



“The newspaper for people who love the north”

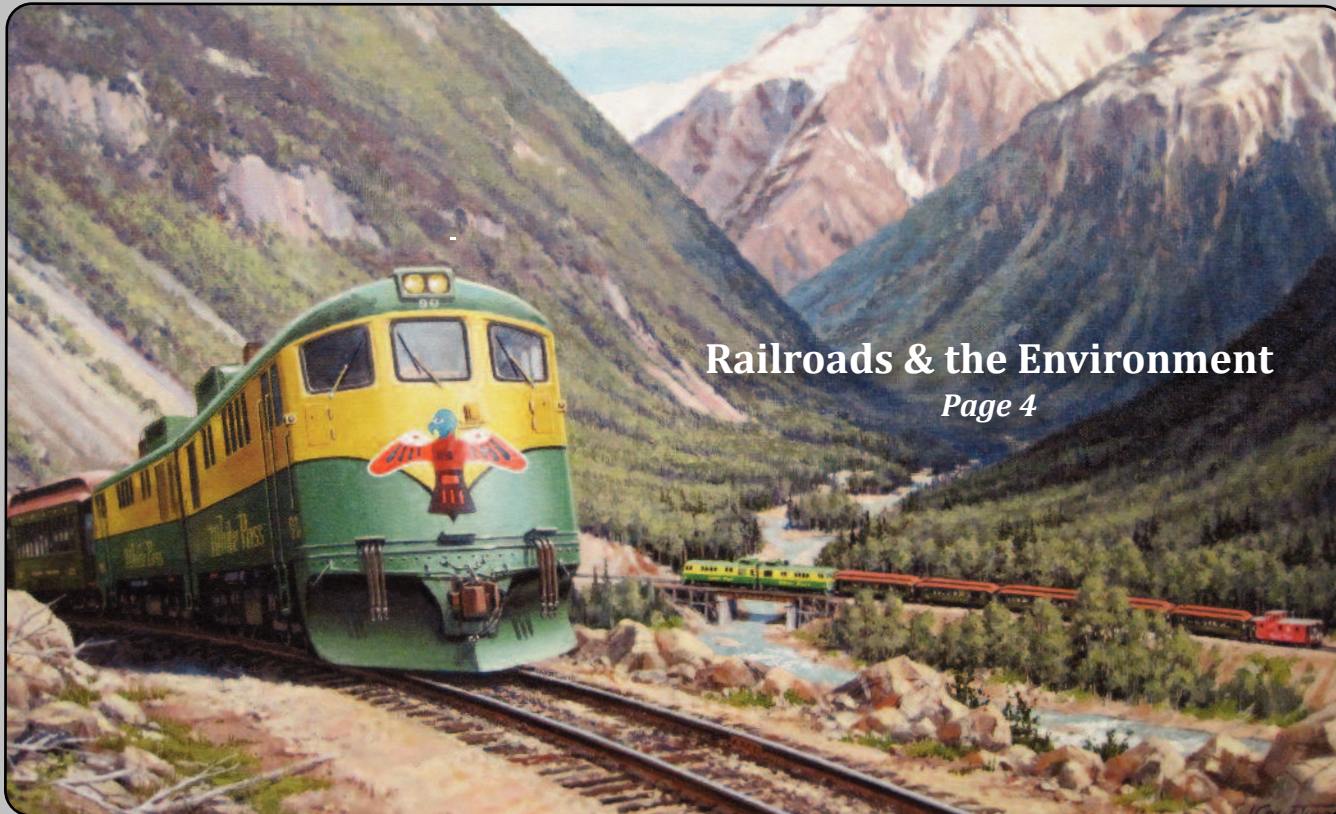


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Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



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Artist's rendition of the White Pass & Yukon Route near Skagway, Alaska.

—North Woods Call photo

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THE NORTHWOODS CALL

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



North Woods Notes

TRAIN TRAVEL: The Michigan Land Use Institute in July released a new report outlining the potential for bringing train travel back to Traverse City. The report, "Getting Back on Track" by the Institute's Transportation Policy Specialist James Bruckbauer, describes how rail travel could boost tourism and development in the area; the upgrades needed to run passenger trains along the tracks; and how comparable towns around the country restored old train lines. While year-round daily commuter trains might be too expensive for now, a seasonal tourist-shuttle could be a low-cost, achievable first step.

AU SABLE CLEANUP: The 20th Annual Au Sable River Cleanup is slated for Saturday, Sept. 6 at Gates Au Sable Lodge near Grayling, Michigan. The event begins at 9:45 a.m. and concludes with the George Alexander Memorial Luncheon at noon. To pre-register—a must to make sure all beats are covered—call Josh Greenberg at (989) 348-8462, or e-mail him at josh@gateslodge.com.

STATE FISHING SHOWCASED: Michigan's world-class fishing opportunities were recently showcased on the season finale of "World Fishing Journal," which airs on the World Fishing Network. The show's host, Mark Melnyk, visited various water bodies to cast a line and chatted with a host of Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division staff, as well as Gov. Rick Snyder.

KEWEENAW FALCONS: A pair of peregrine falcons has successfully nested on the Houghton-Hancock Lift Bridge, even though the boxes have only been in place for two nesting seasons. Three chicks hatched this year, but they had grown too old for the DNR to safely band. According to head bridge operator Robert Paavola, the number of pigeons on the bridge has plummeted dramatically since the falcons took up residence and chased them away.

NORTHERN TRAILS: An "Up North Trails" website has been launched to provide hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders and others with one-stop information about northern Lower Peninsula trails and information. The interactive website—upnorthtrails.org—was created by the Up North Trails Collaborative.

FOREST OPEN HOUSES: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host open houses on Aug. 21 in both Cadillac and Stephenson to provide information and receive public comment on proposed forest management treatments for 2016. The Cadillac meeting will feature discussion of the Cadillac Management Unit, which includes Lake, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola and Wexford counties. The Stephenson meeting will feature the Escanaba Management Unit, which includes Delta and Menominee counties. The Cadillac open house is set for 3 to 6 p.m. (EST) at the Carl T. Johnson Hunt and Fish Center, 5087 East M-115, while the Stephenson open house will be from 3 to 6 p.m. (CDT) at the DNR Stephenson Field Office, West 5420 River Road.

HUNTING ACCESS: In an effort to increase public access to sharp-tailed grouse hunting opportunities, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has expanded the state's Hunting Access Program to the eastern Upper Peninsula and is seeking private landowners to join the partnership program. For more information, or to apply, contact the Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District at 906-635-1278, or the Sault Ste. Marie DNR Field Office at 906-635-6161, extension 56171.

ENERGY FREEDOM: A bipartisan group of Michigan lawmakers has introduced legislation meant to encourage renewable and distributed energy development for utility customers, according to a *Great Lakes Echo* report. The four-bill package, dubbed "Energy Freedom" by its sponsors, tackles issues like net metering, microgrids, fair-value pricing and community renewable-energy gardens. Its sponsors, which include 12 Democrats and five Republicans, say it's a different approach to expanding Michigan's renewable energy portfolio, doing so on a small-scale level rather than a statewide mandate to be achieved by utilities. Utilities in Michigan are said to be on track to meet the state's 10 percent renewable standard by 2015.

FOREST HABITAT & ECOLOGY: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is seeking to update its network of high conservation value areas (HCVAs)—portions of state-managed lands that, among other things, contain rare or sensitive natural communities that add to the robustness and character of Michigan's state forest land. A public review and comment period began July 25 and will run through Aug. 22. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/forestcertification.

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Partnership aids Black River brook trout

Although the late author and avid fly-fisherman Ernest Hemingway is well known for writing about the Upper Peninsula's Two-Hearted River (which was actually the Fox River incognito), there are other trout streams in Michigan that he held so dear they didn't even appear in his short stories—only in letters to trusted friends and confidantes.

The northeastern Lower Peninsula's upper Black River, long recognized as one of Michigan's best brook trout streams, was one of those hush-hush Hemingway haunts that today, through the work of a strategically aligned group of partner organizations, has become a destination point for anglers chasing wild brookies.

"It's renowned for its wild brook trout population," said Tim Cwalinski, the Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist who manages waters

within the Black River Watershed. "We get pretty good survival and growth and it is a destination for anglers who want to fish for brook trout—particularly the East Branch, the mainstream and Canada Creek."

But that doesn't mean it can't be even better. And a unique group of partners—known as the Upper Black River Council—has been doing its best to make it so.

Originally formed in the early 1990s, specifically to deal with problem beaver dams that impounded and warmed the water, the council has expanded its mission into the restoration and preservation of the watershed, which it recognizes as "a highly prized multiple-use natural resource."

The Upper Black River Council is made up of a wide variety of organizations and individuals—the

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Cheap Gas

Ah, the good old days. We ran across this antique fuel pump last fall outside the general store in Plymouth, Vermont. Check out the price—11 cents per gallon, plus three cents tax. We imagine that was the sticker price when Calvin Coolidge last visited the store, which is located in the former U.S. president's hometown. Michigan lawmakers have been talking about increasing gasoline taxes to raise funds to repair potholes and other problems on the state's roads. The federal government, meanwhile, continues to cry poverty, too, claiming that the Highway Trust Fund is "going broke." Cuts in expenditures were expected to come as early as this month, which could leave drivers facing congested and damaged roads. The fund currently takes in more than 18 cents on every gallon of gasoline sold in the country, so critics say there is plenty of revenue for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. Government bureaucrats, however, tend to want to inflict as much pain as possible on drivers, according to critics, to manipulate public opinion and get the increased revenue they continually covet.

—North Woods Call photo

Judge orders Chesapeake trial to proceed

Cheboygan County District Court Judge Maria Barton in mid-July ordered Oklahoma-based Chesapeake Energy Corporation to proceed to trial on one count of violating Michigan antitrust law.

As previously reported in *The North Woods Call*, the charge stems from the company's alleged role in bid-rigging at the October 2010 state oil and gas lease auction.

The judge dismissed a second antitrust charge related to allegations the company conspired to bid-rig prices on parcels owned by individual landowners, as well as

a related alternative attempt charge.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette planned to appeal the ruling on the dismissed charges.

"Bid-rigging will not be tolerated in the Great Lakes State," Schuette said. "We are confident in our case and will be prepared for trial."

A trial date had not yet been set at the time of this writing.

Schuette filed criminal charges against Chesapeake in March 2014 for the alleged antitrust violations regarding private land leasing. During the Michigan Department

of Natural Resources' May 2010 auction, both Chesapeake and EnCana Oil and Gas purchased natural gas leases in Michigan. In 2012, the *Reuters News Agency* uncovered a possible conspiracy between the two companies' executives discussing an agreement following the auction to split up Michigan counties where each company would be an exclusive bidder for both public and private leases.

In the five-month period following the May 2010 auction, this alleged conspiracy may have been

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Our 61st Year: Looking Back to August 3, 1955

EDITOR'S NOTE: Long before uncontrolled immigration at America's southwestern border (see related editorial on Page 4), the North Woods Call's founding editor expressed concern about the growing number of people and its impact on our resources. In this case, she was talking about camping space at Michigan state parks. But the following opinion piece also seems somewhat relevant to broader questions of immigration and general population trends—even though she may have been wrong about the dwindling deer herd.

The masses & the parks

By Marguerite Gahagan

Michigan, the land of woods and water, has 57 state parks under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Department. This year, the steady increase [in the use] of camping facilities at the parks hit its peak, with each one that has campsites reporting over-capacity limits.

[The state] has gone all out on promotion of its role as a “playground” for the people, urging not just those who call Michigan home, but those from other states, to partake of the delights of its woods and streams, lakes, fishing, hunting and skiing.

State parks cannot be purchased or developed overnight. Camping areas, with the necessary health facilities, safe beaches and adequate personnel, need several years of planning. Today the state is faced with what to do with the thousands who wish to camp in state parks—thousands who have been sold on the idea and who travel miles to vacation here, only to find no [campsites] available.

To those who over the past 20 years have planned annual vacations at state parks where they may pitch a tent or park a trailer, the change, the influx of campers, brings forth the repeated question: “Why aren't there more camping sites at state parks?”

A survey of campers shows that the majority represent family groups—a fact pleasant to consider in an age when youth delinquency perplexes society. But for every family that occupies a campsite and enjoys a brief vacation in Michigan—the land of woods and water—another, and another, is turned away.

Land for state park usage and campsite development must be approved for purchase and maintenance by the Michigan Legislature. Campers, perhaps justifiably, argue that the lawmakers somehow manage to scrape up funds for management of the deer herd and fish, sought by an army of hunters and anglers. “Why,” they ask, “aren't there more parks for more people?”

As time goes on, land—particularly land adjacent to water—increases in value in the state and is more difficult to acquire. Economy practices in the past, as compared to what it would have been a decade ago, will undoubtedly be an item for which no elected officials will accept responsibility.

Realistically, we know that generations of the future will be able to hunt the deer and catch the fish as their forefathers did. A fast-growing population and development of the north woods means that wild game will dwindle in number. Someday the deer herd will be merely a handful of protected animals to look at with wonder.

But the land will remain and now is the time to secure it for the enjoyment of today's public, as well as that of the future generations.

Big Lake Erie algal bloom expected

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration has once again issued a seasonal harmful algal bloom forecast for western Lake Erie.

The forecast predicts a signifi-

cant bloom for this summer, but suggests it will be smaller than last year's bloom.

The harmful algal bloom of 2011 was the most severe bloom seen in decades, officials said.

Judge orders Chesapeake trial to proceed

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a key driver behind the state-held land lease price in Michigan going from \$1,510 per acre in May 2010 to less than \$40 an acre at the October 2010 auction and for private leasing to stop.

Schuetz filed one count of antitrust violation and one count of attempted antitrust violation against Chesapeake Energy Corporation on March 5, 2014, in Cheboygan County. On May 9, 2014, following a week-long preliminary examination, Schuetz filed one additional count of antitrust violation based on evidence presented during the preliminary exam, for a total of three charges in the antitrust case.

Encana, meanwhile, pleaded no contest in the case and agreed to a \$5 million civil settlement.

On June 5 of this year, Schuetz charged a separate criminal case against Chesapeake, including felony charges of racketeering and fraud for allegedly victimizing private landowners across Northern Michigan. The complaint alleges that Chesapeake directed their agents to recruit multiple Northern Michigan landowners to lease their land to Chesapeake the summer of 2010. It is alleged that landowners notified the agents of existing mortgages on the land to be leased several times, and the agents allegedly indicated the mortgages would not be an obstacle.

When competition from competitors stopped, Chesapeake—through its leasing agents, including Oil Niagaran and a shell corporation called Northern Michigan Exploration—allegedly cancelled nearly all the leases, using mortgages as the purported basis for the cancellation. Schuetz alleges Chesapeake therefore obtained uncompensated land options from these landowners by false pretenses, and prevented competitors from leasing the land.

Company officials were arraigned June 25 on one count of conducting criminal enterprises (racketeering), a felony punishable by a fine up to \$100,000; and 20 counts of false pretenses, \$1,000 to \$20,000—a felony punishable by a fine of \$10,000 per count, or three times the value of the money or property involved, whichever is greater.

Schuetz's investigation of Chesapeake Energy and their alleged crime against Michigan landowners remained ongoing at this writing. The attorney general encouraged those who may have been victims of Chesapeake to contact his Corporate Oversight Division toll-free at 877-765-8388.

He reminds observers, however, that a criminal charge is merely an accusation, and defendants are presumed innocent until and unless they are proven guilty.



Fragrant Overflow

—North Woods Call photo

This old farm truck appears stuck in an avalanche of flowing plants, herbs and vegetables at a roadside market that the Call's editor ran across during a recent road trip through upstate New York. As the sign on the truck's door testifies, the good earth boasts an abundance of resources to serve the needs of life. Each day, therefore, is a good time to be grateful for the beauty and nourishment that nature provides.

Graymont mine opponents won't fight land swap

One of the chief opponents of the proposed Graymont limestone mine in Michigan's Upper Peninsula says he and his allies will not oppose an exchange of more than 1,700 acres of mineral rights in Chippewa and Mackinac counties.

Graymont has requested the swap of company 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.

“We feel the land that Graymont currently owns is far more sensitive and valuable than the federal land that they are seeking,” said David Gorenflo of Traverse City.

The public has been encouraged by the Department of Natural Resources to comment on the proposed transaction, which is separate from Graymont's previous request to acquire 11,000 acres in the eastern U.P.



(Continued from Page 1)

JUNE NRC MEETING: The August 14 meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will be held at the American Legion, 610 W. Munising Avenue, in Munising. The September 11 and Nov. 6 meetings will be 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. The Dec. 11 meeting will be at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

STRAITS PIPELINE: Michigan's attorney general says that the Enbridge pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac does not comply with state regulations and needs to have additional anchors installed to support the 61-year-old pipeline. Attorney General Bill Schuetz and Dan Wyant, director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, have sent a letter to the Canadian company, putting the firm “on notice” to install the required supports. The pipeline ships nearly 23 million gallons of crude oil and petroleum products every day.

PIPELINE RISK: More than a dozen allied environmental groups have launched a new website—OilandWaterDontMix.org—and a related television commercial, describing the environmental and economic threats posed by aging oil pipelines crossing the Straits of Mackinac.

FROGBIT HARVEST: The Michigan United Conservation Clubs and Michigan Department of Natural Resources—with assistance from the Huron Pines organization and local volunteers—pulled more than 2,000 pounds of invasive European frogbit at the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary boat launch this summer in an effort to keep it from spreading throughout the Thunder Bay Watershed.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP: Waterfowl hunters can now buy the federal migratory bird hunting stamp online at www.mdnr-licensure.com. The cost is \$17, which includes a processing fee.

CLIMATE CHANGE: A majority of worldwide climate indicators—greenhouse gases, sea levels, global temperatures, etc.—continue to reflect trends of a warmer planet, according to the American Meteorological Society's “State of the Climate in 2013” report. The report was compiled by 425 scientists from 57 countries around the world. Australian officials, meanwhile, have repealed that country's tax aimed at limiting fossil fuel pollution, drawing sharp criticism from those who believe human activity is causing the climate to change.

FIREARM DEMOS: The anti-gun lobby was probably freaking out about this, but Michigan youngsters were offered opportunities this summer to try out various firearms and archery equipment. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources sponsored the demonstrations during July and August at the Ortonville, Pontiac Lake, Rose Lake and Sharonville shooting ranges. The last one was scheduled from 4 to 8 p.m. on Aug. 5 at Rose Lake. No registration was required.

NEW FLY FISHING BOOK: A 260-page book by the owner of the Gray Drake, and Trout and Eagle Lodges on the Muskegon River is creating quite a stir in fly fishing circles, drawing wide acclaim from top names in the field, as well as rave reviews for its color plates, fishing stories and ideas. “Selectivity: The Theory & Method of Fly Fishing for Fussy Trout, Salmon and Steelhead” was written by fly fishing guide Matt Supinski and features the author's behavioral theory about feeding fish—why they take and why they don't. The book is available from local book sellers and fly fishing shops, as well as online from Amazon.com. Published by Stackpole Books, it costs \$39.95.

Grants awarded to Boardman River project

The Boardman River Dams & Restoration Project in Traverse City has been awarded more than \$1 million in grant funding for ongoing dam removal work.

The funds will be used for Phase II of the project, which includes removal of Boardman Dam, replacement of the Cass Road bridge and removal of Sabin Dam.

The grants are from several public and private sources, including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Grant Program (\$500,000); the Great Lakes Fishery Trust (\$400,000); the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (\$100,000); the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (\$50,000); Rotary Charities of Traverse City (\$25,000); and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Fish Passage Program awarded to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (\$10,000).

"We are extremely grateful to these funders for their generosity and support of this historic project," said Frank Dituri, project implementation team chairman. "Funders in both the public and private sectors continue to recognize the value of dam removal and restoring the Boardman River to a more natural state."

The grants bring total funding commitments to \$5.7 million—more than half way to the interim goal of \$10.8 million for replacement of the Cass Road crossing and removal of Boardman Dam. An additional \$3 million in funding will be needed to remove Sabin Dam and complete Phase II.

Phase II is now in its early stages of data gathering and design. Deconstruction of Boardman Dam is expected to begin in 2015, while removal of Sabin Dam is expected no earlier than 2017.

Phase I of the project included removal of Brown Bridge Dam, which was completed in 2013, and ongoing restoration work.

When fully implemented, the project—one of the largest dam removal and restoration efforts in Michigan's history—will reconnect more than 150 miles of free-flowing, cold-water stream, and restore hundreds of acres of wetland and upland habitat.

Tainted Toledo

The city of Toledo, Ohio, has warned residents not to drink the city's water after a local water-treatment plant produced two sample readings for microcystin.

There are no U.S. standards for microcystin in water and some environmentalists point to the overuse of fertilizers as the major source of the problem. Yet the agriculture community stubbornly resists any attempts to enact controlling regulation, they say.

Graymont's U.P. mine proposal: Yes or no?

The confidence being demonstrated by Graymont Inc. about the fate of the company's Rexton-area mine proposal has opponents of the plan scratching their heads.

"Has the matter already been decided during secret, behind-the-scenes negotiations?" they ask.

As previously reported in *The North Woods Call*, the company has announced the construction and subsequent opening of a project information office in the community, and has hired a local resident as a "point of contact."

And Graymont officials have

been clear that they intend to move ahead with the operation in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, pending regulatory approvals. They say the project is expected to create up to 50 direct jobs in local mining and transportation, plus up to 100 indirect jobs in the region.

"It would appear that this mining operation is moving forward," said David Gorenflo of Traverse City, who has been fighting the proposal since it was first announced.

But Ed Golder, public information officer for the Michigan De-

partment of Natural Resources (DNR), said that's not necessarily so.

"We're continuing to evaluate the Graymont proposal," Golder said. "No decision has been reached. I anticipate some kind of announcement regarding the proposal in the next few months. We've said all along that we're not going to let an artificial timeline drive our decisionmaking on such an important project."

DNR Director Keith Creagh will reportedly make the final decision on the project.



Alto!

—North Woods Call photo

The blacktop ends abruptly on this road on the southern shore of Lake Ontario in upstate New York. For some reason, it seems reminiscent of those environmental policy debates that so often get bogged down in propaganda, misinformation and self-centered stubbornness. That's where trust shatters, progress stops and the quest for positive solutions reaches a dead end. Most observers say we should be able to do better, but few apparently want to give any ground to the other side, human nature being what it is.

Conservation scorecard gives state legislature an "incomplete"

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) has officially unveiled its 2013-2014 Michigan Environmental Scorecard and, overall, state legislators earned a score of "incomplete."

The LCV established legislative priorities at the start of the 2013-2014 legislative session: advancing clean energy, stronger water protections against fracking, and conserving public land. The state legislature has met those priorities with inaction, the group said.

The 2013-2014 Michigan Environmental Scorecard shows that Michigan legislators' job

performance does not reflect the critical importance of Michigan's natural resources to our environment and our economy, LCV officials said.

"At the beginning of this legislative session, Michigan LCV and many other partners laid out our environmental priorities to state legislators, and since then, we have seen progress stalled, road-blocked and rolled back," said Jack Schmitt, deputy director for the Michigan LCV. "A few leaders stand out as advocates for land, air and water, but without more of our state legislators prioritizing our natural re-

sources, those efforts gain little ground. In the Great Lakes state, Michiganders deserve stronger leadership and more progress on the issues that impact our environment and our economy."

The Michigan Environmental Scorecard reports the performance of Michigan legislators on conservation issues during the 2013-2014 legislative session. The scorecard can be found online at michiganlcv.org.

"State legislators have their work cut out for them through the end of the year," Schmitt said, "and we look forward to reporting back

Rifle River project memorializes Carlos Fetterolf Jr.

The Rifle River received some tender loving care recently in memory of Carlos Fetterolf Jr, an avid environmentalist and long-time champion of the river.

Fetterolf, of Chelsea, Michigan—a longtime subscriber to *The North Woods Call*—died March 22 at the age of 87.

On July 12, some of Fetterolf's friends—including 25 volunteers from Mershon Trout Unlimited in Ann Arbor—installed 400 feet of in-stream habitat and 1,000 willow, dogwood and ninebark saplings. The stream bank restoration work will prevent up to 160 tons of sediment from entering the river channel each year, protecting both water quality and wildlife habitat.

The Ann Arbor Trout Unlimited group has pledged an annual contribution of \$500 to Gaylord-based Huron Pines in memory of Fetterolf, and has donated \$2,000 in support of erosion control projects and volunteer events to be organized throughout the watershed this year.

Fetterolf had a long, distin-



Carlos Fetterolf Jr.

guished career in fisheries and environmental causes. His last years were devoted to protecting local streams and lakes.

After serving in World War II, he graduated from the University of Connecticut, where he enjoyed being on the All-American Intercollegiate Soccer Team. He then went on to earn a master of science degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing

Fetterolf was an avid environmentalist, using his education as

an aquatic biologist to make his life work the protection of the Great Lakes. Carlos was retired from the Canada-United States Great Lakes Fishery Commission, where he served as executive secretary from 1975-1992.

Prior to working with the commission, Fetterolf was a fishery researcher and manager with the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission, the chief of water quality appraisal for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the DNR's chief environmental scientist. On leave to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, he served as science coordinator in development of Water Quality Criteria 1972, a resource document for the establishment of national water quality standards.

He was a past president of the American Fisheries Society, the North American Benthological Society, the International Association for Great Lakes Research, and the Michigan Association of Conservation Ecologists.

Fetterolf received awards for his career contributions to natural

Michigan air quality concerns

The state Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is submitting a new plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that air pollution in Michigan does not exceed levels established to protect public health.

The plan, due by April 2015, must prevent unhealthy levels of key dangerous pollutants—sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and ground-level ozone (smog)—that contribute to diseases like asthma. At least eight counties in Michigan have levels of ozone and sulfur dioxide pollution above the federal air quality standards.

According to the Michigan Sierra Club chapter, the MDEQ is proposing to maintain the status quo, rather than drafting requirements that would end pollution violations by aging coal-fired plants, which are responsible for a significant portion of the emissions. More than 900 petitioners have called on the MDEQ to create strong safeguards, Sierra Club officials said in a prepared news release.

"There is something terribly wrong when the state of Michigan allows any of its counties to become sacrifice zones for pollution, leaving families to suffer the chronic health effects," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

Opinion

Quote Box

"I've interviewed maybe a hundred people for, or against, wolves. The ones who are 'for' wolves, they have an agenda: wilderness and freedom for predators, for prey, for everything. The ones who are 'against' wolves have an agenda: they've got vested financial interests. It's about money—more and more money—for them. They perceive the wolves to be an obstacle to frictionless cash flow."

—Rick Bass

Undocumented consequences

Now that our national borders seem to be dissolving—a baffling occurrence apparently orchestrated by leaders who lack both common sense and respect for the citizens they serve—it may be a silly time to think about population control.

There was a time in the not-too-distant past when a plethora of environmental problems were routinely blamed on "just too many damned people." That doesn't seem to matter, anymore—at least to those who see political and economic gain for themselves at the expense of the nation's legal immigration system and sovereignty.

We've said this before and it's worth repeating: You'd think conservationists on all sides of the ideological divide would recognize that more people mean greater pressure on our natural resources—and the public treasury.

Instead, the left-wingers seem to be happily supporting the continued influx of illegal immigrants, while the right-wingers are trying to slow it down (or so they say). And the so-called progressives—both Democrats and Republicans who have complained the loudest about the devastating impact of human activity on the environment—are apparently unconcerned about the social and ecological consequences of millions of uninvited guests moving into the United States without proper certification.

This is quite stunning to us. If ever there was an issue on which conservationists of all stripes should be able to agree, it is this one.

While we sincerely believe in helping those in need and fully understand the quest for a better life, uncontrolled immigration is not the answer. It would be better to assist the fleeing masses by establishing more just and equitable governments in their home countries. The real problem lies in the despots and dictators that have ruled those nations with an iron fist for far too long—oppressing their people, destroying economic opportunity and keeping the fruits of everyone's labor for themselves.

"But it's about the children," we are told. "We must be compassionate, and care for them and their families."

Yeah, right. Tell that to the millions of aborted souls that have been denied similar compassion and concern here at home.

Speaking out for conservation

When we first began publishing the revived *North Woods Call* two years ago, we imagined a time when the newspaper could be returned to the forests, lakes and rivers of northern Michigan.

After all, that's largely what it's about and where it belongs.

Yet, life events and family obligations have kept us from doing that and it doesn't appear likely that we'll be able to facilitate such a move anytime in the near future.

Unfortunately, we don't know anyone else who is qualified, interested and willing to take over the operation. If we did, we might be open to some deal-making.

Publishing in the southern Lower Peninsula is OK, although it keeps our direct connection with the north woods inconsistent, at best. But with the help of those readers who provide news tips and contribute content to *The Call*—not to mention our numerous loyal subscribers—we have thus far been able to continue the legacy begun in 1953 by Marguerite Gahagan, and continued for many years by Glen and Mary Lou Sheppard.

We believe that Michigan conservation needs this publication, which is why we've been trying to keep it alive despite some personal setbacks during recent months.

In the end, though, it's not about us. We're merely a voice for others and a repository for divergent viewpoints that are sometimes overshadowed by more powerful voices in the civic arena.

It's really the hunters, fishers, explorers, hikers, local conservationists, and numerous others who care deeply about the environment that are doing the heavy lifting out in the field.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has its role, to be sure, but the agency doesn't always seem as effective as it once was. The DNR's legendary field staff—arguably the heart and soul of many state-sponsored conservation efforts—are today so hampered by bureaucratic pressures and special-interest politics that they've been forced to keep their heads low to avoid the crossfire.

That's why good journalism and active citizen participation are vital. We must keep errant public servants, businesses, industries and even the nonprofit sector in line if we are going to preserve both our endangered representative republic and rich natural heritage.

This has been our goal. We trust it is one you share.

All aboard: Railroads and the environment

Many years ago, when I lived and worked in the Antrim County community of Mancelona, I often walked at night in an effort to relax my mind and think.

Many times, I trekked along the Michigan Northern Railroad line, stepping from tie-to-tie, scuffing along in the cinders, or balancing on one of the heavy steel rails. It was good therapy that reminded me of my childhood explorations of the old Chicago, Kalamazoo & Saginaw tracks near our home.

I sometimes imagined following the rails across America, through the rural countryside and urban areas, and actually thought that one day I would take such an extended hike. But, as it often does, life and work got in the way and this remains one of the unfulfilled dreams on my "bucket list."

My fascination with railroads comes naturally, of course, because both my father and grandfather were railroad men—the former a locomotive engineer and the latter a hostler. I was a railroader myself—a locomotive fireman—for several months after I graduated from high school, until I became weary with the regular layoffs, and was pulled away by college and other pursuits.

I have long thought about railroads from a conservation perspective, as an environmentally friendly way to move freight and passengers. One of my college professors once claimed that rails were better than blacktop, because a set of tracks take up much less space per mile than the typical interstate highway favored by modern trucks and automobiles.

That sounded reasonable to a 20-year-old bachelor of science student at a state-funded university, but some transportation experts say trains present their own set of problems.

Not surprisingly, the American Railroad Association (ARA) says there are plenty of ecological benefits to railroads, which the organization says have a unique ability to reduce highway gridlock, lower fuel consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cut pollution.

In 2013, for example, railroads reportedly moved a ton of freight 473 miles on a single gallon of fuel. According to an independ-

North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



The editor's father (left)—a locomotive engineer—when he retired from Conrail in 1988 and grandfather—a hostler—on the job in the Kalamazoo rail yards during earlier days.

ent study by the Federal Railroad Administration, railroads are on average four times more fuel efficient than trucks.

If just 10 percent of long-distance freight that currently moves by highway switched to rail, the ARA says, national fuel savings would approach one billion gallons per year and annual greenhouse gas emissions would fall by more than 10 million tons.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, meanwhile, says that freight moved by rail instead of highway is estimated to reduce emissions by two-thirds.

Furthermore, a single freight train can carry the load of several hundred trucks, freeing up space on the nation's overcrowded highways and reducing pressures to build and maintain costly roads.

According to the Federal Railroad Administration, passenger trains can efficiently move large numbers of people in comfort and safety—and at higher speeds—than are possible with other ground transportation options. More energy savings and reduced air pollutant emissions may be possible through development of high-speed rail systems, the agency says.

Critics insist that the biggest environmental threat produced by trains is the amount of carbon dioxide they emit, although the "carbon footprint" left by a train, compared to an automobile, de-

pends on how many passengers are using it. A train full of passengers leaves a significantly smaller carbon footprint per capita than a car with just one person.

It is also said that, though trains are more fuel efficient than cars, they still consume a tremendous amount of non-renewable fuel each year. They can disrupt local ecosystems by interrupting migration patterns, destroying habitat and even killing animals attempting to cross the tracks. And railroads are often built with little or no consideration of the local flora and fauna, the critics say.

Then there is noise pollution, which often reaches dangerously high decibel levels that can irritate and stress both humans and animals.

There sometimes seems to be no perfect solution to our environmental problems short of exterminating the human race and giving the planet back to the apes. But more intentional use of railroads could probably help a lot.

My father has often lamented the steady demise of railroads, which were at their historical peak when he was growing up. I feel the same way and would much prefer to travel by rail than by plane—if trains could just get me where I'm going on time.

But maybe that's the real problem with our society. We're in far too much of a hurry.



A mothballed diesel locomotive in upstate New York, not far from the southern shore of Lake Ontario.

—North Woods Call photo

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Letter to the Editor

On false crises, partisanship and the civic debate

Editor:

This is in response to your editorial in the Late July 2014 issue, "The art of the false crisis."

Your editorial began on a positive note, where you discuss the need for "skepticism" and "healthy curiosity" in regard to ecological claims made by scientists and others (e.g. climate change). In this regard, I completely agree. However, I disagree with most of the remainder of your opinion piece.

After correctly noting that healthy curiosity is good for seeking accuracy and truth, you immediately contradict what I assume to be the theme of your essay by politicizing the issue—which of course degenerates the seeking of accuracy and truth. You state, "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."

Seriously? Democrats and leftists? False crisis? By interjecting such an inaccurate and politically based statement, the remainder of your editorial becomes clouded by partisanship, which then distracts the reader from the natural resource and environmental matters I think you were trying to address. For example, after reading that partisan statement, I immediately thought of the lies and "false crises" raised by Republicans and "rightists" to support the "illegal" invasion of Iraq (remember WMDs, links to Al Qaeda, participation in 9-11).

I was also reminded of Republicans and rightists' longstanding and typical reluctance or refusal to implement just about any environmental regulation—whether deemed necessary, or non-neces-

sary—because such regulations will supposedly "destroy" the economy, a many times repeated "false crisis" claim that lacks merit and factual basis.

I could easily go on, but I believe it is wrong—and very distracting—for you to imply that "Democrats and leftists" hold some advantage in creating false crises. And, more importantly, making such a statement politicizes your article and your entire paper. Neither Democrats nor Republicans, leftists or rightists, are innocent in creating false crises.

Obviously, to use your terms, you are a strong "rightist." Are we the readers to believe that the natural resource-related articles you choose to include and write about are slanted to the "right?" Natural resource and environmental protection should be a non-partisan issue. Both political persuasions use and enjoy the "outdoors." We all need to breathe clean air and drink clean water. But since you—not me—choose to politicize these issues, I will state that it has been my lifelong experience that it is in fact the "Republicans and rightists" that are far more likely to initiate and support activities that degrade and destroy our collective natural resources and environment in favor of so-called economic gain, and they routinely claim "false crisis," or "false benefits" (usually economic) to justify their actions.

You continue your piece by using Y2K as an example of a false crisis, stating that "the experts claimed" that computer systems would crash at the turn of the century. I'm not sure what point you were trying to make, but since you had already introduced a partisan criticism, I can only assume you were implying

that the same Democrats and leftists who are raising concerns with climate change were wrong with regard to Y2K, so therefore they must now be wrong with regard to climate change. However, as I recall Y2K, it was not a "claim of calamity, but rather a warning of "uncertainty" as to how computer systems would respond in 2000. Would it have been better for the experts to have said nothing about what might happen in 2000?

On the other hand, a conspiracy advocate—which I am not—might conclude that it was industry (e.g. the portable generator industry), rather than the "experts," that promoted and benefitted from the Y2K fears. Therefore, your analysis of Y2K, which was misleading due to your obvious partisanship, is the very action that your article seems to criticize others for doing (ie. making politically motivated misleading statements).

Politicizing your paper is, of course, your choice. But from a reader's perspective, it is not what I expect or desire from a publication that is presumably dedicated to natural resources issues in Michigan.

You conclude your opinion piece by recognizing that you could be wrong, but must call it as you see it. Fair enough, but being wrong in regard to preservation of natural resources is most often a do-or-die situation. Once the resource is destroyed, very often it cannot be restored (e.g. surface mining), or if so, at a very high price.

I have avoided discussing your implications that the climate change debate is a "false crisis," as that would require much more space. I would only note the obvious: We can all easily observe the rapid melting of the polar ice
(Continued on Page 6)

Open letter to the DNR

Double standards & DNR credibility

To Director Keith Creagh and natural resources commissioners:

Reading about and observing the results of ethical work being done by thousands of Michigan outdoor users outside the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is heartening.

Unfortunately, well-intentioned efforts from within today's department are compromised before the fact, due to the agency's tainted reputation for condoning laws and practices that cast suspicion on even rudimentary matters.

Needed are outdoor people from within the DNR—like yourself, Mr. Creagh—to spearhead an "ethical renaissance." Needed are leaders who will follow your example to "re-establish conservation" as a focus, and return to ethical laws and decision-making standards once the cornerstone of that organization.

We deserve leadership that has the integrity to set aside personal egos, political favoritism, reckless resource sales, nepotism, cronyism, etc. to reconfirm the legacy your predecessors earned for their unfettered resolve to protect and conserve nature against all of man's contrivances.

The applause for your having the courage to just step back and say "no" to start with would be deafening and breathe new hope into thousands who now observe a massive void of transparent and courage-driven actions. Michiganders are fed up with flat-out denial of unfair and unnatural practices that are permitted to continue under your watch. Such practices limit and undermine the DNR's credibility.

Honest, well-informed outdoor persons remember a once proud Michigan Department of Conservation. They are saying "no more" to your flawed standards. They want you to eliminate your "indefensible hypothesis" that supports unnatural laws that you and the natural resources commissioners know will never free you to return to credibility.

Each year, new regulations are recommended and approved. Sadly, even perfunctory matters never achieve their full potential, because they are stigmatized as being authored by the "close minded," who avoid even considering the cleaning their own house.

If Governor Snyder desires transparency for education, why must he tolerate a DNR at its core that violates the underlying phenomena of nature?

John Gunnell

Rockford, Michigan

Pro-wolf hunt measure advances

The Michigan Board of State Canvassers has unanimously approved "citizen initiated legislation" that would reaffirm the ability of the Natural Resource Commission to designate game animals and establish hunts.

The measure was sent to the state Legislature, which is on summer break, but could return to approve, or enact the proposal.

If lawmakers choose not to act, the measure will join two previously approved anti-wolf hunt proposals on the November ballot. If, however, they choose to enact the legislation, the two other ballot proposals—also citizen-driven—will be rendered toothless, regardless of the ultimate decision by voters.

A tale of northern blueberries, caribou and friendship

Late July in northern Michigan is blueberry time.

I'm referring, of course, to the "you pick 'em in the woods" variety.

For many years, I suppose, I've looked for the blueberry plant at all times of the year. I notice them. I have been with friends hunting grouse and pointed them out, assuming they had already recognized them. But they questioned my authority as to whether I actually knew they were such plants, because the berries were gone. They did not believe me—sort of. I wish they were here. I would have shared some of the ones I just picked!

I have seen and or eaten blueberries in several far north regions of Canada. In northern Quebec, while filming for an outdoor show, I became obsessed with the size and abundance of blueberries. In that gravel-strewn, nearly barren landscape, there were places in late August where, if you tripped and fell to the ground, you could very well open your mouth and bite into a berry where you landed.

I was secondarily obsessed with them. I did my job while filming of course, but the guide teased me

**All Outdoors**
By Mark Karaba

"It was one of those moments that remain etched in my brain."

about how many berries I ate, or pointed to, while walking with the camera rolling. At one point on the caribou hunt, I was filming a bow hunter whom I did not previously know. We became fast friends, which is common in far away and remote places while living in small spaces.

One day we spotted a band of about five or six bulls lying on a side hill. We decided to try a stalk on them, as the way they were positioned on a side hill appeared to make them vulnerable. The stalk was a long distance and was going to require a lot of crawling on hands and knees. The hunter was younger than I, thinner, and recently returned from the Army. He was fired up and in good shape. I had my doubts.

About half-way into the stalk/belly crawl, I tapped him on the foot to inform him I didn't

think I could keep up. I was moving a heavy camera ahead of me and had other gear to maneuver, too. He insisted on trying. I did not. A small, quiet debate/argument ensued. I suggested we stay put and see if the bulls would come to us. He was a very good guy and it was all friendly. Nothing serious between us and the caribou. He was wound up, I was worn out. An impasse, if you will.

Neither of us said or did anything for a couple of minutes. A stand-off, lying prone within sight of these giant bull caribou. He reached for something and I, laying behind him, had the camera rolling to pick up our hushed dialog when he turned to me with a huge grin and handed me a plump blueberry. As if handed a pill to stimulate a renewed enthusiasm, I grinned. We both laughed a silent laugh.

He just kept looking at me grinning. I ate the blueberry and smiled, laying there prone on a beautiful day in the near moon-like landscape. I nodded for him to move ahead. He was a perfect gentleman with a sense of humor that he somehow knew I would appreciate.

We got to within 40 yards of those bulls, which by the way, were watching us and on full alert. They stood up, gave us a more intent stare and trotted off in that graceful way that caribou do, with the "click" in their hooves barely audible, into the sunset.

We lay on our backs for a while, not saying anything. The stalk had taken nearly an hour. Finally, I looked at him and stuck out my hand.

"That was very cool," I said.

We laughed aloud, now. It was one of those moments in time that remains etched in my brain.

When we both looked down, we were surrounded by blueberries, the smell of caribou, and defeat in the air.

Whenever I find blueberries here in Michigan, I'm nearly always reminded of that special time in a far-off special place and the magic blueberry of the tundra.

Fisherman's Island talks held in private

The inaugural meeting of a community advisory committee—aimed at addressing the widespread negative public reaction to a proposed Fisherman's Island State Park land swap—was reportedly held behind closed doors in mid-July.

The private dinner meeting at Stafford's Weathervane in Charlevoix apparently included representatives from the St. Mary's Cement Company, state and local government officials, select environmental group members and representatives of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

At least some of the committee members reportedly signed an agreement that they wouldn't disclose to the media what the committee talked about, the *Charlevoix Courier* said.

As of this writing, no official land-exchange proposal had yet been made, but St. Mary's officials want to swap land with the nearby state park for future mining purposes.

The Natural World

By Richard Schinkel



Our carnivorous plants

As kids, we all were enchanted to see the venus flytrap work, but we have a whole host of similar plants native to Michigan.

The most abundant and easily seen is the pitcher plant. As far as I know, we only have one species of pitcher plant here.

Many of you already know that the pitcher plant is a carnivorous plant in that it eats living things, primarily insect types. As the name indicates, the leaf is shaped like a deep pitcher. It has tiny hairs inside that face downward and once an insect or spider gets inside, it can't crawl out against these hairs. Consequently, it gets deeper into the leaf until it reaches the bottom and is digested by fluids at the bottom of the pitcher plant leaf.

Most naturalists believe that the plant gets nutrients from insects that it can't get from the habitat it lives in—namely an acid bog or basic fen.

Another carnivorous plant that can be found in the same wet areas is the sundew. This small plant has tiny hairs pointing upward with sticky sweet droplets that catch the prey, which, in turn, are also digested. There are at least four species of sundew found in Michigan. These plants, most common in bogs, are fairly small—about the size of a dime

across. Often they grow right near the pitcher plant.

A third type of carnivorous plant is the butterwort, which lives in the more northern parts of the state. It is a buttery looking plant that has a sticky surface which acts like flypaper and catches insects that way. The insects are then digested by fluids on the surface of the leaves. This is the way it gets its nutrients.

All three of these plants are perennials and grow from the same root system every year.

The last Michigan plant that is carnivorous is the bladder wort. This plant grows in lakes and has small "bladders" on the underwater portion that catches small aquatic creatures. These bladders are about the size of a BB that you would shoot from a BB gun. The plant puts up a tiny pretty flower over the summer and they mostly are yellow, but some may be pink or white.

We have ten species of bladderwort in Michigan. They grow in shallow water 18 inches or less. The tiny flower blooms above the surface.

I know a number of you have some of these in your backyard water features, while others grow them, along with tropical varieties like the venus fly trap.

It can be a fun hobby.

On false crises and partisanship

(Continued from Page 5)

cap (non-debatable) and the historical carbon deposition data (non-debatable). From there it seems wise to pursue the premise that the climate is indeed changing and carbon (via greenhouse gases) is playing a role. For the sake of our planet, thus ourselves, this seems to be a hypothesis worth investigating with great vigor—and, no, actions to curb carbon emissions won't destroy the economy (false crisis).

The war between preserving natural resources vs. destroying them for short-term economic gain has occurred throughout history and will continue to do so. Preserving our natural resources, which we say we cherish, will require constant vigilance and involvement from all who love the outdoors and want to live in a clean environment.

Publications such as *The North Woods Call* can contribute greatly toward achievement of environmental protection goals, but not if you politicize the issues, or ironically promote the "false crisis" that it is the Democrats and leftists that are not telling the truth.

Peter Johnson
Petoskey, Michigan

Thanks, Peter, for the thoughtful and well-written letter. We agree that it may be counterproductive during this extremely polarized era to reference ideology when discussing such matters. In fact, your reaction illustrates that point. Folks are too easily blinded by labels and don't often consider much beyond them.

Like you, we aren't overly fond of GOP politics, either—although we think modern Republicans are pikers at spin and deception when compared to the masters on the other side of the aisle. But, as you have accurately noted, both of the major parties have contributed to the distrust and animosity that mars our civic debate.

We have the right—no, the responsibility—to demand something better. Wiley politicians seem to love it when citizens sit around coffee shops & campfires arguing with each other over half-truths and innuendo—as long as their wrath is aimed at their neighbors and nobody notices what is really being done to us by the ruling elites.

Let's not forget that much of what these demagogues say about the issues and each other is fabricated and doesn't necessarily reflect reality. We seem to recall that most of them supported the Iraq fiasco until some discovered they could personally benefit from changing their original positions after the invasion occurred.

Most of today's policy issues—including those relating to natural resource conservation—are choked by partisan politics. Any newspaper worth its salt is going to point out the lies and hypocrisy that accompany the propaganda from those who are currently in charge, irregardless of their ideology.

—Mike



Hiking the Porkies

—North Woods Call photo

The picturesque Porcupine Mountains in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula can be safely traversed on the boardwalk along a ridge overlooking Lake of the Clouds. It's a great place to visit any time of the year, particularly during autumn when the forest is ablaze with color.

Never underestimate Mother Nature

By John Gunnell

The month of May signals the time for the largest variety of morel mushrooms (most light-colored) to make their appearance in Michigan.

Mushroom enthusiasts are prone to frequent the same locations year-after-year in their quest. Among those few individuals whose reputations for having several such secret locations for finding the late morels, none was more recognized than the late restaurateur "Jack McCoy."

Those who remember Jack could attest to his uncanny talent for sniffing out productive morel location that others only wished they could find. Jack would predictably laugh when queried on the subject and never reveal even a hint of his real sources. However, he was not above giving out false locations when pressed about where he found the mushrooms.

Some of Jack's friends, in their quests to discover his morel haunts would actually hatch up schemes for uncovering the locations. By Jack's own admission, he would tantalize his early morning customers with baskets of mushrooms, which served to further heighten their envy.

On one occasion, Jack opened up a little too much to a restaurant patron. He made the mistake of revealing his plan for to go mushroom hunting the next day after the lunch hour rush. This was the opening his friend Barney Wilkins seized upon in his attempt to finally discover where Jack was getting his mushrooms.

Barney decided on the day in question to simply follow Jack's car out to the countryside, driving well behind him so as to not draw Jack's attention to his pursuit. The only flaw in Barney's plan was his own enthusiasm in talking too much about his plan for beating Jack at his own game.

Overhearing Barney's scheme for cracking a key mushroom location, Eleanor Weaver—while herself intrigued by Barney's plan—could not contain herself and "let the cat out of the bag" to Jack. Upon getting wind of Barney's plan, Jack actually relished

the challenge with a counter-scheme of his own.

The following day, Jack pulled out slowly from behind his restaurant at about 2 p.m., seeming to carry out his previously announced plan to go mushrooming. Almost immediately, he caught a glimpse of Barney's car well back in his rear view mirror.

Jack headed north in the direction of Martinney Lake, which was purposely chosen because of its distance to drive, yet was part of his deception. Finally reaching a place where the counter-plot could occur, Jack selected a gravel road intersecting a valley of poplar where he had never been. He parked in a conspicuous spot and walked a short distance up the valley, where he veered off to locate himself on the only high ground within sight of the valley below.

Sure enough, down the road came Barney's car. Barney, being the clever fellow that he was, had inclinations of being duped, but dismissed them when he sighted Jack's car. He drove past the automobile and pulled up in the woods out of sight.

Jack, being well-hidden, watched as Barney trekked up the ravine, not knowing that Jack was watching his every move. After several minutes, Jack emerged from his hiding spot and promptly went to Barney's car. After letting the air out of his right, front tire, Jack hurried back to his own car and made a hasty exit. Gathering his composure, Jack smiled to himself at his cunning and could hardly wait to hear Barney's version of the whole episode.

Jack could already anticipate the morning coffee crowd rocking with laughter when Barney told of his "wild goose chase" all the way up to Martinney Lake and the suspicious flat tire. But unbeknownst to Jack, Barney—against all odds—was about to rain on Jack's parade.

Appearing at the restaurant's front door, Barney was carrying a half-bushel basket of fist-sized morels and Jack McCoy was left mumbling to himself.

This "true story" lends credence to the old adage, "A good rule of thumb is: Too smart is dumb."

Partnership aids Black River brook trout

(Continued from Page 1)

DNR Fisheries Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Huron Pines (a Gaylord-based conservation group), private landowners, Canada Creek Ranch, Black River Ranch, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) among them.

"It's something that has evolved over time—a collaborative partnership," said Carol Rose, chair of the Upper Black River Council. "There's no final arbitrator for the decisions we make. We meet two or three times a year, talk about the needs of the resources, who might have funding or could get funding, set priorities and get to it."

Recent council efforts on the Black River include improving road/stream crossings, removal of dams (built by humans as well as beavers), and placement of large woody debris, which provides a number of benefits to the river and its residents.

The woody-debris structures—which are built in a trapezoid-type shape—are designed to perform a variety of functions according to Cwalinski. They provide diverse in-stream cover for both juvenile and adult trout, accumulate silt (uncovering coarser substrates mid-channel that may provide spawning habitat for trout), provide additional surface area for aquatic insects and stabilize erodible banks.

Another achievement is the recent removal of Saunders Dam, which resulted in trout having unhindered access to eight more miles of river upstream.

"This is one of the best-organized watershed groups we work with," Cwalinski said. "I wish we had these for the other watersheds up here. The Upper Black River Council is there to improve, maintain and give back to the watershed. I consider myself very lucky to have this group to work with."

—Michigan DNR report

Conservation Officer Logs (6/22/14 through 7/7/14)**Trashed boat, floating child, tube sex, mystery tags, pot smoke & turtle bashing****DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)**

CO Doug Hermanson investigated an abandoned campfire that was the origin of a wildfire. CO Hermanson was able to identify the campers who abandoned the campfire by evidence left at the campsite. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Wicklund and Doug Hermanson checked a boat with no navigational lights. The driver of the boat told the COs that he recently found the boat in a dumpster and showed the COs the homemade repairs he made. He also showed the COs the wall-eye he caught that was "close to 15 inches." The 13-inch walleye was seized and enforcement action was taken for possession of an undersized walleye and the unregistered boat.

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

CO Jeff Panich was conducting a marine patrol in the Cedarville area when he observed a boat that appeared to be sinking. Upon contact, the two anglers expressed anger at the number of speedboats driving close to where they were fishing. CO Panich observed a substantial amount of water in the boat and asked the occupants if they were sinking. They replied, "No, it just takes on water while fishing." A safety check revealed that they only had one personal flotation device, which was in poor condition, a fire extinguisher that had already been discharged on a previous trip and no throwable device on the boat. CO Panich told the anglers he would meet them on shore at the boat launch and followed them to make sure of their safety. Enforcement action was taken upon reaching land.

COs Mike Hammill, Jeff Panich and Sgt. Gerald Thayer, were conducting a marine patrol on the St. Mary's River. As the three left the dock to start the patrol, they observed a sailboat come into the Detour Harbor with no registration on the boat. Contact was made with the captain of the boat, who stated he was documented through the federal government and didn't see a reason to be registered, because the boat travels around a lot. Further investigation revealed the boat has not been registered by the current owner in 14 years and has been kept in the waters of Michigan while the owner resided in Florida. Directions on how to obtain a current registration were given to the owner of the boat, as well as enforcement action being taken for the registration violation. After receiving the ticket, the owner explained that he had been stopped several times by other agencies and action was never taken. The owner thanked the COs for their professionalism while on the stop.

PCO Bobby Watson and CO Mike Hammill contacted a large group of campers at a local state forest campground (SFC). Approximately 12 campers crammed themselves onto one site and proceeded to target practice with a .22 long arm and shoot off potato guns into the evening. They con-

tinued to provide other forms of entertainment for the neighboring campsites, bringing complaints. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

CO Andrea Albert and Sgt. Greg Drogowski conducted a marine patrol on Torch Lake on the 4th of July during the busy "Torch Fest," when hundreds of boats and thousands of people flock to the sand bar area located on the south end of Torch Lake. While patrolling near the sand bar, a citizen waved down the officers and pointed out a highly intoxicated male subject in the water hanging around their boat. The boaters were concerned he was going to pass out and drown, and when they tried to put a life jacket on him he assaulted the complainant. When CO Albert and Sgt. Drogowski loaded the intoxicated subject into their patrol boat, the subject became combative and officers arrested him for being drunk and disorderly. The suspect was released from custody and transported to the hospital because of his dangerous level of intoxication. Warrants will be sought.

CO Andrea Albert and Sgt. Jon Wood were on marine patrol on the Torch River when they observed a vessel with an expired registration. As they conducted a stop, the boat's operator threw her cigarette into the water right in front of the officers. Further investigation found the boat was legally registered, but the operator was ticketed for littering.

CO Mark DePew was patrolling Otsego Lake when he witnessed a jet ski overturn and begin floating away from the operator, who was unable to reboard the machine. CO DePew assisted the operator back on the jet ski and discovered he was 14 years old and unable to operate alone due to his age. Contact was made with the youth's father, who became irate with the CO once he was told he was receiving a ticket for allowing the youth to operate a jet ski.

DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

While on marine patrol during the National Cherry Festival air show detail, **COs Sean Kehoe and Rich Stowe** observed a small child drifting away from a large crowd of boats toward the closed air show box. Adults on scene were not reacting and the child was beginning to panic and cry. The COs were able to load the child into their patrol boat and return him to his parents without incident.

CO Carla Soper was dispatched to assist with a lost hiker who had managed to find himself and his 10-year-old son completely off course. CO Soper located the hikers who were exhausted and bug bitten, both carrying 30-plus pound backpacks. After figuring out where the hikers had started for the day, it was discovered that they were over eight miles off course and now approximately 18 miles from their vehicle. CO Soper transported the grateful hikers back to



their vehicle.

CO Angela Greenway was working the Muskegon River Task Force when she received a complaint of two subjects having sex on their tubes floating down the river. Several witnesses came forward and complained about the couple's behavior. Witnesses advised CO Greenway that the two having sex in plain view were in a group of tubes that included a young female child. Families kayaking the river also complained that their children were exposed to the lewd behavior. CO Greenway was able to make contact with the suspects near the state access site. It was determined that the male subject had outstanding warrants for his arrest and he was lodged in the Newaygo County Jail. The female subject was on parole and was also lodged in the county jail. Charges will be sought on both subjects for indecent exposure.

CO Troy VanGelderren was working the Muskegon River Task Force when he observed a subject who appeared to be asleep on a tube and floating past a designated take-out point. CO VanGelderren inquired with the group of tubers that were exiting the river if the solo female tuber was with them. The response was yes, but no one in the group seemed too concerned. CO VanGelderren was able to locate the unresponsive tuber in an eddy over 300 yards downstream from her take-out location. The intoxicated tuber was returned upstream to her friends.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

Sgt. Jon Wood was on marine patrol on Houghton Lake when he checked a pontoon with several anglers aboard. As the CO approached, he observed one of the subjects quickly reel in their line, drop the rod and sit down. When the angler was told she had already been observed fishing, she admitted she had been, and stated that she had bought a fishing license last year and never used it, and so she did not want to purchase a current license. In addition, when the stringer of fish was checked, Sgt. Wood observed a walleye that appeared to be short. When asked how long the fish was, a second subject quickly stated "15 inches." A quick measurement confirmed the CO's suspicions that the walleye was well shy of the 15-inch requirement. The "lucky" angler then went on to tell the CO that they intended to carry the fish home and take a photograph of it. The fish was indeed photographed—for evidence—and then released.

Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader assisted local deputies with a domestic violence call. It was reported that a seven-year-old was assaulting his mother with a plastic baseball bat. CO Bader, who was nearby, responded to assist the deputies. CO Bader was the first on scene and was speaking with the seven-year-old when the youngster decided to run from the CO. CO Bader was able to catch the running juvenile and return him to the residence where they waited for the deputies to arrive.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

PCO Jeremy Beavers and CO Dan Lee were patrolling the Saginaw River in Bay City when they observed a jet ski on the water after sunset. They could barely make out the vessel as it was jumping the wake of another boat. The COs stopped the vessel and found that the registration, although showing valid until 3/2015, had actually expired in 2012. The operator claimed not to know how valid tags had made it onto his expired vessel. A ticket was issued for operating after hours.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

CO Greg Patten reported that cases against three people who were operating vehicles in wetlands on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) property in Muskegon County have been concluded. Each person was fined \$375 for operation in a wetland and they had been warned on numerous other violations. This incident was reported to the USFS and the RAP hotline by members of a local 4X4 club, who were concerned over the illegal acts they had witnessed. Without this citizen action, large acres of wetland would have been further damaged.

DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)

CO Rich Nickols received a complaint from the Ingham County Sheriff's Office of a licensed marijuana caregiver who has been burning stems and other unused portions of the plants in an open burning barrel. Neighbors have complained and the subject has been warned not to do it in the past, but continues to do so. A report is being sent to the prosecutor's office for possible charges.

CO Dan Bigger and PCO Saykham Keophalychanh conducted two separate investigations of illegal taking of deer, coordinating with fellow COs and PCOs to interview multiple subjects and witnesses over a large geographical area. Confessions on both cases were obtained and warrants are being sought.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Matthew Page made a stop of a vessel operating without a valid registration. The operator insisted that, although he had owned the boat for several years, he was just out "testing" it on the holiday weekend. The snacks and drinks on board the vessel implied that the "testing" was going to be for the full evening. Further, it was found that there was no type IV personal flotation device, or fire

extinguisher on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens and PCO Christopher Reynolds, while on patrol, contacted several boaters and anglers. One of the anglers, when contacted, immediately stated, "I have some fish I need to throw back." PCO Reynolds looked in the bucket and the angler had five largemouth bass under 14." inches long. The angler then stated that he didn't have a tape measure. A tape measure was given to the angler, along with a ticket.

DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

CO Brandon Kieft and PCO A.J. Sutzko conducted follow up on a turtle complaint in Addison Township. The complainant reported that a female subject had caught a snapping turtle using a fishing pole and "bashed its head in with a rock" to kill it. Although the complaint came in a few days after the incident, CO Kieft and PCO Sutzko were able to locate the turtle remains at the female subject's residence and obtain a confession on the violation. The turtle was taken out of season and the female subject did not have a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

BELLE ISLE

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly and Lt. Ron Utt were patrolling together on Belle Isle during the Ford Freedom Festival Fireworks. The first traffic stop made was on a van driving about 45 miles per hour with the side door completely open and nine young kids sitting on the floor right next to the open door. A traffic stop was made and the driver was advised it was too hot in the van with all the people. The driver had no driver's license and his license had been suspended 27 times. The driver also had several warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy, while working a midnight shift on Belle Isle, contacted a male subject walking in the road after midnight when the park was closed. When contacted, the subject advised he was at a class reunion on the island at one of the shelters. He and his girlfriend got into an argument and she left him on the island. He stayed at the reunion until it was over then he began walking to get off the island and became lost for about two hours. CO Purdy transported the subject to a bus stop on Jefferson Avenue. He was very grateful for the assistance.

CO Dan Bigger and PCO Saykham Keophalychanh arrested a subject with three outstanding criminal bench warrants.

CO Derek Miller and PCO Justin Ulberg responded to a complaint on Belle Isle about an unresponsive man lying in the weeds face down. Upon arrival, the COs made contact with the man near the water, and were able to get him up and talking. The man was fatigued and tired of walking around the island. The man declined medical attention, but decided to slowly move along off of the island.

Final Shot



Yummy in the Tummy

—North Woods Call photo

No chronicle of the north woods would be complete without mention of upper Michigan's famous pasty pies. Several businesses serve the delicacy to tourists and residents alike, such as this well-known roadside stop-off on U.S. 2, a few miles west of St. Ignace.

Unwanted U.S. coal reportedly creates pollution abroad

As the United States weans itself off "dirty fuels" blamed for global warming, energy companies have been sending more of America's unwanted energy leftovers to other parts of the world, where some say they can create even more pollution.

"This is the single biggest flaw in U.S. climate policy," said Roger Martella, the former general counsel at the Environmental Protection Agency

under President George W. Bush. "Although the [current] administration is moving forward with climate change regulations at home, we don't consider how policy decisions in the U.S. impact greenhouse gas emissions in other parts of the world."

Critics say it amounts to a shell game where the nation is simply shifting some pollution—and the burden for cleaning it up—to other countries.

Teachers attend DNR's summer Academy of Natural Resources

Given a choice, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials say they would enroll every student in the state into a class on natural resources.

Since that's not exactly practical, DNR educators have come up with a more feasible alternative: educate the educators.

The agency's Academy of Natural Resources, now in its seventh year, enrolls teachers into a week-long crash course on natural resources. The idea is to provide the teachers with a broad overview of natural resources that they can use in their classrooms.

"We have 50 to 60 teachers enrolled in the academy each summer, and that translates into potentially reaching thousands of students," said Kevin Frailey, who leads the DNR's education efforts. "We do a lot of short-term education programs with teachers on a regular basis, but research shows that the more times we make contact with these teachers, the more information they'll retain.

"The academy is a unique chance to totally immerse teachers in natural resources for a week and really maximize our efforts and their learning opportunities."

Teachers say it's a strategy that works. Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, a professor at Ferris State University who first attended the academy as a student, returned to the academy this summer to obtain focus group feedback from the teachers who are attending the program.

"The response is all positive," she said. "The Academy of Natural Resources has really opened their eyes about natural resources and what the DNR does. And they're going on to sharing that knowledge in the classroom and elsewhere. They're eager to discuss it and they've used a lot of the material."

The knowledge each teacher gains at the academy varies depending on which section they choose to attend. This year, the academy offered three different sections: Forests, Fields and Fins; STEM from Nature (STEM refers to science, technology, engineering and math); and MEECS (Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support).

The three sections are among seven total sections offered by the

academy on a rotating basis. Other section topics include Nature Quest, which is an introduction to nature; Wee Ones (a program for early childhood instructors); and Teachers Into the Wild, which focuses on outdoor skills such as archery, canoeing and fishing.

By rotating the topics and offering just a few choices each year the teachers are better able to focus intensively on a specific topic during the week, and are able to return for several years without taking the same class twice, Frailey said.

The "F program" (as Forests, Fields and Fins is called) features sessions by the DNR's Law Enforcement Division, Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions, and Forest Resources Division, plus an introduction into geology. The DNR divisions try to give teachers a one-day overview of what they do in the field, along with information about how license fees fund this work and how the Department functions within state government.

For example, the Fisheries Division spent one session with teachers on Higgins Lake, demonstrating the use of trap nets and gill nets for fish surveying, and another on the Au Sable River, using electro-shocking equipment to survey fish populations.

The field demonstrations are a perennial favorite for the teachers, who say the hands-on experience helps them better explain to students how fish and wildlife are managed by using their own real-life anecdotes gleaned from the academy.

Dave Polley, an eighth-grade science at Beach Middle School in Chelsea, said the sections suited him well, both professionally and personally.

"We teach an ecology unit and I've struggled with it – how to be more hands-on, how to be more relevant to the kids," he said. "[The field experience has] been a good thing; it's given me some ideas. And it's right up my alley personally; I'm a sportsman, a hunter/fisherman."

Polley said he would "absolutely" recommend the academy to other science teachers.

"Now I can go into the classroom and tell the kids, 'I've been there, I've done it and I have stories to tell about it.'"

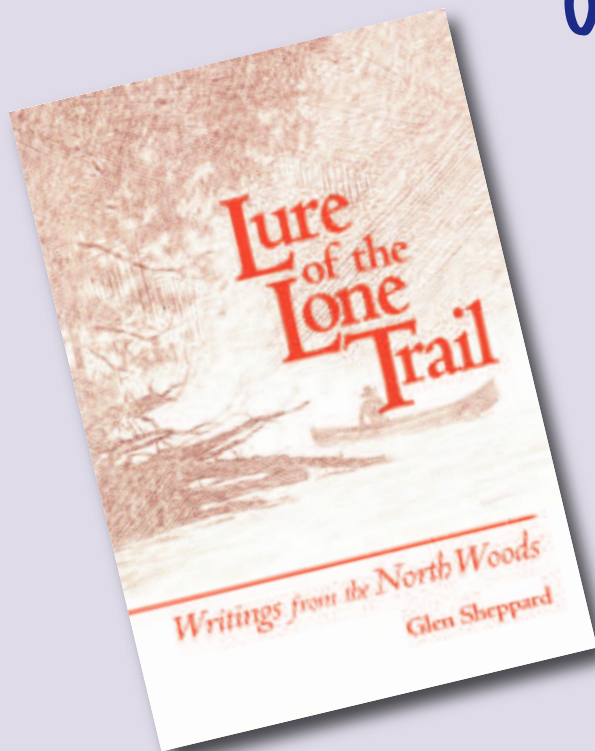
And that, said Frailey, is the academy's ultimate goal.

The Academy of Natural Resources is held each summer at the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center at Higgins Lake.

There is a fee to enroll, but financial aid is available.

—Michigan DNR report

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