Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953

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 (Continued on Page 6)
The masses & the parks

By Margarette Gabaghan

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 land] has gone all out on promotion of its role as “play-ground” 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 [campsite] 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 sale of campsites, 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 campground and enjoys the freedom of Michigan—the land of woods and water—another, and another, is turned away.

Land for state park use and campground development must be approved for purchase and maintenance by the Michigan Legislature. Campers, perhaps justifiably, wonder if 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 long as there are more parks, particularly land adjacent to water—increase in value 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 receive 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 northern woods means that wild game will dwindle in number. Someday the deer herd will be a mere number 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 projected a season of harmful algal bloom forecasts for western Lake Erie.

The forecast predicts a significant 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

(Continued from Page 1)

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

Schuette filed one count of antitrust violation and one count of attempted antitrust violation against Chesapeake Energy Corporation—allegedly cancelled nearly all the leases, using mortgages as the purported basis for the cancellation. Schuette alleges Chesapeake therefore obtained uncompensated land options from these landowners on March 5, 2014, in Cheboygan County. On May 9, 2014, following a week-long preliminary examination, Schuette filed one additional count of antitrust violation based on evidence presented during the preliminary examination, for a total of three charges in the antitrust case.

Encana, meanwhile, pleaded not guilty in August 2014 in the case of 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 Repton 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 land swap. Comments are separate from Graymont’s previous request to acquire 11,000 acres in the eastern U.P.

Judge orders Chesapeake trial to proceed

When competition from competitors stopped, Chesapeake—through its leasing agents, including Oil Naomi and a shell corporation called Northern Michigan Exploration—allegedly cancelled nearly all the leases, using mortgages as the purported basis for the cancellation. Schuette alleges Chesapeake therefore obtained uncompensated land options from these landowners on March 5, 2014, in Cheboygan County. On May 9, 2014, following a week-long preliminary examination, Schuette filed one additional count of antitrust violation based on evidence presented during the preliminary examination, for a total of three charges in the antitrust case.

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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.

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Grants awarded to Boardman River project

The Boardman River Dam & 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 ($500,000); the Great Lakes Fishery Trust ($400,000); the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership ($100,000); and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality ($50,000). Rotary Charities of the Traverse Area has also contributed $25,000.

“We are extremely grateful to these foundations for their generosity and support of this historical project,” said Frank Dituri, project implementation team chairman. “Their support is critical in both the public and private sectors to continue to recognize the value of dam removal and restoring the Boardman Dam to its natural state.”

The grants bring total funding commitments to $5.5 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 in its early stages of data gathering and design. Completion 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 streams and restore hundreds of acres of wetland and upland habitat.

Tainted Toledo

The city of Toledo, Ohio, has withdrawn its water supply this week from the city’s water after a local water-treatment plant produced two sample readings for microcystin.

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

The confidence being demonstrated by Graymont Inc. about the fate of the company’s proposed Marquette 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, Graymont 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 will proceed, said David Gorencito of Traverse City, who was fighting the proposal since it was first announced.

But Ed Golder, public information officer for the Michigan Department 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 looked at all along the way and we’re not going to let an artificial timeline drive our decisionmaking on such an important project.”

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

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 legislators stand out as advocates for land, air and water, but without more of our state legislators prioritizing our natural resources, 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.

Rifle River project memorializes Carlos Fetterolf Jr.

The Rifle River received some tender loving care recently in the memory of Carlos Fetterolf Jr, an avid environmentalist and long-time resident of Traverse City. He then graduated from the University in East Lansing, where he served as executive secretary from 1975-1992.

Prior to working with the commission, Fetterolf was a fisheries 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 resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the International Association for Great Lakes Research, as well as both of his alma maters. He was recently inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

After retirement, Fetterolf was appointed to the U.S. National Sea Grant Review Panel, did contract work for the Fishery Commission, and lived in Kentucky. He was repeatedly honored, was inducted into the Trout Unlimited.

Fetterolf’s enthusiasm for the outdoors was instilled in his family, he continued to share his vast knowledge and expertise by volunteering with environmental causes, such as Trout Unlimited.

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The plan, due by April 2015, must present unhealthy levels of key dangerous pollutants—sulfate, dioxin, particulate matter, and ground-level ozone—levels that are not consistent with regulations as least as asthma. At least eight counties in Michigan have levels of ozone and sulfate dioxin pollution above the federal air quality standards.

According to the Michigan Sierra Club, the MDEQ is proposing to maintain the status quo, rather than drafting requirements that would end pollution from aging coal-fired plants, which are responsible for a significant portion of the pollution.

“State legislators have the power to take action to become sacrifice zones for pollution, leaving families to suffer the chronic health effects,” said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

Michigan air quality concerns

The state Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is now reviewing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that air pollution levels do not exceed established levels to protect public health.

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Many years ago, when I lived and worked in the southern 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, scuffling 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 countrysides and urban areas, and actually thought that one day I would take such an expedition. But it often does, life and work go in the way and this remains one of the unfilled 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.

Some of my college professors once claimed that railroads 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 an environmentalist, 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 the same amount of freight—473 miles on a single gallon of fuel. According to an independent 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.

One is 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, depends 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.

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 maybe 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.
**Letter to the Editor**

*On factual errors, partisanship and the civic debate*

Editor,

This is in response to your editorial in the Late July 2014 issue, "The Michigan Board of State and Natural Resources Commissioners are not Quarrying for Our Future."

Your editorial began on a positive note, where you discuss the need for "skepticism" and "healthy curiosity." I completely agree with your statement, as doubt is a necessary factor in how we view the world. We are all taught this from a young age, that questioning the world is a healthy process. However, your editorial then went on a tangent regarding ecological claims made by scientists and others (e.g. climate change). In this regard, I completely disagree with your editorial. I have been with friends and family looking for the blueberry plant at the North Woods Call for several years, and I have never been more equipped to speak about the natural world. I have traveled to several far north regions for blueberries, and I have observed that the 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—assume to be the theme of your article by politicizing the issue—which of course degrades the seeking of accuracy and truth. You state, "A good share of these modern-day prophets—especially today's Democrat politicians and their Republican counterparts—believe in creating false createings that are aimed primarily at increasing their own power, or enriching themselves normally in the process."

Seriously? Democrats and leftists? False crisis? By interrogating such an inaccurate and possibly wrong statement, I am exposing the remainder of your editorial becomes clouded by partisanship, which is not what I set out to do. It is critical to focus on the natural resource and environmental matters I think you were trying to address. For example, "I agree with most of the remainder of your opinion piece.

Your editorial is not about the natural resource-related articles you choose to include and write about. It is not a "right" to natural resource topics. I have thought of the "false" crisis raised by Republicans and "rightists" to support political agendas that benefit the Middle East (Iraq) (remember MWMDs, links to Al Qaeda, participation in 9/11). I believe the solution is a political agenda that Republicans and "rightists" would be willing to support. The natural resources in the region are being destroyed, very often for which we do nothing to stop, or most of the time, prevent. 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 caps. A tale of northern blueberries, caribou and friendship

**Late July in northern Michigan is blueberry picking time.**

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

In 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 for them and pointed them out, assuming they had already recognized them. But they questioned the plants and the berries were blueberries. I actually knew they were such plants, because the berries were gone. They did not believe me—not one of them—so we started to build our own "facts." I'm referring, of course, to the "pick 'em in the woods" variety.

I have seen and eaten blueberries in nearly all far north regions of Canada. In northern Michigan, while filming for an outdoor show, I became obsessed with the size and abundance of blueberries. In that gravel-strewn, narrow barren landscape, there were places in large numbers of blueberries, I 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—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 disagree. I believe that "Democrats and leftists" hold some advantage in creating false crisis. And, more importantly, they are succeeding in such an effort to politicize your article and your entire paper. Neither Democrats nor Republicans, leftists, or rightists, are innocent in creating false crises.

Obviously, if you use your terms, you are also a "rightist." Are 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 life-long experience that it is in fact the "Republicanists 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 "rightists" support political agendas that benefit the source is destroyed, very often it cannot be restored (e.g. surface mining), or if so, at a very high a price.

Fisherman’s Island talks held

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 Weathervee in Charlevoix was attended by representatives from the St. Mary’s Cement Company, state and local government officials, civic leaders, 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 will not disclose what the committee talked about, the Charlevois 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.

A tale of northern blueberries, caribou and friendship

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

He just kept looking at me grinning, ate the blueberry and smiled, laying there prone on a beautiful day in the near moon-like landscape. I nodded for him to come 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. The camera moved up, gave us an in-tent stare and trotted off in that graceful way that caribou do, with the "click" in there hooves barely audible into the tundra. 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, laughed aloud. It got to one of those moments in time that remains etched in my brain. When we both looked down, we were surrounded by blueber- ries, the smell of caribou, and defeat in the air. We never 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.

Open letter to the DNR

**Double standards & DNR credibility**

To Director Keith Cragh 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, ultimately within today’s department are compartmentalized before the fact, due to the agency’s tainted reputation for condoning laws and practices that cast suspicion on even intelligent outdoor users.

Needled are outdoor people from within the DNR—like yourself, Mr. Cragh—to spearhead an “ethical renaissance.” Needed are leaders who will follow your example to “re-establish conservation” as a focus, for which you wouldn’t disclose to the media.

We deserve leadership that has the integrity to set aside personal gain and have the courage to do what might happen in 2000? 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 outlandish, incorrect and misleading statements).

Politicking you 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 paper by recognizing that you could have won that call but said it well. You seem to be fair. But since you—not me—being wrong in regard to preservation of natural resources is most often a “do-nothing” situation. The once beneficial source is destroyed, very often it cannot be restored (e.g. surface mining), or if so, at a very high a 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 caps. (Continued on Page 6)
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 species. 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 bog rim.

Another carnivorous plant that can be found in the same wet areas is the sundew. This small plant has sticky hairs pointing upward with sticky sweet droplets that catch the prey, which, in turn, are 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 on its leaves. This plant grows in lakes and has small “bladders” on the undersurface 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 blad-derwort in Michigan. They grow in shallow water 18 inches or less. Their 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.

The picturesque Pitcherine 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.

Hiking the Forkies

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 Gannell

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 prune to frequent the same old haunts every year in their quest. Among those few individuals whose reputations for having several such secret locations for finding the late morels, one man is recognized as the late restaurateur “Jack McCoy.”

Those who remember Jack could attest to his un-tanrant skill for sniffing out productive morel loca-tion that other hunters missed. If they could have had Jack McCoy laugh when queried on the subject and never reveal even a hint of his real sources. How-ever, he was not above giving out false locations when people were just searching for 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忐忑 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 re-vealing his plan for go to mushroom hunting the next day after the lunch hour. 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 not to 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 her-elf 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 be-hind his restaurant at about 2 p.m., seeming to carry out his previously announced plan to go mushroom- ing. Almost immediately, he caught a glimpse of Barney’s car well back in his rear view mirror. Jack headed north in the direction of Martinne Lake, which was purposely chosen because of its distance to drive, yet was part of his deception. Finally reaching a place where the counter-plan could occur, Jack selected a gravel road intersecting a valley of poplar where he had never been. He parked in a con-venital spot and waited. The unsuspecting Barney motored up the val-ley, 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 in- clinations 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 snickered with laughter when Barney told of his “wild goose chase” all the way up to Martinnie Lake and the suspicious flat tire. But unbeknownst to Jack, Barney—against all odds —was about to rain on his parade.

Partnership aids Black River brook trout

(Continued from Page 1)

DNR Fisheries Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv-ice, Huron Pines (a Gaylord-based conservation group), private landowners, Canada Creek Ranch, Black Lochs property group, the Michigan Sportmen’s Council, and the Northeast Michigan Council of Gov-ernments (NEMCOG) among them.

Earlier partnership efforts have contributed to a collaborative partnership,” said Carol Rose, chair of the Upper Black River Council. “There’s no final arbiter for the decisions we make. We meet two or three times a year, and we have several sources, who might have funding or could get fund- ing, 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, while also providing habitat for brook trout (a species that resides in streams with cold, clear water). The structures also provide fish with access to different parts of the river, which is important for their survival.

Another achievement is the recent removal of Saunders Dam, which resulted in trout having un-hindered access to eight more miles of river upstream. This is one of the best examples of how partnerships can 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

Thanks, Peter, for the thoughtful and well-written letter. We agree that it may be counterproductive during this extremely po-liticized 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 noted, both of the major parties have contributed to the distrust and animosity that mars our civic debate.

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, requires constant vigilance and involvement from all who love the outdoors and want to live in a clean environment.

Participations such as The North Woods Call can contribute greatly towards re-establishing protection groups that would politicize the issues, or ironically promote the “false crisis” that it is the Democrats and, lets not be telling the truth.

Peter Johnson

Petoskey, Michigan

On false crises and partisanship

(Continued from Page 5)

The Dobson letter to its salt is going to point out the lies and hypocrisy of the “false crisis” and partisan stratagies as long as their wrath is aimed at their neighbors and nobody notices what is really being done to us by the ruling elites.

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**DISTRICT 1** (Marquette)
CO Doug Hermanson investigated a complaint that a group of campers had fired guns into the evening. They conceded the camps were abandoned and that the fire was the origin of a wildfire. CO Hermanson was able to identify the camps by the evidence left by the campsite. Enforcement action was taken.

**DISTRICT 2** (Newberry)
CO Jeff Panich was conducting a marine patrol in the County Park when he was approached by a person who indicated the boat appeared to be sinking. Upon contact, the two anglers expressed anger at the number of species they believed were going to die. CO Panich observed a substantial amount of water in the boat and asked the occupants why they were fishing. They replied, “No, it just takes on water while fishing.” A safety check was performed while conducting a one personal flotation device, which was in poor condition, a fire extinguisher that had already been discharged, 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 they were safe. 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 COs approached a group of tubers, COs Mike Hammill and Jason Wicklund and Doug Hermanson checked a boat with no navigational lights. The driver of the boat told the COs they had been stopped by a ramp and showed the COs the homemade repairs he made. He stated he did not realize the warning light was on the windshield when he caught that “was close to 15 inches.” The 13-inch walet was seized and enforcement action taken. The boat was registered but they had no navigational lights. Enforcement action was taken.

**CO Andrea Albert and Sgt. Greg Drogowski** conducted a marine patrol on Torch Lake. On the 14th of July during the busy “Torch Fest,” when hundreds of boats and thousands of people flock to the lake, a boat was observed to be hanging around the south end of Torch Lake. While patrolling near the sand bar, a citizen waved down the officers and pointed out a heavily intoxicated male subject in the water. COs Albert and Drogowski got in the water and called for assistance. They observed a small boat and were able to locate the subject who had become winded and was drifting away from a large island. Enforcement action was taken.

**COs Andrea Albert and Sgt. Jon Wood** were on marine patrol on the Torch River when they observed a vessel with an expired registration. As the COs conducted a stop, the boat’s owner threw her cigarette into the water right in front of the officers. Further investigation found that 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 overtake 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 at his age. Contact was made with the youth’s father, who came to the lake with the youth. The father was receiving a ticket for allowing the youth to operate a jet ski.

**DISTRICT 4** (Cadillac)
While on marine patrol during the National Air Show, COs Sean Kohos and Rich Stowe observed a small child drifting away from a large crowd of boats toward the flying air show box. Adults on scene were not reacting and the child was beginning to panic and cry. COs Kohos and Stowe immediately got the child into their patrol boat and re- turned him to his parents without in- cident.

**CO Sara Soper** was dispatched to assist with a lost hiker who had managed to find himself and her 11-year-old son to- tally off course. CO Soper loc- ated the hikers who were exhausted and bug bitten, both were able to reach them in about 20 minutes. Officers followed the group back to their vehicle.

**CO Angela Greenway** was tapping on the radio during Task Force when she received a complaint of a subject having sex on their tubes floating down the river. Several witnesses came forward and complained about the couple’s behavior. Witnesses ad- vised CO Greenway that the two were being chased by a group of tubers who were refusing to move off. CO Greenway was able to make contact with the subjects near the Angeldale state access site. It was deter- mined that the male subject had outstanding warrants for his arrest and the female subject was located in the Newaygo County Jail.

**CO Mike Hammill** 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 Van- Gelder enquired 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 VanGelder was able to locate the tuber in an eddy over 300 yards downstream from her take- out location. The intoxicated tuber was returned upstream to his 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 ap- proached, 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 fish li- cense last year and never used it, and so she did not want to pur- chase a current license. In addi- tion, when the stringer of fish was checked, Sgt. Wood observed a walleye that appeared to be short. When asked how long the fish was, it was a second subject quickly stated “15 inches.” A quick meas- urement confirmed the CO’s sus- picions. As the angler was sound- ing out “testing” it on the holiday weekend. The thank you’s and smiles of 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 on, or any extinguisher on board. Enforcement action was taken.

**CO Kyle Bader** assisted local deputies with a domestic violence situation. It was reported that a seven- year-old was assaulting his mother with a glass baseball bat. CO Bader, who was nearby, re- slated to assist the deputies. CO Bader was the first on scene and was speaking to the young woman when the subject decided to run from the CO. CO Bader was able to reunite the young ju- venile and return him to the residence where they waited for the deputies to arrive.

**DISTRICT 6** (Bay City) CO Jeremy Beavers and CO Dan Lee were patrolling the Sag- inaw 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 sitting in the dark. The COs kept the vessel in their sights and was able to get its ID number. The COs stopped the vessel and found that the registration, al- though showing valid until 3/15/2013, had actually expired in 2012. The operator claimed not to know how valid tags had made contact with the operator and was issued for operating after hours.

**DISTRICT 7** (Plainwell) CO Pat Greg Patten reported that cases against three people who went op-erating vehicles in wooded are- as 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 occasions. 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 wit- nessed. Without this citizen ac- tion, large areas of wetland would have been further damaged.

**DISTRICT 8** (Rose Lake) CO Rich Nichols received a complaint from the Ingham County Sheriff’s Office of a li- censed marijuana caregiver who has been burning stones 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 re- port is being sent to the prosecu- tor’s office for possible charges.

**CO Dan Bigger and PCO Saykum Keophaphetvong** con- ducted two separate investigations of illegal taking of deer, coordi- nated with the USFWS and PCSO to interview multiple subjects and witnesses over a large geographi- cal area. Confessions on both cases were obtained and warrants are being sought.

**CO Shane Webster and PCO Matt Nordahl** were patrolling the Torch River on Belle Isle during the Ford Freedom Festival Fireworks. The COs were patrolling on a van driving about 45 miles per hour with the side door completely open and a young child was 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 dri- ver’s license and his license had been suspended 27 times. The driver was also cited for reckless operation for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

**BELLE ISLE**
COs Keith Kimmerly and Lt. Ron Utt were patrolling together on Belle Isle during the Ford Freedom Festival Fireworks. The COs observed a van driving about 45 miles per hour with the side door completely open and a young child was 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 dri- ver’s license and his license had been suspended 27 times. The driver was also cited for reckless operation for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

**Sgt. Jon Wood and PCO Christopher Reynolds,** while working a midday shift on Belle Isle, contacted a male subject walking in the road after midnight when the park was closed. When con- tacted, 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 trans- ported the subject to a bus stop on the island and he was very grateful for the assistance.

**CO Dan Bigger and PCO Saykum Keophaphetvong** ar- rived to assist with the arrest of a stand- ing criminal bench warrants. **CO Derek Miller and PCO Justin Jestefeld** were patrolling on a complaint on Belle Isle about an unresponsive man lying in the woods 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 stated he was lost and walking around the island. The man declined medical attention, but decided to slowly move along off of the island.

**DISTRICT 9** (Southfield) CO Brandon Kieft and PCO A.J. Sutko conducted follow up on a complaint in Addison Township. The complainant re- ported that a female subject had caught a snapping turtle using a fishing rod while sitting in the bank with a rock” to kill it. Al- though the complaint came in a long time ago, CO Kieft and PCO Sutko were able to locate the turtle remains at the female subject’s residence and ob- tained a warrant. A nice snapping turtle was taken out of season and the female subject did not have valid fishing license. En- forcement action was taken.
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 class on natural resources. The idea is to provide the educators 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 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 teacher 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

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 the nation is simply shifting some pollution—and the burden for cleaning it up—to other countries.

Critics say it amounts to a shell game where the burden for cleaning it up—to other countries. They’re eager to dis-