



**“The newspaper for people
who love the north”**



Late September 2014
\$2.50

Vol. 61, No. 19
Digital Delivery



Michigan's Conservation Sentinel Since 1953



Life's struggles can sometimes swat us like an angry bear. —North Woods Call photo

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The Call suspends publication — at least for now

The North Woods Call will cease publication—at least temporarily—due to family and medical issues that demand greater attention and freedom from unforgiving deadlines.

Regular production of the newspaper will stop indefinitely after this issue and active subscribers will receive pro-rated refunds for the unused portions of their subscriptions (See related story below).

“It is with deep regret that we make this announcement,” said *Call* Editor and Publisher Mike VanBuren. “This is not something we would choose to do under normal circumstances, but life has thrown us some unexpected curve balls during the past year and we feel that we have little choice in the matter.” (For more information about this

decision and the reasons behind it, please see the “North Woods Journal” column on Page 4 of this edition).

“We apologize to those loyal subscribers who have enthusiastically stuck by us since we resurrected the paper following the death of former Publisher Glen Sheppard,” VanBuren said. “We greatly appreciate your support, as well as that of the many new subscribers who have joined us during the past two years.”

Some of these individuals have purchased first-time subscriptions, or renewed old ones, in just the past few weeks, VanBuren said, and “it’s awkward to pull the plug on them so quickly.”

“But we trust that readers will understand our decision to do this in the face of

the personal challenges that we are now facing,” he said.

VanBuren said he hopes *The Call* will return in the not-too-distant future and be able to do a more thorough and focused job of covering conservation issues in Michigan and beyond. If so, past subscribers will be notified when the publication again becomes available, he said.

In the meantime, a comprehensive history of the newspaper and its role in Michigan conservation journalism is in the works.

“Despite the continuing economic difficulties facing newspapers today, we still believe there is a niche for *The North Woods Call*,” VanBuren said. “and we’d like to have a role in that, if possible. Unfortunately, we don’t have a partner who can

keep things going for us during this forced sabbatical.”

Whoever ultimately carries the *North Woods Call* tradition forward, it’s clear that he or she will need to better accommodate the needs of modern news consumers and more aggressively adapt to changing communication technologies, VanBuren said.

And returning the base of operations to the north woods would be helpful, he said.

Glen and Mary Lou Sheppard published *The Call* from the Charlevoix area for more than four decades after purchasing it from founder Marguerite Gahagan in 1969. Gahagan had operated the newspaper from the Johannesburg and Roscommon areas for 16 years prior to that.

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Another Bridge To Cross

—North Woods Call photo

This issue marks one more transition in the storied life of The North Woods Call, as the publication’s third publisher in nearly 62 years is forced by circumstances beyond his control to close down the operation—at least temporarily. We may be back some day in the not-too-distant future, but that’s not guaranteed. So, if you know of anyone who wants to own and operate a newspaper during these uncertain economic times, please direct them to us. In the meantime, we’re working on a long-overdue history of The Call and its dedicated defenders of Michigan’s natural resources. You can help with that, too, by sharing your memories with us. The pedestrian bridge above was photographed on the shore of Lake Huron.

Judge orders Chesapeake Energy to racketeering trial

Cheboygan District Court Judge Maria Barton has ordered Oklahoma-based Chesapeake Energy Corporation to proceed to trial on one count of racketeering and twenty counts of false pretenses for allegedly defrauding private landowners across Northern Michigan.

As previously reported in *The North Woods Call*, the company—already slated to go to trial Dec. 2 on one count of violating Michigan’s anti-trust law—

was charged by Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette for its alleged role in bid-rigging at the October 2010 state oil and gas lease auctions.

In her ruling, Judge Barton dismissed a second antitrust charge related to allegations that the company conspired to bid-rig involving individual landowners, as well as an alternative attempt charge regarding rigging bids to the private landowners.

Alleged Sanilac Co. poachers to be arraigned

Three individuals were set to be arraigned Monday, Oct. 6, in Sanilac County District Court on poaching charges related to a Sept. 14 incident.

Three men and a woman were arrested after a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer (CO) working on a homeland security patrol was alerted by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection air and marine helicopter that people were shining deer and shooting from a vehicle in Sanilac

County’s Marion Township. The incident took place at about 9 p.m.

CO Ken Kovach, who was working on assignment targeting homeland security on the St. Clair River, responded to the report, along with the Sanilac County Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff’s deputies arrested the individuals and then turned them over to Kovach for several wildlife-related violations, including using an artificial light source, taking deer out-of-season and alcohol charges.

The three men and one woman, ages 23 to 44, were located in their vehicle on Schock Road near Russell Road—along with two rifles, a dead spotted fawn and parts of another deer—at about 9 p.m. The suspects are from Sanilac and Huron counties

One of the men, age 31, was turned over to U.S. Border Patrol for immigration violations.

“This case is a great example of three different agencies working

(Continued on Page 2)

Subscription refunds to be given

Current subscribers to *The North Woods Call* will soon receive pro-rated refunds for the unused portions of their subscriptions.

The individual refunds will be figured based on the newspaper’s regular production schedule—twice monthly (except one issue each in January, April, July and October).

Please note that several electronic and print subscriptions are expiring in early October, before the next scheduled edition would have been produced. Obviously, in those cases, refunds won’t be required.

“Those who are due refunds are asked to be patient, allowing us a few weeks to calculate what is owed and get checks in the mail. Questions may be directed to editor@mynorthwoodscall.com.



North Woods Notes

OIL SPILL PROTECTION: Citizens groups have called on Gov. Rick Snyder to take immediate steps toward protecting Michigan from oil pipelines running through the Straits of Mackinac. The demands come in the wake of revelations that the United States Coast Guard cannot effectively respond to a major heavy oil spill in the Great Lakes.

MICRO PLASTICS: U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York) has introduced legislation to ban tiny plastic particles in personal care products. The so-called “microbeads” are found in products like facial scrubs, body washes, hand cleansers and toothpastes. Environmentalists say they are too small to be caught by wastewater treatment plants, so they end up in large bodies of water like the Great Lakes. The plastics concentrate toxins that would normally settle in sediment at the bottom of the lake, and can be eaten by birds and fish—posing serious health and environmental risks.

WOLVES: The Michigan Natural Resources Commission has said it won’t consider a wolf hunt season for 2014, despite recent passage of the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and the apparent neutering of two anti-hunt voter referendums on this November’s ballot. The new law—which grants the commission authority to designate game species—won’t actually take effect until next spring. In the meantime, the NRC has asked the Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Division to study the science and the data on wolf depredations of dogs and livestock, and present their findings to the commission in 2015. Wolf hunt opponents continue to campaign for “no” votes on the November referendums—something pro-hunt forces say is merely an “exit poll” with no real meaning.

PARKS CHIEF AWARDED: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson has received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of State Park Directors. The award recognizes the contributions of individuals and groups for their achievements in support of state parks and state park systems in the United States.

CONSERVATION INNOVATORS: Retiring U.S. Sen. Carl Levin and Congressman John Dingell—as well as the Ford Motor Company and Anglers of the Au Sable—will be honored Oct. 2 at the second annual “Innovation in Conservation” dinner hosted by the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. The event, to be held at Detroit’s Westin Book Cadillac hotel, recognizes “conservation champions” who have furthered Michigan’s legacy of environmental protection, organizers said. Oh, you can attend the dinner for a mere \$150.

THE HERBERT BURNS: A 25-foot patrol boat for Lake Michigan has been officially named after Herbert Burns, a retired chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ Law Enforcement Division. Burns was one of the longest-serving chiefs for that unit. The boat is docked in Manistee.

FISHERMAN’S ISLAND: State officials say that any decision about a proposed land swap deal with St. Mary’s Cement will not occur until all public comments are heard and a management plan for Fisherman’s Island State Park is completed during the coming months. As a result, a controversial series of closed-door discussions by a company-created “community committee” may not have much ultimate impact.

(Continued on Page 2)

Our 61st Year: Looking Back to Sept. 15, 1971

The weighty decisions of fall

By Glen Sheppard

If a guy didn't know, he might have suspected around mid-afternoon Labor Day that the Consumers Power Company Big Rock Point nuclear plant was about to explode and orders had been issued to evacuate the Charlevoix area.

There was an almost unreal quiet along the Lake Michigan beaches, down through the Bells' Bay campground south of town, at the yacht docks and even on the main street. It was unreal because—through another long, but too short, summer—we had again come to accept crowds and haste as a real part of life in the north country.

Then, all of a sudden, it was over.

There was a temptation to march out to the Fisherman's Island tract carrying a banner and going through some sort of dramatics indicating we were reclaiming the north woods from the invaders. Now, for a short time—at least on week days—the northland will belong largely to those who really treasure her quiet moods.

Many of them will be people from downstate, but they won't be the "tourists" who were here during the summer only to gather free brochures, study a highway map and see how fast they could get to the next town.

On week days, at least, it will be possible to drive through the north country towns without feeling you are being swept into a tidal wave headed for the nearest freeway entrance ramp.

The next two months, of course, are the most treasured by many Michiganders who know the northland. Though the finest fly hatches are over, some of the finest outdoor hours of the year have arrived.

The woods are quiet, with ferns turning brown and forest creatures beginning to wander more freely. Soon there will be color—obviously a miracle that delights even Mother Nature.

Big brown trout are still in some of the streams running into Lake Michigan. A man can plot and scheme to catch one of these 10- to 20-pound monsters on a fly long after dark has arrived on the Jordan, or the Pere Marquette.

And steelhead will soon be running. Big, cross fish with a disposition to soar. Maybe, if the salmon don't attract a mob of outlaws up the stream, a few steelhead will be convinced to smash a fly.

But, certainly, bluegills and bass will again be hitting surface poppers and plugs. And, just as surely, no one will be looking. The tiny inland lakes will be empty of fishermen.

Miraculously, perch are once again biting. Those who can remember the wonderous days of earlier decades, when buckets were filled with perch from Lake Michigan breakwaters, will find this chance to return to boyhood joys too tempting to pass up.

All of which may be leaving the best to the last. Partridge, timber doodle and squirrel season is now with us. Again we can throw our smoothbores across the crooks of our arms and aimlessly wander the woods, waiting for the roar of a grouse or the whistle of a woodcock to signal us to spray the empty air with lead shot.

The kind of long-walking days none of us would consider sane during summer's heat and insects. The silence of an evening campfire. Each savoring his own fondest memories. All sharing in the guffaws about the misses. And, perhaps, each privately wishing he had missed even more often.

Perhaps willing to admit the kill has lost its youthful zing. But not denying the beast, or boy, in us that makes us feel we are a little more whole when we tramp the woods with good companions, and the ancient beauty of walnut and blue steel in our arms. Proud to cling to this part of our heritage, but wondering if the bloodletting is still realistic.

But confused, too. Can a man wander the pat and doodle covers, or laze in the squirrel woods—drawing strength from the forest and swamp, and the feel and lines of a shotgun or rifle—without clinging to that savage instinct to kill?

But fall shouldn't be a time to wrestle with such questions.

There are too many other critical decisions to be made: Steelhead fishing, or canoeing to see the color along the Jordan? Grouse hunting or squirrel hunting? Bluegill fishing, or a walk along the beach to soak up the symphony of the surf, which for several months has been drowned under the roar of tourists?

Or, maybe, just a mid-day nap under a beech tree?

North Woods Call ceases publication—at least for now

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Glen Sheppard died Jan. 5, 2011, and VanBuren bought the defunct newspaper later that year from Shep's widow, who had mothballed it after her husband's death. Publication began anew in September 2012 after an 18-month absence.

Since then, VanBuren has tried to create what he calls "a conservation community," or a "public square," where citizens interested in the conservation of natural resources could come together to learn about and discuss related is-

sues of the day.

The overall goal has been to serve as a trustworthy news source for people who love nature and the north woods, VanBuren said.

"Essentially, we have wanted to be a practical journal of human ecology that chronicles our ongoing relationship to the natural world," he said.

Sometimes this has meant exposing readers to alternative viewpoints in an effort to stimulate thought and jump-start discussion, according to VanBuren.

"We're interested in the truth



Field Training

—Michigan DNR photo

Veteran Michigan Conservation Officer Jeff Ginn (left) gives instruction to new recruit Saykham Keophalychanh, who is one of 23 law enforcement academy graduates undergoing 18 weeks of field training. Like his classmates, Keophalychanh will spend 18 weeks afield with experienced conservation officers to learn the ropes before reporting to his assigned county. Here, Ginn and Keophalychanh are working a patrol on Hardy Pond. Ginn, an eight-year veteran of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Law Enforcement Division, said his job as a field training officer is to make sure Keophalychanh understands what's expected of him and to teach by example. The field training portion of a new officer's overall training is an integral part of what prepares the officer for the job. Prior to the academy this year, the DNR's Law Enforcement Division was operating at an all-time low for the number of conservation officers in the field, with some counties not having the full-time presence of a CO.

Alleged Sanilac County poachers to be arraigned

(Continued from Page 1)

together to get an arrest and protect the natural resources of our state," said Lt. David Malloch, DNR Law Enforcement supervisor for southeast Michigan.

Poaching deer in Michigan carries a restitution payment of \$1,000 per deer, a minimum \$200 fine and jail time of up to 90 days. A violator's hunting privileges may also be suspended for up to three years.

Emmet dam fails

Emmet County's rural O'Neal Lake Dam reportedly failed in early September.

The dam, located along Big Sucker Creek in Bliss Township, is owned by the Department of Natural Resources and land downstream of the flooding is public land, including Wilderness State Park.

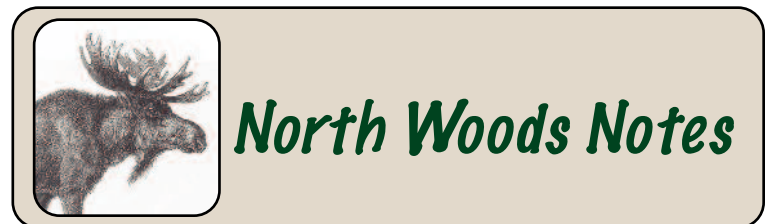
The failure should not affect downstream private residences, officials said.

"The heavy rains may have led to this failure," said DNR Wildlife Supervisor Brian Mastenbrook. "We are currently drawing down the flooding in order to do safety inspections and assess our options."

about the relationship between people and the earth," he said, "and have tried to find it in a politically distorted world that often prefers deception to reality. It's clear from the reactions of readers that some folks are comfortable with this and some are not."

Still, we need dissenting voices and independent thinking if we are going to find viable solutions to our problems, VanBuren said.

"We can't merely push prefabricated agendas and demand that others validate what we already believe," he said.



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OCTOBER NRC MEETING: The October 9 meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will be held at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, on Higgins Lake near Roscommon. The Nov. 6 meeting will be at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center, 4125 Beaumont Road, in Lansing. The NRC's final meeting this calendar year will be Dec. 11 at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue, in Lansing.

NO DRONES: The Michigan Senate voted unanimously on Sept. 24 to approve legislation that would prohibit the use of a drone to hunt animals. The legislation also would ban the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle to interfere with or harass hunters. Violations of the proposed law would be a misdemeanor that could bring jail time and stiff fines. The bill now goes to the state House for consideration.

CLIMATE WARS: A former U.S. Navy vice admiral says climate change is dramatically affecting the demands placed on the military and the circumstances in which it operates, thus posing a threat to national security. Lee Gunn—one of 16 retired admirals and generals who authored a new report called "National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change"—said rising sea levels, wildfires and other natural events that demand disaster and other humanitarian relief can siphon off National Guard personnel who might otherwise be deployed in military support roles.

APPLES GALORE: Michigan apple growers are seeing a bumper crop this year, according to Diane Smith, executive director of the Michigan Apple Committee. The industry yielded 29 million bushels this growing season, she said.

LOCKED & LOADED: The number of concealed-carry permits for handguns in Michigan reportedly increased by 50 percent over the past year, according to an analysis by the *M-Live* media group.

BOARDMAN RIVER GRANT: The Boardman River Dams & Restoration Project, and the Conservation Resource Alliance have announced a grant award of \$1.5 million from the national organization Sustain Our Great Lakes. The money will be used for ongoing dam removal and restoration work on the Boardman River.

LIGHTHOUSES: Since 2000, the federal government has reportedly sold more than 100 lighthouses to private buyers, many of whom are turning them into livable spaces.

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Cedars for the Au Sable: Volunteer tree planter invests in the future

By David Smith

Marie Harrington likes northern white cedar trees and so do white-tail deer.

The deer like to eat the cedars and Harrington likes to plant them

Since 2007, wearing her signature Tilley hat, Harrington has helped plant over 500 cedar seedlings with planting crews from the Anglers of the Au Sable, Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, and Huron Pines—as well as for individual property owners unable to do their own planting.

She has planted trees on the banks of the South Branch of the Au Sable River in the Mason Tract, on the Manistee River in the Deward Tract, and on the Au Sable River mainstream. All of the planting projects have been carried out under the auspices of Cedars for the Au Sable—a program sponsored by the Au Sable River Property Owners Association and chaired by program founder Howard N. Johnson of Saginaw.

Cedars for the Au Sable started 20 years ago when Johnson noticed the lack of cedars along the

riverbanks while he was fishing—even though there were plenty of mature cedar trees. Putting two and two together, he determined that any naturally occurring cedar seedlings were being gobbled up by the unnaturally large deer populations along the river corridors.

In order to have new cedars survive to eventually replace mature trees, the seedlings would have to be protected. As part of the project, tubes of fencing, or cages, are placed around each plant and fastened to two stakes. Another piece of fencing is put on top of each cage to prevent the deer from reaching over the top to eat the tree.

After the trees have grown out of the original enclosure, that cage is replaced by a six-foot fence. When the cedar has grown out of the larger fence, it is big enough to withstand browsing by the deer and the cage can be removed.

When instructing groups how to plant trees, Johnson notes, “Many cedars are purchased and planted by property owners that will never see the trees grow out of the cages. They are planting for their children and grandchildren.”

Harrington, who hails from

both Midland and Grayling, does more than just plant the seedlings. She regularly joins crews that revisit planted trees to check on growth, pull weeds inside the cages, install larger cages if necessary and replant trees that for some reason haven’t survived. She has also helped locate where trees should be planted.

To make the actual planting more efficient, prior to planting, Harrington has helped cut the fencing into four-foot pieces and often helps construct the cages after the material is cut. The assembled cages are then transported to the planting site to await the planting crews.

On the second Saturday after Labor Day, Harrington can also be seen volunteering with other property owners to help distribute cedar kits (10 seedlings along with the cage material, weed guards and stakes to protect them) to people who will then take the kits home to plant on their own property.

This year, after the tree distribution was over, Harrington traveled to the river to plant 10 cedars for a property owner and protect them with cages she constructed on site.



Volunteer Marie Harrington constructing a wire cage to protect cedar seedlings from deer. —Photo by David Smith of Grayling, Michigan

While floating the rivers or hiking the banks, Harrington is quick to point out caged trees and explain the project to her companions. She will check trees during stops and will often weed them to

minimize competition in the cage. “I have a lot of ownership for the trees I’ve planted and I want to see them do well,” Harrington says. “I’m proud to a part of such a worthwhile effort.”

DNR says no drilling under Hartwick’s old-growth

Public pressure has prompted the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reverse an earlier plan to sell mineral exploration leases under a portion of Hartwick Pines State Park.

As reported previously in *The North Woods Call*, citizens and environmental groups had vigorously protested a plan to allow drilling underneath an area of the park that has the largest remaining stand of old-growth white pines in the Lower Peninsula—some of them 400 years old.

The DNR is still considering auctioning off oil and gas rights under about 20 percent of the park that doesn’t include the old-growth forest, however, when an auction is held Oct. 29.

DNR Director Keith Creagh announced the change in decision at the September meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission—even though he said no surface development was to be allowed and drilling underneath the virgin pines was unlikely to cause damage.

According to a report in *Bridge* magazine, public comments regarding the old-growth parcels included

letters from two grandchildren of Karen Hartwick, who initially gifted the land to the state in 1927.

Upon review of the information received from these grandchildren, the magazine said, the DNR decided to remove approximately 7,849 acres from the auction to adhere to the spirit and intent of the generous gift of land.

DNR staff were reviewing an additional 1,886 acres being offered within Hartwick Pines, which was not donated by Hartwick. Those additional parcels may or may not be removed from the auction, depending upon the result of that review, they said.

The reversal drew praise from the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC), Michigan League of Conservation Voters and other groups.

“We appreciate Director Creagh’s respect for the Hartwick family’s wishes, and thank him for making the right decision to protect this one-of-a-kind park,” Chris Kolb, president of the MEC, said in a prepared news release. “Personally, I’m thrilled that the experience of standing beneath the park’s towering white pines will remain unchanged for visitors to enjoy.”



Birches

—North Woods Call photo

“When life is weary of considerations and too much like a pathless wood,” American poet Robert Frost wrote, “I’d like to get away from earth awhile, and then come back to it and begin over.” He imagined climbing a birch tree—toward Heaven—til the tree could bear no more, but dipped its top and set him down again. “That would be good both going and coming back,” he said. “One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.” These small birch trees along the Lake Michigan shore in the Michigan’s Upper Peninsula are probably too small for such maneuverings, but they nevertheless prompt soul-settling thoughts, and remind us of Frost’s frequent observations about nature and life in rural America.

Feds extend coal-plant comments

If you’re interested in telling the federal government what you think about proposed rules to limit greenhouse gases from existing power plants, you now have another 45 days to have your voice heard.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—which recently proposed to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent—has extended to Dec. 1 what was originally a 120-day public comment period.

The Obama administration considers the move its most significant action regarding what many believe to be man-made global climate change and is looking to finalize new regulations by a June 2015 deadline.

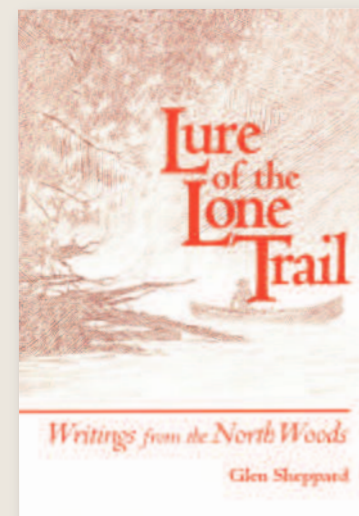
Advocates say the country must cut emissions from coal-fired power plants, which they say are among the largest stationary sources of atmosphere-warming carbon monoxide. Critics, meanwhile, claim the rules would force premature retirements of the coal-fired fleet that generates 40 percent of the nation’s electricity, significantly increase the cost of electricity for consumers and severely damage an already struggling coal-mining sector.

A group of 53 senators asked the agency to extend the comment period for two additional months, saying states that would be required to implement the changes needed more time to respond. Leaders in several states have reportedly come out against the rules.

Two days of hearings on the proposal in four cities during July reportedly prompted dramatic protests in at least one of them—Pittsburgh—where a clash between several hundred environmentalists and several thousand union miners closed downtown streets.

Celebrate our natural resources!

Last chance, folks!



Every conservationist should have this collection of writings by former *North Woods Call* Publisher Glen Sheppard.

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Opinion

Quote Box

"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."

—Henry David Thoreau

Litterbugs & other scofflaws

There's a large municipal park a few miles from the *North Woods Call* office. It's a fine piece of land, donated by an early 20th Century industrialist and well-maintained by a small army of government workers.

There are paved trails, softball diamonds, tennis courts, picnic tables, benches, playground equipment for the kids, an outdoor concert stage, slopes for winter sledding and large areas of carefully manicured grass on which to lounge whenever the weather permits.

It takes about an hour to walk all the trails, which is just about right for our early morning aerobic regimen. In the peaceful moments just after dawn, the encounters with other people are few, although we occasionally meet early risers out exercising themselves and their dogs.

Most people appreciate the 40-acre green space and treat it with respect. But some users leave us scratching our heads.

Take, for example, those who fail to clean up after themselves and their animals. They leave drink containers, fast-food wrappers, dog scat and assorted other trash wherever it drops, even though there are anti-littering signs and nearby trash barrels strategically placed across the landscape.

Just the other morning, we passed by a picnic shelter that had hosted a child's birthday party the evening before. Instead of cleaning up the related mess after the party was over, adults and kids alike just left it all there for the parks and recreation staff to deal with the next day.

There were pink crepe paper streamers wrapped around the shelter rafters and support poles, discarded food bags and soft drink cans on the tables and ground, and a blizzard of colorful, dime-sized plastic confetti pieces scattered across the concrete slab. All because the birthday revelers were too lazy and inconsiderate to clean up after themselves.

And some people wonder why we're cynical about the future, and the lousy examples being set for our children.

Party on, America.

Keepin' up with the *Call* gang

Even though we're halting regular publication of *The North Woods Call* for the foreseeable future (see story on Page 1 and the column at right), it doesn't mean we're going away entirely.

As time allows, we will post columns, opinion pieces and other material on our blog (NorthWoodsCall.blogspot.com), website (www.mynorthwoodscall.com) and/or Facebook page ([Facebook.com/NorthWoodsCall](https://www.facebook.com/NorthWoodsCall)). We might even send out a Twitter message once-in-a-while, but don't count on it.

At any rate, you should be able to keep tabs on us, if you wish—and none of it will require a subscription fee!

Why not more outrage over food safety?

OK, let's get this straight.

We're told we must trust the educated judgement of those scientists who say that human activity is causing climate change.

After all, they know better than we do, right?

But we're also told—by many of the same people—to NOT trust the educated judgement of those scientists who say it's OK to genetically

modify our food supplies.

Hypocrisy aside, the average guy doesn't know what to believe—except that something in our environment (probably a combination of things) is causing a record number of cancer cases.

Shouldn't we be every bit as concerned with this—maybe more—as we are with the climate change brouhaha?

Spirituality & wisdom: Vital ingredients in ecological stewardship

Numerous campfire conversations over the years in America's parks have demonstrated to us that all kinds of people love the great outdoors.

Liberals, conservatives, blacks, whites, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, Democrats, Republicans, Tea Party patriots, believers in God, agnostics, atheists—and every personal, theological and political persuasion in between—come together in their collective enjoyment and appreciation of "Mother Nature."

In many cases—for good or evil—you might even say that they worship her.

Why, then, is it so difficult for us to agree on how to best care for and preserve our natural resources? It seems we'd rather bicker, lie, cheat and besmirch our neighbors over our sometimes twisted beliefs than listen carefully to what others say.

We submit that this is more of a spiritual problem than anything else. Unfortunately, most of us seem unable to adopt personal values such as thrift, simplicity, humility and selflessness—which are vital to sus-

tainable living and good stewardship.

After all, there's money to be made, power to be grabbed and people to be dominated—all to feed our own often foolish ambitions. Greed and pride are everywhere, even among those who masquerade as angels of light.

Yet, the solutions to ecological dilemmas—as well as most other problems plaguing mankind—are rarely found in political posturing, higher taxes, or the redistribution of a nation's wealth. They reside in the hearts and minds of a moral people.

These days, we can't even have honest conversations about these things. Yet, without veracity, there is no basis for communication. And without communication, we are hard-pressed to come up with collective strategies that work.

We can cling to our illusions, if we wish—propagandizing and demonizing those with alternative viewpoints—or we can attempt in good faith to pursue what is true and just.

Unfortunately, some individuals dislike

Fading dreams and the closing of a door

Dreams die hard.

Such is the case for our grand experiment in publishing *The North Woods Call*.

Owning the publication has been a dream of mine since I was a boy—one that serendipitously came to pass a few years ago, following the death of longtime publisher Glen Sheppard.

I figured we could make a go of it and I'm pleased with our progress over the past 24 months. Yet, that's a rather short run if you consider *The Call's* 61-plus year legacy.

A couple more years and some additional financial resources would likely boost our chances for success.

If only we could keep at it.

But sometimes the master of the universe has other plans.

The dream began to fade a bit last year when a medical scare put me in the hospital for a couple of days—staring at my own mortality. But that was minor compared to what happened next.

My mother's unexpected ill-

ness and subsequent death last December changed a lot of things about our world and forced our family to pay greater attention to numerous things we would rather not confront. Now my wife's life-threatening cancer struggle has further driven us to re-examine priorities and time commitments.

Like it or not, I must—for the foreseeable future—expand my role as caregiver, and tend to myriad other personal and family obligations that have come my way.

This is not to complain. There are still many blessings in our lives for which I am thankful. But circumstances dictate that I free up some time and sidestep the relentless deadlines that come with owning and operating a small newspaper.

It's a stab in the heart on numerous levels, but something that

North Woods Journal

By Mike VanBuren



has to be done.

It could be that the glory days of print publishing were already long past by the time we purchased *The North Woods Call* in 2012 and set about trying to resurrect it. The Internet and associated information revolution—not to mention the rapidly changing habits and preferences of information consumers—have already kicked many once-proud publications in the teeth and forced some of them out-of-business.

While we still believe there is a niche for a specialty publication like *The North Woods Call*, we have nevertheless witnessed declining readership trends, and the disturbing tendency of citizens and public servants to turn away from voices that cry in the wilderness, but don't necessarily reflect the prevailing "wisdom" of the chattering crowd.

Still, it's important that these voices be heard and we hope this newspaper can—in the near future—continue to be one that helps inject truth and sanity back into the civic debate.

Until further notice, however, we'll be out to pasture with other retired race horses—still writing and working on special projects, I expect, but looking over the proverbial fence just the same.

When I first approached the late Mary Lou Sheppard about buying *The Call* after Shep's untimely death, she looked at me incredulously.

"Why would you want to take on all that work?" she asked.

I guess because it's good work, I told her, and something that can keep me occupied and make a difference.

Today, I find myself pulled toward more ominous activities that also promise to keep me occupied and make a difference. I don't know where this journey will lead, but it's a road I must follow.

Such is the fate of dreamers, I suppose, particularly those whose fantasies aren't fulfilled until later in life.

I trust that those of you who love *The North Woods Call* as much as I do will understand the painful urgency of this decision.



The editor's wife, Dianna, at Kitch-Iti-Kipi—"The Big Spring"—in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

—North Woods Call photo

The North Woods Call

Michigan's Conservation Sentinel
Since 1953

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A Newshound Publication

Environment & urban violence

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some contentious public issues have a way of recycling themselves over and over—such as that found in the following editorial by former North Woods Call publisher Glen Sheppard. It seems that Shep's argument—from way back in 1971—is still relevant today in metropolitan areas across the United States and elsewhere.

Michigan United Conservation Clubs' (MUCC) perceptive new executive director, Paul Leach, earns our applause for his direct challenge of Detroit Mayor Roman Gribbs' campaign to ban handguns in Michigan.

"You and I both know," Leach told Gribbs, "that the answer to homicide prevention is not more policemen and not banning guns. The answer is improving Detroit's environment."

Leach called on Gribbs to direct his efforts toward improving the quality of life in Detroit, especially through improved parks, social and recreational programs.

"Make Detroit a better place to live," Leach recommended to the mayor.

While promising to work with Gribbs in a program which would be "beneficial to the goals of environmental enhancement for Detroit and the commensurate decrease in hostility," Leach added that Michigan sportsmen will make every effort to defeat Gribbs' petition drive to amend the constitution in such a way that ownership of handguns could be outlawed.

The Call continues to be puzzled by the refusal of politicians to publicly admit that the quality of life (or, more correctly, lack of it) is the root cause of urban problems. Gun control laws have never curbed crime or violence—and Mr. Gribbs knows it far better than most of us.

There appears to be no value in repeating these facts. They have been aired thousands of times by the National Rifle Association, Sportsman's Alliance of Michigan, MUCC and others.

Still, the politicians are either too dull, or too dishonest, to identify the environment in which their constituents live as the cause of their problem.

Even Detroit's newspapers have editorial writers who fail to relate environmental reality to the violence which terrorizes life in their city.



Lake Huron Sentinel

—North Woods Call photo

The big lake is relatively calm in this view from the lighthouse at 40-Mile Point near Rogers City. But—like life itself—rough waters have been frequent and many ships over the years have relied on the guiding light to make it safely to their destinations. Not all have made it, however, as the number of historic shipwrecks under the clear, blue water will testify. North Woods Call readers have no doubt discovered by now that the publisher's family is currently being rocked by unexpected storms (see story on Page 1 and column on Page 4) that have left us with few options other than to halt publication for the time being. Whether the suspension becomes permanent remains to be seen, but we're hoping for smoother sailing ahead.

An honor and a privilege: Thanks to each of you

It has been a distinct honor and privilege to publish *The North Woods Call* for the past 24 months. We sincerely thank all those who have contributed to the endeavor.

There are our subscribers, of course, without whom we would not have made it past the first month. But there are also those who generously provided us with content material, news tips and moral support along the way.

The complete list is too long for this space, but it includes Tom Springer, Doug Freeman, Richard Schinkel, Mark Karaba, John Gunnell,

Betsy Hayhow Hemming, Sandra Nordmark, Doug & Judy Mummert, David Gorenflo, Richard Wiles, Gregg & Dee Smith, Mary Lou Sheppard, Gordon Guyer, various letter writers and numerous others who reached out to us.

Your contributions and encouragement have meant more to us than you may know.

Whether or not your name is mentioned here, we offer our sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

Hopefully, *The Call* will be back again sometime soon.

State GEMS program may cause more harm than good

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following comments relate to a photograph that appeared in the early September edition of *The North Woods Call*—showing Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Keith Creagh planting trees to kick off the state's new Grouse Enhanced Management System (GEMS) program. The program—in which select forest land is primarily managed for aspen—is purportedly designed to improve habitat for upland game birds and other wildlife, according to the DNR.

Mike:

On the surface it sounds great, but I don't think the supporters of [the GEMS program] are thinking far enough ahead.

In my hunting experience (all 40 years of it), I've seen what these aspen stands become. It is true that they are excellent hunting areas from about six to 15 years after the clear-cut. Beyond that, however, they are of no use to wildlife at all. I've seen this first hand.

They are talking about changing the harvest rotation from 60

years to 40 years. Basically, this means that other tree species will have no chance to grow and mature. Thus—once aspen, always aspen

Changing thousands of acres of diverse forest into nothing but aspen just for a few years of enhanced grouse hunting is a horrible idea.

Unless, of course, the goal is to turn Michigan's forests into a "commodity."

David Gorenflo
Traverse City, Michigan

Support Michigan conservation!



Freaked out by oil and gas fracking activities, the earthworms finally opted for mass suicide.

John Speeter illustration

Viewpoint

A nation of sheep revisited: Who stands against resource exploitation?

By John Gunnell

If you, like me, are often disappointed by the homogenized story line of many media people pertaining to outdoor matters, you may have interest in reading further.

Outdoor writers who still exercise discernment by rendering views beyond the story line they are fed seem to be fast disappearing. Today's typical exercise of "journalistic sameness" adversely contributes to a readership prone to indifference when it comes to developing any ethical defense of nature on their own.

Like nature, our U.S. Constitution is—at best—mostly taken for granted. Meanwhile, outdoor publications and their authors rarely include opinions—if they dare have any. Their well-worn "informed sources say" is supposed to take the place of ever taking a stand on issues.

When I was a boy, my father was the first person to explain to me the responsibility we all have for conserving our natural surroundings. He said that we could have no greater treasure bestowed upon us than na-

ture's gift of air, land and water. He spelled out for his children—in depth—his love affair with nature and lived by example, protecting nature and her wild ways.

Today, nature's preservation is being challenged by a deeply troubling "yes mentality" that is practiced by the very leaders vested in her survival.

Our forefathers, in their infinite wisdom, established conservation departments in each state for the purpose of ensuring the protection of nature for perpetuity. Hunting by real hunters was championed to create a correlation between overpopulation and overharvest, and was to be used as a management tool to achieve ecological balance by only taking the excess.

Never in their wildest imagination did the early conservationists of more than a century ago ever have the notion that we are expected to tolerate the exploitation of natural resources for money.

We once monitored our conservation department leaders, and showed our support and respect for them by obeying regulations

set to protect everyone's resources. A jaundiced eye was once cast upon the "snake-oil salesmen" who—under the guise of "free enterprise"—sought to practice their cunning to steal everyone's resources in the name of progress.

Today, "politicians for profit" observe a naive public unwilling to take on these constantly deceptive tactics. Consequently, they will eventually give in to the [special interest] pressure. "Legal cheating" is never more than a stone's throw away from the next devious scheme that the public will be fooled into swallowing.

The larger, more obvious ploys for profit that lead the way are always shrouded with the notion that their justification has to do with our never-ending abundance of resources, American ingenuity for providing jobs, and industry's skill in creating new and more efficient equipment—capable of accessing far greater quantities of our resources to insure profitability and destroy the "wild" in wildlife.

To stand in the way of those promoting

such causes in the name of progress is discouraged, because such activities have become sacrosanct. Seldom considered, if ever, is the "conservation philosophy" inherent in our original purpose for establishing conservation departments in each state.

The sophistication for hijacking our resources has now reached a level that is no longer an occasional occurrence. Having already hurdled many stumbling blocks, our leadership will not even acknowledge that they ever receive contradictory views for their decisions to reduce nature's ways.

All the resource exploitation, as confirmed over the years, has exacted a heavy toll on nature in Michigan. But silence still reigns, as our leaders plod merrily on.

We have witnessed the "art of hunting" as we once knew it reduced to a "parlor game," attracting the comfort-conscious and their enabled youth. Each year, far more of their type are assured to never discover for themselves the personal exhilaration and challenge that holds a real hunter's interest



All Outdoors

By Mark Karaba

Favorite works of Thoreau

I assume most *Call* readers have read "Walden," or are at least familiar with this iconic work by perhaps our most recognized nature writer.

There are other less-familiar works that have helped boost Henry David Thoreau's posthumous popularity.

My favorite piece of writing by Thoreau is "The Maine Woods." This is a journal account of three different excursions to the wilds of northern Maine. The first trip began in 1846, followed by another in 1853 and the last in 1857. The purpose of the trip in 1846 was, among other things, to climb *Mt. Katahdin*. This is not a typo. It is how Mt. Katahdin was spelled back then.

It is a gripping, nearly daily, account of the wilderness—with references to botany and all forms of wildlife encountered in the wilds of the north.

Thoreau's first book, "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers," was published in 1849 by James Munroe and Co. of Boston. This is a journal account of the journey Thoreau took down the rivers with his brother in a boat they built themselves. It was not put into book form until the author was situated in his now famous cabin on Walden Pond. The journal of this trip was encouraged by Ralph Waldo Emerson, a Concord, Massachusetts, neighbor who became Thoreau's mentor.

One of the more fascinating aspects of Thoreau's short life include his involvement in the transcendentalist movement that was occurring in Boston and even Concord. During this time period, many now famous writers and poets were a part of Thoreau's life and his circle of acquaintances—including Emerson, Ellery Channing, Bronson Alcott, Louisa May Alcott, Margaret Fuller and Nathaniel Hawthorne, to name a few.

I would recommend two separate biographies about Thoreau's life that give a much broader view into his activities than can be gleaned from his writing itself. The first is "Thoreau" by Henry Seidel Canby. The other is "Thoreau of Walden" by Henry Beetle Hough. Both look into the more personal life of a man most only know as an author/poet.

Some readers may be familiar with certain references by the aforementioned authors of *The Dial*. *The Dial* was a quarterly journal published in Boston from July 1840 through April 1844. It was edited at different times by Emerson, Fuller and Thoreau (for one issue). This journal was to be the vehicle for free-thinking "transcendentalist" writers of the period. Or, as explained by the one-time business manager of *The Dial*, George Ripley, "the purpose of this work is to furnish a medium for the free-expression of thought on the questions which interest earnest minds in every community."

A book of interest to those who would care to learn more about the diverse group of writers from this time period who originally appeared in *The Dial* is entitled "Transcendentalism: A Reader" by Joel Myerson.

The last published work by Thoreau of which I am aware is "Wild Fruits." This was copyrighted and edited by Bradley P. Dean in the year 2000, and was part of the mass of papers left behind after Thoreau's death at the age of 45 in May of 1862.

Though I have read and re-read "Walden" and "The Maine Woods" many times over the years, I suppose the two biographies I own are just as significant, because they have given me insight into the man, and the places and events that shaped his life. I can picture in my mind's eye—through imagination—certain interactions that occurred with many now-famous and respected authors with whose works I am less familiar. I can imagine the "stroll" that Thoreau took with Walt Whitman through New York's Central Park during lilac time.

Thoreau's views of nature and conservation probably hold more value in this current time period than when he was alive. One can only imagine how he would view our modern farming practices, rampant clearing of land and the acceptance of chemical farming that many of us talk about, but do little to change.

I believe in today's world, as was partially the case when Thoreau was alive, he would be considered a "slacker." It is hard for most now to accept the self-deprecating title he gave himself as "self appointed inspector of snow storms."

This was a man who understood simplicity in a raw form, who said, "We need the tonic of wilderness." That has not changed.

One of my favorite Thoreau quotes is this: "Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk!"

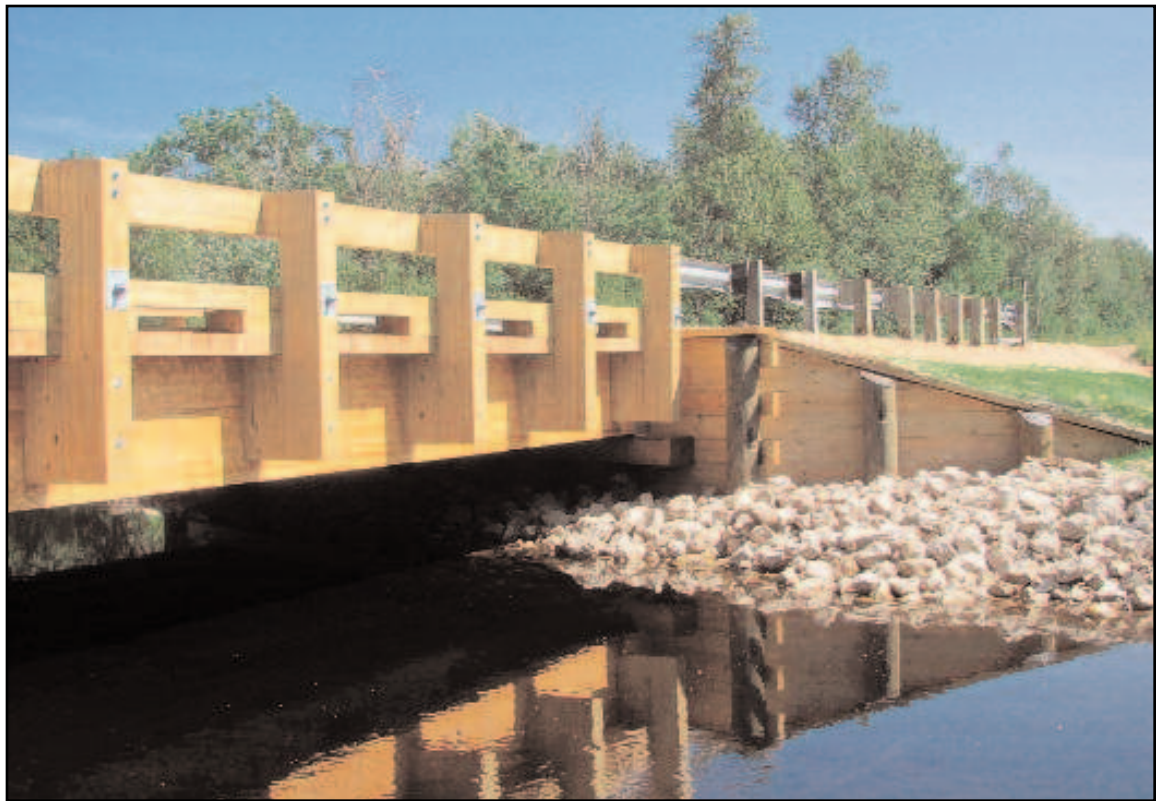
Surplus salmon offered to the public

The public again this year is invited to purchase surplus salmon that has been harvested at Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) weirs around the state.

The DNR maintains multiple sites (weirs) where fisheries biologists and technicians collect eggs and milt (sperm) from Chinook and coho salmon for use in state fish hatcheries. Once egg-take needs are met, fish in prime physical condition are made available

to the public by American-Canadian Fisheries, a private vendor that assists the DNR with the salmon harvest.

The fish can be purchased at Andy's Tackle Box, Hank & Sons and R&J Resort in Brethren; Wellman's Bait & Tackle, and the Au Sable River Store in Oscoda; Pappy's Bait & Tackle and Tippy Dam Campground in Wellston; and Lixie's Fish Market in East Tawas.



Maple River Restoration

—Conservation Resource Alliance photo

Tucked away near northern Michigan's "tip of the mitt" is a gem of a river that conservation partners are working hard to improve. The Maple River is a clear, cold water trout stream that locals love, with good reason. But, like most northern rivers, historic logging, agricultural practices and transportation development have made an impact over the past century. The Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), a non-profit group serving 15 northern Michigan counties, is leading restoration efforts and recently received a major boost with a \$558,000 grant through Sustain Our Great Lakes, a program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The story of how old road crossings can contribute to the decline of premier waterways is a familiar one, according to the CRA. Undersized culverts create a barrier for fish and other aquatic species to swim upstream. Eroding roads and stream banks dump sand and other pollutants into the river, smothering important habitat. With several major crossing-improvement projects completed and five more on the list over the next two years, the CRA's "Free Spanning the Maple" initiative is a watershed-wide effort. "By opening up this habitat, the project provides a unique opportunity for native species, such as brook trout and walleye, to completely free-span the Maple River, resulting in unrestricted aquatic species passage to over 40 miles of stream, [as well as] wetland restoration and restoration of aquatic habitats," said Chris Pierce, the lead biologist on the project.

Phases & stages: Reflecting on the night moon

As we move into the heavy hunting season and good weather to wander our parks, forests and nature centers, we will no doubt be out later in the day.

The night becomes a great factor in what we experience. When I taught camping to sixth graders, it was remarkable how many had never experienced a true dark night, absent any extraneous light. One of the favorite things we liked to teach from canoes out in the middle of a lake were the constellations. The sky is clear with no trees for obstruction on the horizon.

Along with the stars, we were able to teach about the moon and its phases. Again, it was sad that many really had not known or studied the moon, or its phases.

I think this is a good time to review the phases and their names.

The particular phase of the moon is what is illuminated to us here on earth. It changes as the moon orbits the earth. The moon and earth are tidally locked, so the same side of the moon always faces us. The moon goes from 100 percent visible (full moon) to totally dark (new moon).

If we start at a full moon and move toward the new moon, it goes through four general phases. A full moon that is not at first quarter is what I call a "pregnant moon." It is also called a "gibbous moon" and it is getting smaller (waning). Until it reaches first quarter, it's called a "waning gibbous moon."

Then we have the first quarter. The quarters are named after the extent of the moon's cycle—not the shape. After this, it becomes a "waning crescent moon" until it is no longer visible. The dark moon, or new moon, can also be



The Natural World

By Richard Schinkel

called old moon.

When you have a crescent moon, a phenomenon called "earthshine" may be apparent, where the night side of the moon may reflect some light to the earth. As the crescent moon gets smaller, it is referred to as a waning crescent moon.

When the new moon turns into a crescent moon, it now becomes a waxing (moving toward full moon) crescent moon until the third quarter, when it becomes a waxing gibbous moon until full again.

Often, when we see a crescent moon, we wonder if it is waxing or waning. A trick to remember: If the crescent is like a cupped left hand (as in the letter "c") the moon is leaving (waning), if it is like a cupped right hand, it is returning (waxing).

Different cultures and Indian tribes may have different names for the phases of the moon, which often depend on seasons. The moon's cycle repeats every 29.53 days, which means the phases shift about a day each successive month.

If a month has two full moons in it, the second one is called a blue moon—hence "once in a blue moon." We must also refer to what is called the "lunar effect." This refers to a belief that there is some correlation between specific stages of the moon's lunar cycle and the behavior of animals.

A good number of studies have been done with mixed results, but

many hospitals, police and emergency professionals feel there is some correlation—even assigning additional staff at full moon periods. Some hospitals also believe that there is some correlation between the full moon and the birth rate.

Likewise, the hunting and fishing world believes there is a correlation between the phases of the moon, sun and tides. The factors that controlled fish activity, the phases, and even the times of day the moon rose and set were researched and published in 1936 in what is known as the "Solunar" table.

Solunar tables are used by hunters and fisherman to determine the best times of animal activity. Of course, other conditions of weather, feed, etc. must be included in any use of the table. It appears that the greatest amount of activity is during full moon cycles.

Today, the lunar tables are calculated with greater scientific accuracy by the U.S. Naval Observatory and GPS technology.

I don't believe there is any neater experience than sitting in the woods after dark and experiencing the sounds of night under a full moon. This could be the summer songs of loons, yipping of coyotes, calling of owls, or just the chorus of spring peepers.

One of my favorite memories involved teaching constellations to a group every night on a hillside on Isle Royale. The sky was so clear and the audience great.

Conservation Officer Logs (8/3/14 through 8/16/14)**Tube rescue, dancing anglers, murder case, too many lines & a machete injury****DISTRICT 1 (Marquette)**

Lt. Terry Short, Cpl. Shannon VanPatten and CO Marvin Gerlach worked a marine patrol during Menominee's Waterfront Festival. Contact was made with a subject operating a 65-foot boat that was not displaying any registration. The subject claimed he did not have to register the vessel because it was federally documented; however, the subject could not produce documentation or any other paperwork regarding the boat. The subject was ticketed for operating an unregistered vessel. Additional tickets were written to other boats during the festival for operating unregistered vessels and failure to provide sufficient personal flotation devices (PFDs).

DISTRICT 2 (Newberry)

During an early morning fish patrol, CO Mike Hammill prepared his vessel for launch, only to discover a flaming bonfire blocking the boat ramp. CO Hammill investigated the scene and located sign posts that had been pulled from the ground and broken, along with many beer cans. While investigating further, a lost cell phone was located which led to the responsible party. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Evink assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with a possible kidnapping situation in Schoolcraft County. Officer Evink helped conduct the traffic stop related to a woman who was held against her will after an assault is believed to have occurred. Prior to the traffic stop, the complainant had locked herself in a bathroom at a store, where she was able to call 911. She was persuaded to get back into the vehicle until the vehicle was intercepted by officers. One person was taken into custody and the complainant was taken for medical assistance.

DISTRICT 3 (Gaylord)

COs Eric Bottorff, Nick Torsky and PCO Richard Cardenas worked a complaint of a subject taking overlimits of trout from one of the special regulation trout lakes in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. After several attempts, the COs located the suspect fishing on the lake. He had an overlimit of trout, was using prohibited bait, was camping in a no-camping area and had extensive litter around his campsite. Enforcement action was taken.

PCO Matthew Page and CO Mark DePew responded to a

complaint of a large fire which was comprised of illegal materials. The fire was approximately 100 feet in circumference; the individual who lit the fire had been previously ticketed for illegally burning vehicles and was issued a second ticket for burning illegal materials.

DISTRICT 4 (Cadillac)

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Rob Freeborn were working the Muskegon River Task Force in Newaygo County when they encountered nine individuals who had been swept off their tubes, four of whom were still stuck in deadfalls—where the water was deep and had a fast current. The COs were able to position their boat among the deadfalls in such a way that the tubers could let go of the debris and allow the current carry them toward the patrol boat, where they were lifted to safety. The four individuals were then transported to the shallow side of the river. CO Publiski and PCO Freeborn then returned to the deep side of the river and transported the remaining five individuals to safety.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Rob Freeborn were working the Muskegon River Task Force in Newaygo County and issued several tickets for no personal flotation devices (PFD). The COs had one subject try to argue that the pillow he had in his canoe would suffice as a PFD. Three other subjects in another canoe argued that a tree stand seat and two bleacher seats would float. PCO Freeborn explained the PFD law to the boaters and tickets were issued for the safety violations.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Rob Freeborn were working on Hamlin Lake in Mason County when they observed two young individuals who appeared to be dancing on their pontoon boat. As the COs approached the boat, they observed the individuals hide what appeared to be beer bottles and quickly begin fishing. Upon contact, the COs located the beer bottles that the subjects had set down, and asked the two subjects for fishing licenses and whether they were both 21 years old. Both subjects stated they were 21 and advised that they had left their fishing licenses back at camp. When asked for their dates of birth, neither subject could do the math quickly enough and gave birth dates that made them 19 years old. After further investigation it was determined that both subjects were only 18 years old and that they had not purchased



fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Converse, Sam Koscinski, Sean Kehoe, and Rich Stowe all assisted with the investigation of a murder that occurred in Buckley. The COs were asked to help secure the crime scene and set up a perimeter, as the male suspect had fled after killing his girlfriend. Officers from several counties searched for the suspect, who was located several hours later and apprehended.

DISTRICT 5 (Roscommon)

CO Nick Atkin was on marine patrol when he contacted a single angler trolling with six lines. As the CO approached he asked the angler how many lines he was trolling with. The angler advised "too many." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Warner and PCO Michael Mansell were dispatched to the Au Sable River on a rescue involving a highly intoxicated subject with a badly broken ankle. Due to the conditions in the area, they were the only law enforcement unit that could reach the scene. After locating the subject, the COs used some ingenuity by borrowing a paddleboard to help stabilize and load the patient into their patrol truck. He was transported out to waiting EMS personnel and eventually treated at the local hospital.

CO Jon Warner and PCO Michael Mansell responded to a medical emergency on the upper Au Sable River. A group of kayakers set up camp along the river and were using a machete to clear brush and make firewood. One of the subjects sliced open his right calf and the other kayakers could not get the bleeding to stop. After a few hours, they eventually called for help. CO Warner and PCO Mansell eventually arrived on scene a few hours after dark. They loaded the injured subject into their patrol boat and transported him to EMS personnel for treatment.

While patrolling state land in Missaukee County for illegal bear baits, CO Matt Liestenzeltz located an area that had been baited using a 55-gallon drum. CO Liestenzeltz continued to check the area until he located a local houndsman's residence that had the same exact drums sitting in the front yard. CO Liestenzeltz discovered matching splattered paint on both the drum located on state land and the drums located in the suspect's front yard. Enforcement action was taken for baiting prior to August 19th.

DISTRICT 6 (Bay City)

CO Ken Lowell reports that a poaching case from the 2013 deer season has been resolved. The suspect pled guilty to illegally killing a buck with a firearm at night during bow season. The suspect paid \$1,250 in fines and restitution and had his hunting privileges taken away for three years.

CO Seth Rhodea was checking fishing spots in Sanilac County when he observed a subject getting ready to fish from shore. The CO sat back and watched the angler for a short time before making contact with him. Upon making contact, the angler tried to say he was just helping his son fish and didn't think he needed a license for that. CO Rhodea advised the angler that he had been watching him for a while and during that time he never tried to include his son while he was fishing. A ticket was then issued for fishing without a license.

DISTRICT 7 (Plainwell)

CO Greg Patten and Sgt. John Jurcich responded to a brush fire complaint in Muskegon County after fire departments requested police response due to firearms and past issues at the property. Michigan DNR fire equipment was also called to the scene to suppress a small fire that was suspicious in origin. The investigation continues at this time with this private land location continuing to remain a problem for area residents and law enforcement relating to illegal ORV use, firearms issues, slash disposal, illegal marijuana cultivation and noise.

CO Ivan Perez was requested to the scene of a DUI arrest by a local agency. CO Perez provided translation in Spanish to the suspect and officers using his language skills and in-car computer to access a language translation website.

CO Andy Bauer and patrolled the St. Joseph River for shore fishing activity. During the patrol, contact was made with a subject who was fishing without a license and was collecting freshwater mussels. The law regarding freshwater mussels was explained and he was ticketed for fishing without a license. A second angler was located, who was in possession of a small amount of marijuana and was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8 (Rose Lake)

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jon Busken made contact with four individuals as they landed their two canoes at a local state launch. The COs noted that neither of the vessels contained PFDs for the occupants. It was also discovered that one of the individuals had an outstanding warrant for retail fraud. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to the Jackson County Jail. The persons responsible for each canoe were issued tickets for the lack of PFDs.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jon Busken stopped at a local ac-

cess site along the Grand River to check several anglers who were night fishing. During the check, one of the anglers advised that she had left her fishing license at home. A check was made and it was confirmed that she had a valid fishing license; however, it was also revealed that she had an outstanding warrant in Lenawee County for failure to pay child support. The COs turned the subject over to a Lenawee County deputy, who transported her to the Lenawee County jail.

DISTRICT 9 (Southfield)

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Brad Bellville were checking shore anglers at Lake St. Clair Metro Park after dark. PCO Bellville heard an angler yell something in his direction. PCO Bellville observed a subject standing on a fishing dock with a large net in hand, who appeared to be netting a fish. PCO Bellville went over to assist and quickly realized that the subject was not trying to net a fish, but was trying to net his fishing partner, who had fallen off the end of the dock. Bellville assisted in hoisting the man from the water.

A subject who was ticketed by CO Kris Kiel, and PCOs David Schaumburger and Chris Knights a second time for operating an illegal charter boat pled guilty in district court this week. The subject was sentenced to pay a total of \$1,400 in fines and costs, including restitution for the deposit put down on the charter. The boat that had been used on the illegal charter had been seized and ordered returned to its rightful owner.

COs Ken Kovach, Todd Szycka, and PCOs Chris Knights and Jason Becker attended a bench trial for a subject who was in possession of an over-limit of walleye. The subject's defense was that he was not over his limit, due to the fact that one of the fish was from a prior day. The only problem was, as per law, the fish was not processed, smoked, canned, jarred, etc. The subject pled guilty.

BELLE ISLE

While working Belle Isle, COs Todd Szycka and Jason Smith assisted MSP with a report of shots fired from the fishing pier near the Coast Guard Station. Units arrived on scene and secured the pier, and canvassed the island looking for the suspect vehicle described to the trooper. A vehicle possibly matching the description was found at the Scott Fountain, but was later found to not be involved in the incident.

Sgt. Bahlau patrolled Belle Isle, and assisted in locating a lost child and returning her to her parent.

While patrolling Belle Isle and Milliken State Park, COs Larn R. Strawn and Al Schwiderson contacted several groups of people entering the state parks after the posted closed hours. Several warnings were issued for the land use violations while the COs made arrests of several of the persons for nine separate outstanding warrants in multiple jurisdictions.

A nation of sheep revisited*(Continued from Page 5)*

for a lifetime.

Giving youth a false sense of achievement through enabling them (ie. special seasons, baited bribery hunts, pre-arranged kills, etc.) will never produce a sustained revenue flow that justifies the deception being perpetrated on youth.

Special interests, driven by egos and dollars, thrive in an atmosphere anchored with "rudder-less 'yes' men." Behaving like sheep who blithely follow one another makes George Wallace's axiom about getting so open-minded that our brains fall out seem possible.

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

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Final Shot



S.S. Calcite

—North Woods Call photo

This painting of the Michigan Limestone and Chemical Company's steamship S.S. Calcite on the stormy waters of Lake Huron is displayed at the 40-Mile Point Lighthouse northwest of Rogers City, Michigan. Launched in 1912, the ship was used for many years to haul limestone from the company's quarry at Rogers City. In addition to the painting, the renovated pilot house of the old freighter is also on display in the lighthouse park.

Open houses slated for waterfowl hunting areas

Michigan's managed waterfowl hunting areas are hosting open houses in September and October to celebrate the Michigan Waterfowl Legacy and provide driving tours of each of the areas.

The Michigan Waterfowl Legacy—which kicked off Sept. 8, 2012—is a 10-year cooperative partnership to restore, conserve and celebrate Michigan's waterfowl, wetland and waterfowl hunting community.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials are inviting hunters and the general public to join them for tours of the sites and to learn about each location's possibilities for hunting and other recreation.

The open houses will be held at the following locations:

- * Fish Point State Wildlife Area (Tuscola County)—Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.
- * Shiawassee River State Game Area (Saginaw County)—Oct. 1 at 6 p.m.
- * Crow Island State Game Area (Saginaw County)—Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.
- * Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area (Bay County)—Oct. 7 at 6 p.m.
- * Harsens Island at St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area (St. Clair County)—Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.
- * Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (Monroe/Wayne counties)—Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.

Two U.P. lakes to be "reclaimed" to assist brook trout

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will conduct lake reclamations in October to restore the trout fisheries of Bullhead and Dillingham lakes in Luce County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

A lake reclamation consists of restoring a lake system and its aquatic life to a more natural state through science-based efforts.

Bullhead Lake is a five-acre lake stocked annually with brook trout since 1993. It is located more than 25 miles north of Newberry.

Dillingham Lake is a 16-acre lake stocked with brook trout since 1950. It is located more than nine miles north of McMillan. The lake has yielded many quality brook trout over the years and has become a very popular destination for anglers seeking larger fish, according to the DNR.

Both lakes currently have undesirable stunted yellow perch populations, which are detrimental because they out-compete brook trout for the same forage.

To conduct the lake reclamations, field crews will apply an organic compound called rotenone that will reduce all fish populations in these lakes so brook trout restocking efforts next spring will be successful. Rotenone is a natural substance which is not harmful to birds or mammals at the concentrations used for treatments, the DNR said, and because the compound breaks down fairly quickly, it does not accumulate in the soil, water or plants.

Beaver Island land preserved

A 40-acre parcel has been added to the Barney's Lake Preserve in the north-central part of Beaver Island, significantly expanding the lake's protection.

Island residents Jon and Sally Fogg worked with the Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) and one of the organization's foundation partners to make the land purchase possible.

The addition includes 2,000 feet on Barney's Lake and 1,175 feet on Barney's Lake Road.

The premiere preserve now totals 337 acres, 4,900 feet of Barney's Lake and 1,770 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. Roughly 2.7 miles of trail are available.

Also, a 186-acre parcel of land was recently dedicated along the Lake Huron shoreline near Cedarville and christened the John Arthur Woollam Preserve.

Members of the Woollam family, assorted friends, and representatives from nearly 20 land trusts and natural resource conservation related organizations gathered at the site earlier this month to celebrate the new preserve.

Owned by The Nature Conservancy (Michigan chapter), the preserve is located along 4,300 feet of beautiful Lake Huron shoreline. Many rare species and important migratory birds use the land.

Michigan Forest plan comments sought

Open houses are scheduled to provide information and receive public comment on proposed state forest management treatments for 2016.

They are as follows:

* Dickinson and Iron counties—Wednesday, 3 to 6 p.m. (CDT) Oct. 1, DNR Crystal Falls Field Office, 1420 U.S. 2 West, Crystal Falls.

* Chippewa and Luce counties—3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, DNR Newberry Field Office, 5666 M-123 S, Newberry.

* Alcona, Crawford, Iosco and Oscoda counties—12:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7, DNR Grayling Field Office, 1955 Hartwick Pines Road, Grayling.

* Alpena, Cheboygan, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties—2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, DNR Atlanta Field Office, 13501 M-33 North, Atlanta.

* Alger, Delta and Schoolcraft counties—4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, DNR Shingleton Field Office, E1234 M-28 West, Shingleton.

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