with a clear “drink your teaee.” When first arrives the towhee may only give the drink call, then add the “yes” and finally the whole song. Probably one of the most surprising birds to come to our thistle feeder in the spring is the indigo bunting. This little bird, upon its arrival, will visit your thistle feeder until nesting. The male, as the name indicates, is a bright indigo or blue color. The indigo bunting is small, similar in size to the American goldfinch. The female is dull brown with no striking characteristics. Typically they nest in dense brambles or shrubs.

The Songs of Springtime

Numerous songbirds—such as this myrtle warbler photographed near Grayling—have returned to Michigan for another summer of singing and nesting. It is just one of the enchanting signs of spring that lovers of the state’s outdoor heritage look forward to each year. See Mark Karaba’s column at left for others.

Check out the spring color at your feeders

It’s that time of year—time to check out the spring color at your bird feeders. Or, as I call it, how to make a cardinal look drab.

With the influx of migrating birds, we are getting all the same summer residents, as well as those that are only passing through.

The most colorful of these is the male orchard oriole. The orange and contrasting black make our feeders just come alive with color. If you haven’t fed orioles before, you will be in for a treat. The easiest and quickest way to attract them is to cut a few oranges in half and place them around and on your feeders. Once they are coming, you can keep them at least until nesting with special oriole feeders, or hummingbird feeders that北方 beehive guards. If they do have bee guards and you can remove them, do so.

You use the same nectar formula as for hummingbirds—one part (1/4 cup) sugar to 4 parts (1 cup) water. No color should be used. Never use diet sweeteners or honey.

Along with the Baltimore oriole, many of you will get the cardinal oriole. The orioles also like grape jelly, and will readily take it from a tuna tin, or cat food tin. A good number of birds—such as the cardinals—will take the jelly.

The male orchard oriole is a brick orange color with black and the female is a lime green. The orchard oriole is not quite as abundant around Michigan as the Baltimore oriole is.

Letter to the editor

Just think of all the jobs created by fracking

Editor:

Does fracking for gas and oil really produce jobs for our economy? Let’s look a take.

Fracking is a risky technology. Pipeline leaks, explosions, spills, etc., release toxic chemicals into our environment. All this contamination must be cleaned up. This means more jobs!

Unless, of course, the contamination occurs in a wildlife sanctuary, or impoverished neighborhood, in which case we have to make do with volunteers to clean up the mess. But even then, volunteers must eat, so money is spent in the local economy to buy food. Health care providers must be hired to treat people when injuries or exposure occurs. Lawyers must be hired for resulting lawsuits, and more lawyers to defend the industry against the lawsuits.

Families forced to leave their homes due to contaminated water wells, noise, air pollution and associated health problems due to fracking provide a boost to the hotel industry, create more jobs for moving van companies and sometimes even new house construction.

Fracking has created water shortages in many communities. What a wonderful opportunity this provides for the bottled water industry job creators! And manufacturers of plastic bottles. And the trucks to transport the bottled water. The possibilities just seem endless!

Public relations experts must be hired to “sell” untruths.

(Continued on Page 7)
Conservation Officer Logs (4/13/3 4 through 4/27/14)

Four-wheel damage, floating gas tanks, smart phones purchased and a lost child

DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)

COs Tom Miller and Trey Luce worked a patrol together in Baraga County. The COs discovered several trucks in the snow on the Homer-Nestoria Road. Upon investigating the activity, a jeep was located a short time later, brochure in hand. The driver of the jeep had been climbing on the steep sides of the road when his transfer case broke, leaving a trail of fluid behind. The jeep did extensive damage to the sides of the hill, which were privately owned. Likewise, severe drifts of snow had accumulated around the jeep. The owner was tracked down and a ticket was issued to the driver, whose license is suspended, for the litter found at the site. Other charges are pending for the damage done to the private land.

CO Mark Leadman investigated the complaint of a deer being decapitated on the Herman-Nestoria Road. The complainant stated that the deer, which had been chased down by a dog, had a chunk of flesh missing from its hind quarters. CO Leadman was unable to locate the injured deer, but encountered several persons in the area walking with dogs without leashes. CO Leadman issued warnings on all of the violators, reminding the owners of regulations for state land.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Kevin Ewbank was called out on Easter morning to assist the Michigan State Police and Manistique Public Safety. It appeared a few individuals had stolen two leashes. CO Leadman issued a warrant for reckless driving could not be found, the suspect was being escorted first aid to the victim until CO MacNeill administered with the victim in a bathroom of a residence. The state wound to the throat were self-inflicted with scissors. CO MacNeill administered first aid to the victim until Eninposure of the Wildlife Division (EMS) arrived on scene.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

CO Eric Helfert received a recreational trespassing complaint in

Warbler return to be celebrated

(Special reception will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Royston Inn, 510 West Grand Avenue.)

A special reception will be held then vacated the area allowing the small vessel came into choppy water levels dropped. The DNR Wildlife Division was contacted and employees responded to monitor the bear’s activities until night fall. The sow bear began her descent down out of the tree with the cubs following. Wildlife Division employees then vacated the area allowing the bear to leave. The next morning, CO Greeneway received a call that a sow bear had been struck and killed by a vehicle on U.S. 10. CO Greeneway discovered the scene, found the sow bear dead and the three cubs back up the tree. CO Greenway contacted Wildlife Division and with the assistance of two local tree trimmers—the CO Brody Brosky and Sgt. Michael Bomay—the three cubs were removed from the tree safely. Wildlife Division employess will attempt to place the cubs with surrogate sow bears.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

CO Warren MacNeill was requested to respond to a complaint of a stabbing victim. After dealing with several excited family members and other witnesses present, the CO was able to make contact with the victim in a bathroom of the residence. The state wound to the throat were self-inflicted with scissors. CO MacNeill administered first aid to the victim until Eninposure of the Wildlife Division (EMS) arrived on scene.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

CO Quiny Gowenlock was at the Center Street boat launch for the walleye opener. While at the launch checking subjects coming in, a young man came running down the bank. He informed the CO that he heard yelling down a river and suspected something was wrong. After further discussion, the CO concluded the area was restricted to fishing spots along the Battle Creek and the Kalamazoo rivers. The man suspected people were defecating on his car. CO Gowenlock asked to see the man’s smart phone and stated that he had been turned over to Child Protective Services for resolution.

An armed robbery was reported shortly after. The man showed CO Thorn the phone, which showed that he had purchased two 24-hour fishing lices, a 72-hour fishing license, and a regular fishing license at the Bay City fishing Opener, 11:29 a.m.). The man spent nearly $150 on licenses after his initial contact with the CO, while paying only $5 for the $112 of purchase appeared on his license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss checked several fishing spots along the Battle Creek and the Kalamazoo rivers. The man had spent the night fishing and then overheard telling him his buddy how stupid he was for paying $26 for a fishing license. The CO then called the police and brushed the guy’s buddy didn’t feel so stupid anymore. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

CO Brad Brewer and Sgt. Zachary Doss were called to assist a MSP trooper who had been called to an incident where three subjects in kayaks had entered the company’s property and had destroyed a nest full of Canada goose eggs. CO Brewer and Sgt. Doss interviewed the suspects and discovered the eggs were removed for the destruction of the eggs. Enforcement action was taken for destroying the Canada goose eggs, along with marine violations for failing to have life preservers while kayaking.

CO Steve Mecom and Sgt. Zachary Doss located a vehicle parked near a tributary that held a large number of steelhead. A woman inside the vehicle and presented the COs with surrogate sow bears.

CO Todd Szykora received a RAP complaint that a subject had been shooting robins in the Emmet area. CO Szykora met with the complainant, retrieved 10 dead robins and learned the birds looked like they had been shot at. CO Szykora showed the complainant how stupid he was for paying $26 for a fishing license. The CO then called the police and brushed the guy’s buddy didn’t feel so stupid anymore. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

CO Jeffery Cody assisted MSP troopers on Belle Isle with a 911 call regarding a one-year-old child found walking un supervised in the street. Upon arrival, the caller attempted to locate the child’s parents for 30 minutes before calling. CO Cody was called to the scene to help. CO Cody found the child unharmed. CO Cody was able to get the child home safely to his parents. Eventually, CO Purdy discovered a woman and her child waiting at the crosswalk. CO Purdy asked if she had children in the area. The woman advised she did and that she knew where all her children were. CO Purdy confirmed the woman actually was the lost child’s mother. The matter has been turned over to Child Protective Services for resolution.

BELLE ISLE

CO Patricia Purdy assisted MSP troopers on Belle Isle with a 911 call regarding a one-year-old child found walking un supervised in the street. Upon arrival, the caller attempted to locate the child’s parents for 30 minutes before calling. CO Cody was called to the scene to help. CO Cody found the child unharmed. CO Cody was able to get the child home safely to his parents. Eventually, CO Purdy discovered a woman and her child waiting at the crosswalk. CO Purdy asked if she had children in the area. The woman advised she did and that she knew where all her children were. CO Purdy confirmed the woman actually was the lost child’s mother. The matter has been turned over to Child Protective Services for resolution.

Joel Lundberg

June 2014 Page 7
Fisheries research vessels begin annual Great Lakes fish survey

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that all four of its fisheries research vessels are back on the water, beginning to survey Great Lakes fish populations. Annual surveys conducted by the DNR Fisheries Division’s research vessels are designed to examine the relative abundance, total amount in weight, growth, health, diet, survival rates, natural reproduction and movements of fish in the Great Lakes. This information is vital in supporting the DNR’s mission to conserve, protect and manage the billion-dollar Great Lakes fishery resource for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations, and continues evaluation work begun in the 1960s.

Research vessels are home-ported in Marquette, Alpena, Charlevoix and Harrison Township, but work throughout the lakes on a variety of assessments and evaluations. Additional information about other science vessel operations throughout the Great Lakes can be found at the Great Lakes Association of Science Ships website, www.canamglass.org.

Coal still king of electric generation

Even as environmental groups push for alternative energy sources across the Great Lakes Basin—and as some lawmakers encourage efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions—most energy powering homes still comes from coal-fired generators. In fact, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio were all in the top five coal destinations in the United States during the fourth quarter of 2013, according to a recent article in the Great Lakes Echo.

DNR invites public input on forest plans

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host open houses in Gaylord and Indian River to provide information and receive public comment on proposed forest management treatments for 2016 in the Gaylord management unit. The unit includes Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Mackinac and Otsego counties. The open houses are set for:

* Tuesday, June 17, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Gaylord Field Office, 1732 West M-32, Gaylord.
* Wednesday, June 18, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Indian River Field Office, 6984 Wilson Road, Indian River

Each year, 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.

Help compile The North Woods Call history

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

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“The newspaper for people who love the north.”

Keweenaw Country — North Woods Call photo

The rocky shoreline of Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula accents the deep blue waters of Lake Superior along M-26 near Eagle Harbor. There’s much natural beauty in this region, as well as a rich abundance of cultural and mining history.

Only a handful left

Get yours today!

If you don’t have a personal copy of this collection of writings by longtime North Woods Call Publisher Glen Sheppard there are still a few available.

Order yours today.

The book is out-of-print, but we picked up a handful of new copies from Shep’s estate and are offering them for sale until they are gone.

Check our website for availability and ordering information:

www.mynorthwoodscall.com

Lure of the Lone Trail

Writing from the North Woods

Glen Sheppard

Coal still king of electric generation

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