



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: October 2017

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC members via email on October 12, 2017.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Haughey

DNR Public Meetings

- October 10 Forestry Open House, Newberry Unit, Newberry Field Office, 3:00pm Eastern
- October 10 Snowmobile Advisory & ORV Advisory Workgroup Joint Meetings, Marquette, 10:00am
- October 11 Michigan Trails Advisory Council Meeting, Marquette, 8:00am
- October 12 Forestry Compartment Review, Shingleton Unit, Shingleton Field Office, 9:00am
- October 12 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Alpena
- October 17 Forestry Compartment Review, Gwinn Unit, NMU University Center–Marquette, 9:00am
- October 17 Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, Chippewa County Shooting Assc., Sault Ste. Marie, 1:30pm
- October 17 Michigan Iron Industry Museum Board Meeting, Negaunee, 3:00pm
- October 19 Eastern UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, LSSU–Sault Ste. Marie, 6:30pm
- October 19 Moose ‘Wildlife Through Forestry’ Forum, Ishpeming, 6:00pm
- October 24 Forestry Compartment Review, Newberry Unit, Newberry Field Office, 9:00am
- November 1 Sportsperson Coalition Meeting, DNR Shingleton Office, 6:00pm
- November 2 Western UP Citizen’s Advisory Council Meeting, Bay College West, 5:00pm Central
- November 9 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

- October 14 Tahquamenon Falls State Park–Harvest Festival
- October 14 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Adventure: Navigation in the Wilderness
- Oct. 15–17 Beyond BOW Backpacking Workshop, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park
- Oct. 24–26 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Creating a Cutting Board
- Oct. 27–29 Craig Lake State Park Backpacking Workshop
- Oct. 27–29 Beyond BOW Steelhead Fishing Workshop, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
- November 4 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park–Hiking 101
- December 16 Tahquamenon Falls State Park–Snowshoe Building Workshop

Season Dates & Reminders

- October 14 Duck Hunting opens in the South Zone
- October 19 Independence Hunt for deer opens (through 10/22, see p. 30)
- October 15 Raccoon/Fox/Coyote trapping open statewide; Badger trapping open in Zone 1 & 2
- October 15 Gray & Red Fox hunting opens
- October 25 Beaver, Otter, Muskrat & Mink trapping open in UP (for residents)
- October 26 Late bear seasons close in the U.P.
- November 7 Woodcock season closes
- November 10 Five–Day Firearm Restriction Period begins (see hunting digest p. 19)

November 14 Badger trapping closes in Zones 1 & 2
November 14 Fall Turkey & Early Archery Deer seasons close
November 14 Grouse closes until December 1
November 15 Firearm Deer season opens
November 15 Frog, Toad, and Salamander seasons close

Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom>

- Federal lab confirms Montcalm County deer had chronic wasting disease (10/6/17)
 - New non-motorized trail segment celebrated in Keweenaw County (10/6/17)
 - Nearly 6,000 lake sturgeon stocked in Michigan in 2017 (10/4/17)
 - Fish community survey on Les Cheneaux Islands this week (10/3/17)
 - Comment on recommendations for ORV use on state forest roads (10/2/17)
 - This year's Wildlife Habitat Grant recipients announced (10/2/17)
 - DNR to temporarily close boating launch in Delta County (9/27/17)
 - Hunting Update: Deer (9/29/17)
 - Multiple trails advisory groups meet in Marquette Oct. 10-11 (9/27/17)
 - Increased brook trout possession limit proposed for select U.P. stream sections (9/25/17)
 - Hiking 101 class at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Nov. 4 (9/25/17)
 - Traffic to be temporarily rerouted at Craig Lake State Park (9/25/17)
 - Showcasing the DNR: The Michigan sharp-tailed grouse story (9/21/17)
 - Deer in Genesee County tests positive for EHD (9/20/17)
 - DNR seeks candidates for 2018 Conservation Officer Recruit School (9/19/17)
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Grant Contacts

For other grant information, to go: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Recreation Passport Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, frayrek1@michigan.gov
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov

October 2017 NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena on October 12. The Commission approved:

- Special hook size fishing regulations. The regulation allows for the use of treble hooks on certain waters only if the hooks are attached to an artificial lure. The regulation seeks to allow this gear while trying to reduce the use of it for illegal snagging.
- Spawning closures. The order rescinds a spawning order in the Les Cheneaux area of Lake Huron and amends a spawning closure on the West Branch of the Ontonagon River.
- Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations. The order furthers the goal of aligning regulations between Michigan and Wisconsin in boundary waters.

- Special fishing regulations for warm water species on select waters, which focus primarily on regulations for muskellunge and northern pike. The commission amended this order slightly to retain current rules on catch-and-immediate release for bass on Lake Ottawa in Iron County.
- Designated trout streams for Michigan. This regulation removes trout stream designation from a portion of the Paint River in Iron County and clarifies regulations on the South Branch of the Paw Paw River in VanBuren County.
- Sturgeon regulations, which extend catch-and-immediate release regulations for the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River; removes statewide catch-and-immediate release in other waters of the state where there is no possession season; and removes the lake sturgeon fishing and harvest tag requirement.

Resource Deputy Bill O'Neill -- on behalf of Director Keith Creagh -- approved:

- Designated campsites on Beaver Island State Wildlife Area Research Area, which establishes campsites along a water trail being developed on Beaver Island.
- Park purchased Recreation Passport convenience fee, which adds a \$5 fee to purchase of Recreation Passports at state parks. This aligns with a \$5 fee for purchase of the Recreation Passport at Secretary of State offices at a time when people are not renewing their vehicle license plate tags. In addition, the fee will provide an incentive for people to purchase the Passport at the time of license renewal. The new fee goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018 for most of the state. The fee will begin Jan. 1, 2019 for Belle Isle Park to provide for additional education and outreach at this park, which is relatively new to the state park system and the Recreation Passport requirement.
- The renaming of the Lakelands Trail State Park in honor of Michael R. Levine, who has provided substantial financial support for this and other trails in Michigan. Mr. Levine, an inventor from the Ann Arbor area, provided \$5 million to improve and expand the Lakelands Trail State Park, the Great Lakes to Lake Trail Route and the Iron Belle Trail. The Lakelands Trail State Park will now be known as the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park.
- Nine land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda.

The day began with a meeting of the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee. Tim Machowicz of Parks and Recreation updated the committee on PRD's Environmental Sustainability Plan, put together by the division's Green Initiatives Team. The team was formed in 2003 in partnership with the Department of Environmental Quality. Vicki McGhee from PRD reviewed the management plans for Port Crescent State Park and Sleeper State Park.

Jason Fleming of Parks told the committee about the division's management of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The invasive species, which weakens and can kill hemlock trees, is treatable if caught early. Holland State Park, P.J. Hoffmaster State Park and other locations have been affected. The committee passed a resolution asking the DNR to convene a task force to educate the public about HWA.

Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson updated the committee on the contract for the Belle Isle Grand Prix, which expires this year. Parks is listening to public questions and concerns around the race on the island and is discussing renewal of the contract with the Grand Prix.

Paul Yauk of Parks reported on Public Act 288 of 2016, which requires the department to inventory roads on state-managed public lands and determine which should be closed and which should be open. That process is nearly complete for the Northern Lower Peninsula. A final decision on roads in the Northern Lower Peninsula will be made at the December NRC meeting. A similar review of roads in the Upper Peninsula will occur next year.

Legislation on e-bikes -- bikes assisted by electronic motors -- is moving through the Legislature. The bill would allow a certain class of e-bikes on linear trails and generally prohibit them on mountain bike trails. The legislation would allow local communities to opt out of these regulations on property they manage.

Next there was a joint meeting of the Michigan Travel Commission and the NRC, an annual gathering of the two boards. Jefferson Gray, superintendent of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary gave an overview

of the sanctuary, which comprises 4,300 square miles in Lake Huron and includes some 100 known shipwrecks. The Sanctuary, which is co-managed by the DNR, educates the public, does research on shipwrecks and performs other work around important Great Lakes issues such as invasive species.

The joint meeting next discussed the strategic plan for the Pure Michigan campaign, led by Dave Lorenz of Pure Michigan. Tammy Newcomb of the DNR Executive Division gave a report on invasive carp, including the need for action at Brandon Road Lock and Dam to keep the damaging fish out of Lake Michigan. The Travel Commission has sent a letter to representatives in Great Lakes States urging action at Brandon Road.

Dustin Isenhoff of Marketing told the joint meeting about the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP, completed every five years, provides rich data on outdoor recreation in Michigan. Dustin and Marketing and Outreach Chief Kristin Phillips also reported on efforts to promote snowmobiling in Michigan. Sale of snowmobile permits has declined in the last decade. Last year and this year the department undertook a \$330 marketing campaign by email, social media and other means that resulted in the sale of 1,779 permits with a value of \$85,392. A similar campaign is planned for this winter.

In the afternoon, the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries heard an update on weirs from Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter. Egg take at the weirs this fall has gone well and is nearly complete. New Zealand mud snail, an invasive species, have been found in the Upper Manistee River. This adds to findings of this species in the Pere Marquette, Boardman and Au Sable rivers.

Nick Popoff of Fisheries discussed a number of proposed regulations that will be before commissioners next month for action. These include:

- Changes to proposed Upper Peninsula brook trout bag regulations, which would change the daily bag limit from five fish to 10 fish on additional streams in the U.P. The same Fisheries Order would make additional changes to statewide regulations on trout, salmon, whitefish, lake herring and smelt.
- Statewide warmwater regulations for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge, channel catfish, flathead catfish, yellow perch, sunfish and white bass. The regulation changes in this order focus on muskellunge.
- Bow, spear and crossbow fishing regulations. The order proposes changes to regulations on Crooked Lake in Barry County and Lake St. Clair.
- Regulations on freshwater mollusks. The proposed order would make administrative edits to the current regulation.
- Netting regulations. The proposed order would make two changes: remove the cast net diameter size limit, and enact limits on the size of hoop netting gear allowed for burbot netting.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason reported on the recent CWD Symposium, which brought together experts from around the world to talk about the disease affecting Michigan's deer population. He also discussed the latest finding of a CWD-infected deer in Montcalm County and new regulations that will apply this firearm hunting season and after the first of the year.

Chad Stewart of Wildlife reported on the fall elk season. The first hunt period resulted in the harvest of 74 elk – 30 bulls and 44 cows and calves. Tribes harvested six elk – two bulls and four cows.

Kelly Straka of Wildlife and Richard W. Smith of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development talked about bovine tuberculosis in the state's deer and cattle herds. The United States Department of Agriculture is considering rules that would require dramatically increased testing for cattle herds in the current area of Northeast Michigan affected by the disease, or potentially across the entire state. These changes would have serious implications for farmers. MDARD and DNR are proposing a third option to the federal government that proposes concrete actions to contain the disease without putting undue burdens on farmers.

Parks Chief Ron Olson reported that Recreation Passport sales are approaching 35 percent this year, an all-time high. There will be no changes to firewood regulations this year as the Parks Division focuses on educating people about the dangers of moving invasive species via firewood. Ron reported that a 93-pound

Petoskey stone taken from Lake Michigan will be displayed at the Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit. This will allow visitors to the OAC – more than 100,000 annually -- to view this unique specimen and promote northern Michigan tourism to the southeastern part of the state. Ron presented an award to Mike Levine of Ann Arbor for his dedication to and support of Michigan's trail system.

Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagler presented Lifesaving Awards to Conservation Officers Paul Fox and William Webster.

CO Fox was at home in Presque Isle County in March when something unusual out the window caught his eye. Through his binoculars, he saw a person covered in snow, who had fallen through the ice and crawled to the riverbank. Although the woman had been there all night – her feet were so frozen she was unable to walk -- CO Fox was able find her, render first aid and save her life.

In August, CO Webster of Alpena County saved the life of a suicidal man. The man, whom CO Webster was able to locate on a remote area of state-managed public land, had run piping from his exhaust pipe to the driver's side window of his car. Webster located the car and immediately ripped the piping from the window, opened the door and shut the vehicle off. The man was unconscious but still had a pulse. CO Webster notified Central Dispatch and explained how to get additional responders to the scene. When EMS arrived, Webster help load the man for transport to the hospital, where he eventually recovered.

Trevor VanDyke, director of the Office of Legislative and Legal Affairs, updated the commission on legislation affecting the department.

Thanks and good luck to all hunters headed into the field this fall! -Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

October 2017 Legislative Update – Anna Mooney , Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

HB 4781-4783 – Electric Bicycles – Rep. Hughes: These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Insurance Code by defining an electric bicycle (e-bike) and provide regulations on where it can be used. The use of e-bikes on certain trails would be allowed unless the local unit or governing authority adopted a resolution or order to prohibit the use.

- These bills were referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 551 – MNRTF Recommendations – Sen. Hildenbrand: This bill seeks to amend Part 19 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to clarify how the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board will determine the amount of money to be made available each year for funding of projects. The group that would make this recommendation to the Board would be comprised of the Governor, State Treasurer, Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the House of Representatives or their designees and a member of the Board.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 552 – ORV Permit Sunset Extension – Sen. Hansen: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to extend the sunset on the off-road vehicle (ORV) license and trail permit fee to the year 2024. Current trail permit fee of \$10 and license fee of \$26.25 were enacted in 2013 and are set to expire on April 1, 2019.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 553-565 – Historical Marker Program – Sen. Schmidt, Hansen and Green: These bills seek to amend various acts to make several technical changes to address the name change to the Michigan History Center and to align spending authority with the intended fund for the Historical Marker Program.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 596 – Trail Guidance – Sen. Hansen: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to recommend that the department develop guidance or framework for local trail managers. The bill would also suggest various topics that a Trails Council could consider for discussion.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4957 – Mentored Youth Hunt – Rep. Howell: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual who purchased a Mentored Youth Hunting License to purchase additional licenses, including antlerless deer, bear and elk. The legislation would also clarify that the mentored youth is subject to the same license application process as other hunters are for purchasing additional licenses.

- This bill was reported from the House Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a vote on the House Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4962 – Purple Paint Marking for Private Property – Rep. Glenn: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow purple paint marks to designate a no trespassing area.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4992 – Opening Day of Firearm Deer Season – Rep. Howell: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to move the opening day of Firearm Deer Season to the Saturday closest to November 15th.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5000 – Changes to Natural Resources Commission – Rep. Howarlayk: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to make several changes to the requirements for Commissioners on the Natural Resources Commission.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5001-5002 – Registered Forester – Rep. Rendon: These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the General Property Tax Act to establish the Registered Forester Program within the Department of Natural Resources.

- The bills were referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HR 154 – Sandhill Cranes – Rep. Lower: This resolution would encourage the Natural Resources Commission to add Sandhill cranes to the game species list and seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish a Sandhill crane hunting season.

- This resolution was reported from the House Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a vote on the House Floor.

Western UPCAC Update

The WUPCAC met on September 20th at the Porkies Ski Chalet in Silver City. Updates were provided on the UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup and Chronic Wasting Disease. Under new business were an informational presentation on Lake Superior Prey Fish by Dan Yule of the US Geological Survey, an Oman Creek boating access site update, and a Fisheries Division response to the WUPCAC Fishing Subcommittee inquiry from the previous meeting. The discussion by many public attendees and Council members on Oman Creek's boating access site produced a resolution by the Council supporting development of not only a long-term solution, but also a short-term solution that would allow more frequent access; the resolution was passed unanimously. There were no committee reports presented. The next WUPCAC Meeting will be held on November 2nd at Bay College West in Iron Mountain.

Division Updates

Finance & Operations: Michelle Zellar, Eastern UP

- The new Sault Ste. Marie office is now official. The purchase agreement between the developer and the DNR was signed by both parties on September 14th. There is hope to get some work started yet this fall, but the majority of the construction will likely take place next spring/summer.
- The License Sales Report was presented to the NRC in September and is available in hard copy if interested (see Ms. Dahlstrom for a copy). The new Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Applications (SIGMA), which is the state's new system for accounting, purchasing and time and expense processing went live October 3rd. Department staff have attended several various trainings so that this transition can be as smooth and effective as possible. Offices have been busy with many customer contacts.
- Division staff participated in a field trial women's GEMS event to develop a workshop introducing women to grouse and woodcock hunting, with the intention of having future events underneath the Becoming and Outdoors Woman (BOW) program. Likewise, local DNR staff will be instructing a BOW Steelhead fishing workshop on the Two Hearted River October 27-29th.

Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor (prepared by Kristen Matson)

- The 2019 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is almost complete for the EUP. All three FMUs recently held their open houses where public can review the inventory data. The Sault compartment review was October 3rd, Shingleton's was October 12th, and Newberry will hold compartment review on October 24th. While we are completing the 2019 YOE, we are beginning the 2020 YOE inventory. Open house and compartment review schedules will be posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at www.michigan.gov/forestry.
- Foresters have completed the field work portion of the 2017 timber sale plan of work, and contracts are written to be bid on in upcoming months. Plans are being finalized for the 2018 timber sale preparation program.
- Currently, there are 268 open sales in the EUP, covering 36,701 acres and valued at \$27.3 million. Approximately 25 of these are active right now, including some of the hardwood research sales.
- The division continues to work with the USFS on Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects. The 2017 harvest project contract is set to be bid on October 18th. For 2018, we expect to prepare about 800 acres of timber for sale under GNA. The majority of this will be hardwood in the Munising area. Harvesting has occurred on both 2016 GNA sales on the Hiawatha National Forest, but neither sale is complete yet.
- Many EUP fire qualified staff were sent to help with fires individually as single resources, on hand crews, and with our fire engines to Montana. This is an excellent way for our staff to gain experience, while helping out western states and Canada. Several staff were able to go more than once. All staff have now returned from out-of-state assignments.
- Fire staff have also taken the opportunity for training, including people attending S490 (Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations), and Engine Boss/Crew Boss training.
- Fire staff and Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) staff recently met with the EUP snowmobile grant sponsors in Naubinway. This is an annual meeting preparing for the upcoming snowmobiling season. It was well attended with lots of productive discussion.
- The Road Classification work continues as planned. Staff continue to update the road inventory system.

- Spruce budworm populations continue to build and collapse locally across the UP. General impressions are that the population maintained levels very similar to last year. This will be an extended outbreak that will continue to fluctuate annually with a general tendency to increase over the coming years. Older spruce and fir are at highest risk of top kill and mortality and should be considered for harvest in advance of this building population wherever practically accessible. For more information on this and other forest pests go to www.michigan.gov/foresthealth.
- Beavers continue to be an issue in some areas across the EUP and road repairs continue. Staff have unplugged several culverts throughout the summer.
- Road Improvement – There are several forest roads across the EUP that received upgrades which include leveling, shaping and graveling using PRD and FRD funds. The upgrades mitigated areas that have been damaged by ORV's and/or general traffic and will improve future public access as well as future logging activities.
- September was a difficult month for FRD and in particular for the EUP with the passing of Don Kuhr. Don was killed in a car accident on September 18th at Garden Corners. A kind, fun-loving forester, Don was responsible for planting billions of seedlings on state forest land for over 20 years. For us, his legacy will be thousands of acres of young, vibrant forests for future generations. He will be greatly missed!

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by David Jentoft, Biologist)

Bear Season Update

- Bear season started Sept. 10th and the third hunt period will run through October 26th.
- License quotas were similar to 2015 and 2016 in the Newberry Bear Management (BMU) and increased to 5 in the Drummond BMU.
- Preliminary registration information through October 2nd suggests a slight increase in harvest in the Newberry BMU compared to the same time in 2016.

GEMS Activities

- Melstrand GEMS—Alger County: Shingleton staff hosted a volunteer day with UP Whitetails of Alger County, Mid-UP Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society, MUCC, and Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association. During the event, 300 trees and shrubs were planted along hunter walking trails and in openings to improve habitat.
- Garden Grade GEMS—Delta County: Wildlife Division worked with Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County and The Ruffed Grouse Society through a Wildlife Habitat Grant to plant 5 acres of openings and trails with clover and rye as well as plant, fence, and mulch 156 shrubs ranging from crabapple to ninebark and nannyberry.
- Halifax GEMS—Luce County: Newberry staff hosted a trial women's grouse hunting event in late September aimed at encouraging new hunters. The event may lead to a DNR Beyond BOW event in the future. Wildlife staff also mowed and cleared trees from trails in the GEMS in preparation for grouse season.
- Strickler GEMS—Mackinac County: Wildlife Division and Forest Resources Division (FRD) worked together to improve a road parking area at a secondary entrance to the GEMS.

Other Projects & Activities

- Rye and clover were planted on 42 acres of deer break-out areas in the Sturgeon Hole deer wintering complex in the Shingleton Unit, and buckwheat and clover were planted in a 15-acre opening near Big Springs to benefit turkeys.
- Newberry staff are partnering with Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA) to potentially conduct additional control treatments on invasive Phragmites on the Dollarville Flooding.
- Phragmites was sprayed by Newberry staff at the Blind Sucker Flooding and at Soo Junction.
- Three Shores CISMA and The Nature Conservancy partnered with Wildlife and FRD staff in the Sault Ste. Marie Unit to survey invasive species on alvar on Drummond Island in July. Alvar is a globally rare community type. The results of the survey are being used to help evaluate the potentials, priorities, and resources necessary for treatments in coming years.
- Sault Ste. Marie staff have been working with FRD and the Chippewa County Road Commission to make improvements on a formerly poor access route to Munuscong Bay. When completed, the road will allow better access to within easy walking distance of the bay while also better protecting Great Lakes coastal marsh.

CWD

- A free ranging deer from Montcalm Twp. in Montcalm County harvested during the youth deer hunting season has tested positive for CWD. This is the 10th confirmed CWD-positive free ranging deer in Michigan.
- The DNR has tested over 14,000 deer since the first free-ranging CWD-positive deer was found in May 2015.
- Monitoring is being conducted in the UP counties bordering Wisconsin. To date, over 500 deer have been tested and all have tested negative for CWD.
- Anyone interested in learning more about how Michigan is managing CWD can view the biweekly CWD updates the DNR provides online at www.mi.gov/cwd. Announcements of additional CWD-positive deer will be posted online as well.

Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Skip Hagy, District 2

Fall time activities and the great weather have been keeping all district officers busy as you will read in the most recent bi-weekly reports below. Do your part to help our next generation of sportsmen & women learn to do things the right way & safely. They learn by the example you set! Get out and enjoy our great UP!!

DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 8-28-17

- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on patrol when he observed two ORV's operating on a state highway. A stop was conducted and enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell** were dispatched to a missing 32-year old male who had walked away from his campsite around midnight the night before. The CO and Forest Service Officer searched areas of Southern Alger and Northern Delta County for several hours finally finding the Ohio man late that evening.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell** assisted Park Rangers in the Pictured Rock National Lakeshore in search of a family of four who was lost in the remote Chapel Lake area. Around one in the morning, the lost hikers were located. They were in good health, but cold and wet from walking in the knee high swamp water.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell** worked an ORV patrol in the Hiawatha National Forest. Several ORV's were contacted, 6 warnings were given and two citations were issued.
- **COs Pat Hartsig and Mark Zitnik** were checking for marine violations on Lake Superior. Several safety checks were made and the majority of the vessels were in compliance. The COs observed an individual fishing in a cove along the pictured rocks while his family was taking photographs. When the angler noticed the COs approaching, he picked up a camera and began taking pictures. Upon contact, the vessel did not have all the safety equipment on board and the angler did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Michael Evink** received a call from Manistique Public Safety about a fawn stuck in the Manistique River. Once on scene, Officer Evink realized how fast the river was running. Officer Evink attempted to reach the fawn using waders, but was unable. Using Manistique's Swift water gear, along with the assistance of Manistique Public Safety and a tribal officer, CO Evink was able to reach the fawn and assist it.
- **Several District COs** attended the UP state fair. They staffed the Pocket Park recruiting for Law Enforcement Division and answering questions. Many positive contacts were made throughout the week.
- **COs Pat Hartsig and Chris Lynch** taught hunter safety to a group at the Pocket Park in Escanaba.
- **CO Calvin Smith** patrolled inland lakes in both Luce and Mackinac County for marine activity. Several boaters were contacted and enforcement action was taken for no PFD's and warnings were given for other minor violations.
- **COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith** worked the Pocket Park at the Upper Peninsula State Fair. The COs answered several questions ranging from hunting and fishing laws to the hiring process of a Michigan Conservation Officer.
- **COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith** took part in a week-long active shooter/school shooting response training held at Michigan Tech University in Houghton. Tips and techniques learned will be brought back to district trainings and shared with fellow officers
- **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when he located a live power line that was laying across the road on M-134 just before dark. CO Oberg noticed the wire appeared to be sparking. CO Oberg advised Central Dispatch while blocking traffic coming from the west. Detour Fire Chief Chuck Lanning arrived on scene shortly after and was able to block traffic coming from the East. CO Oberg and the Detour Fire Department held off traffic until the power company was able to come remove the line from the road.
- **CO Tom Oberg** was on patrol when he noticed a side-by-side ATV in front of him in the oncoming lane. CO Oberg maneuvered his patrol truck and conducted a traffic stop on the ATV. CO Oberg asked the driver if there was any reason he was operating the ATV at such a high rate of speed on a public highway. The driver stated that it was a stupid decision. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Brett Gustafson** received an email from the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department advising of a boat that was stolen from Little Brevort Lake State Forest Campground. The next day, CO Gustafson located the vessel on the other side of the lake. The vessel was turned over to the Mackinac County SO and returned to the owner.
- **CO Kevin Postma and Sgt. Mike Hammill** were on marine patrol when they encountered multiple marine violations on the St. Mary's River. Citations were issued for failing to provide the proper amount of PRDs and failing to register vessels.
- **CO Kevin Postma** approached three fishermen that were fishing on the Potagannissing River Dam on Drummond Island. One of the fishermen was seen to put down his pole as CO Postma approached and then walked over to the other side of his fishing buddies. CO Postma then checked the fishermen for their fishing license. It was determined that the individual that put his pole down and walked away in fact did not have a fishing license and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2 8/27/2017 – 9/9/2017

- **CO Chris Lynch** was working the early goose season opener watching a group shooting geese in a field. After the hunt was over, contact was made. One hunter failed to produce a state waterfowl license or a federal duck stamp and was in possession of two geese. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Chris Lynch and Pat Hartsig** conducted a patrol on Little Bay de Noc. Numerous contacts were made with people enjoying the last holiday weekend of the summer. Numerous violations were addressed for fishing without licenses, no PFDs, and improper display of registration numbers.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol on Little Bay de Noc on Labor Day when he observed a vessel adrift. CO Lynch contacted the vessel and asked the operator what was wrong. The operator stated his engine quit working and he was several miles away from his residence. The operator said he forgot his cell phone that day and was unable to call for help. It was just luck that CO Lynch came across the stranded vessel. After a long tow back to the gentlemen's residence he was very thankful how good things had turned out.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was receiving numerous complaints of hunters driving in a careless manner down a gravel road. CO Lynch was in the complaint area in the early morning hours when he observed such activity. CO Lynch observed a vehicle in oncoming traffic operating at a high rate of speed. CO Lynch turned around and conducted a stop on the vehicle but not before pacing the vehicle at nearly 80 MPH. Enforcement action was taken for careless driving.
- **CO Lynch** was on patrol when he observed an unlicensed ORV being operated down railroad tracks with the operator not wearing a helmet. CO Lynch contacted the ORV and the operator was issued a ticket.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on his way home after patrol when he observed a vehicle swerving in and out of his lane in a careless manner. The vehicle then took a left turn off the highway and suddenly stopped and now was blocking the roadway impeding traffic. A traffic stop was conducted and contact with driver was made. The driver passed standard field sobriety tests and stated he was just trying to figure out how to change the song on his new radio. Enforcement action was taken for careless driving.
- **COs Pat Hartsig, Chris Lynch and Sgt Jerry Fitzgibbon** taught a hunter safety field day at the Escanaba Pocket Park to 30 youths.
- **CO Pat Hartsig** was patrolling for goose hunters when he heard a shot from his patrol vehicle. CO Pat Hartsig watched a hunter run into a field and retrieve a goose. Upon checking the hunters, it was found that one was in possession of toxic lead shot and another did not have a waterfowl license. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Pat Hartsig** interviewed a subject regarding a bear that was taken at night, out of season, with no license. A confession was obtained and the bear meat, hide, carcass, and skull were recovered from multiple locations. A second warrant is being sought on a subject for aiding and abetting the possession of an illegal bear due to hiding the meat in a freezer in an outbuilding, miles from the shooting location.
- **CO Pat Hartsig** was checking goose hunters in the field. When asked for his license, one hunter stated it was in his truck. He placed his shotgun in his layout blind and shut the doors and tried to lead Officer Hartsig away from it. CO Hartsig thought the behavior was suspicious and a check of the firearm revealed there were five shells loaded in the firearm. Enforcement action was taken for hunting waterfowl with an unplugged gun.
- **CO Michael Evink and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull** responded to a marine personal injury accident in Alger County. One individual was taken to the hospital with bruising after being hit by a pontoon boat. The officers are using the information they have to identify the driver of the pontoon boat. The investigation continues.
- **CO Michael Evink and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull** responded to a request for assistance from National Park Service rangers. The rangers were dealing with an intoxicated individual who had operated his vessel on Lake Superior and was in the process of attempting to load his boat on its trailer. The officers performed roadside sobriety tests and determined the individual was beyond the legal limit to operate anything with a motor. He was also found to be in possession of marijuana. The individual was arrested and lodged in Alger County Jail.

- **CO Mark Zitnik** was checking anglers along the Laughing Whitefish River when one angler noticed the CO approaching and dropped her fishing pole. Upon contact, the angler would not admit to fishing, even after CO Zitnik explained he had been watching her for quite some time. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull** were checking campsites along the Indian River. When checking the last campsite of the day, they came upon a group of young campers who were smoking marijuana and consuming alcoholic beverages. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull** were checking areas for the upcoming bear hunt when they came upon a hunter leaving his blind. While at the blind, the officers noticed several violations including an illegal corn feeder, more than two gallons of grains/fruit, apples and corn accessible to deer, and no helmet on his ORV. The hunter also admitted to baiting deer early. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma** responded to a hunter harassment complaint involving three groups of goose hunters in one field. Upon arrival, CO Postma could see one goose hunter sitting in a lawn chair in the middle of a cut barley field. The complainant advised that the goose hunter now sitting in the middle of the field was also shooting at any geese that flew even remotely close. The complainant advised he wants to press charges against the hunter in the chair for hunter harassment. After interviewing individuals from all three of the hunting parties it was determined that the complainant's party didn't have permission from the proper land owners and several in the party were missing hunting licenses. Due to these important details, the hunter sitting in the field could not be prosecuted for hunter harassment. Several juveniles were warned with regards to not having their hunting license. The complainant was advised how to seek permission from the rightful owner of various parcels of property and the harassing hunter was encouraged to use better discretion when resolving hunting conflicts.
- **COs Kevin Postma, Tom Oberg and Brett Gustafson** assisted with a marine patrol on the Labor Day Bridge Walk Event.
- **COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith** taught a hunter education class to 30 students at the Newberry High School. A joint field day was provided on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club with help from volunteers on the club.
- **CO Brett Gustafson** taught a hunter education class in Engadine and participated in the joint field day.
- **COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith** were on routine patrol when they came across an elderly couple that had driven their minivan into a large mud hole and became stuck. The COs assisted the couple with removing their van and helped them on their way. The couple was very appreciative and told the COs that they thought they were going to have to spend the night, as they did not have cell phone coverage to call for help.
- **CO Bobby Watson** handled a dirt bike vs. motor vehicle crash in North Luce County. The motorcycle was being driven by an inexperienced rider on the opposite side of a two track on a blind corner. The dirt bike hit a truck head on; the operator was transported by ambulance to the hospital.

DISTRICT 2 9/10/2017 – 9/23/2017

- **COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn** assisted with a fatal accident on US-2. The accident shut down US-2 for nearly four hours. The COs blocked US-2 to ensure safety for all responders. COs Freeborn and Evink used their knowledge of the area to assist in creating the reroute of traffic and assisted at rural turns in the detour.
- **CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** were patrolling for goose hunters when central dispatch gave out a complaint of hunters that were hunting too close to a residence. After responding and speaking with the complainants, it was found that the goose hunters had shot across the river and their shots hit the house and deck. When leaving the residence, CO Hartsig received a phone call from a hunter he had spoken to regarding questions he had about trespass while hunting. It turns out the caller was the suspect in the incident. CO Hartsig informed the caller to stay put while he launched his boat. Upon contacting the waterfowl hunters, CO Hartsig and Sgt. Fitzgibbon noticed the hunters using a Go-Pro to film their hunt. After viewing their footage, it was found that the only goose they had shot had flown in front of the complainant's house and two of the hunters fired at the goose and unfortunately the house. Enforcement action was taken regarding the careless discharge of a firearm into a safety zone.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** stopped a 4-wheeler operating along a state highway. CO Freeborn advised the operator that he could not operate along a state highway. When CO Freeborn asked for the operator's driver's license, he was handed an out of state ID card. CO Freeborn ran a file check on the subject and found that his license had been suspended for alcohol violations. A citation was issued.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** participated in the annual "coffee with a cop" program at the Manistique senior center. CO Freeborn along with Michigan State Police and local police agencies all gathered at the senior center and had coffee with the local senior citizens and answered any questions they had about the career in law enforcement. CO Freeborn was able to answer several fish and game and ORV questions. The senior citizens were glad to see the DNR participate in their event.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he observed an unlicensed ORV with two occupants on it when not designed for being operated down the county road. A traffic stop was conducted and contact was made. The driver, who had a suspended driver's license, was placed under arrest and lodged in the Delta County Jail.

- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he observed an ORV being operated on a snowmobile trail and the driver not wearing a helmet. A traffic stop was conducted and contact was made. The driver had a warrant out for his arrest and had a revoked driver's license. The subject was placed under arrest and lodged in the Delta County Jail.
- **CO Chris Lynch** contacted a goose hunter during the early goose season that was in possession of two geese without a state waterfowl license or a federal duck stamp. CO Lynch was checking licenses purchased by the hunter from past years when he noticed a suspicious deer license purchase from 2016. Further investigation revealed an 8-point buck was harvested by the hunter with a suspicious circumstances suggesting the hunter may have shot a deer then purchased his kill tag after the fact. CO Lynch followed up with the hunter and the hunter confessed to shooting the deer without a license. The antlers and gun used were seized and a report will be submitted to the prosecutor's office for a warrant request.
- **COs Chris Lynch, Rob Freeborn, and Pat Hartsig** took part in an investigation that was recently adjudicated. A subject was operating an illegal charter by not having his pilot's license, carrying passengers for hire when not licensed to be a charter, and fishing without a license. The subject was fined a total of \$1025 for the violations.
- **CO Chris Lynch** answered questions related to hunting, fishing, and ORV usage at youth and the outdoors in Escanaba in which approximately 280 youths participated.
- **CO Chris Lynch** spoke at an ORV class about ORV laws at the Pocket Park in Escanaba with approximately 25 youth in attendance.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** patrolled opening day of the second bear season. Over 50 hunters were contacted throughout the day, several warnings were given and five citations issued. The citations included three loaded/uncased firearms in a motor vehicle, no participation license, and use of plastic and metal containers at bait station on public land.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon** conducted hunter safety classes in Munising and Eben.
- **CO Kevin Postma** attended a table-top exercise put on by the U.S. Coast Guard. The exercises focus on upcoming multi agency training events.
- **CO Kevin Postma** positioned himself in a remote area to listen for late waterfowl hunting. CO Postma heard several gun shots well past waterfowl shooting hours. CO Postma eventually made contact with a youth hunter coming out of the woods. It was determined that the youth was sighting in his deer rifle after missing an 8-point buck earlier in the evening during the youth hunt. CO Postma located 2 uncased unloaded firearms in the young hunter's vehicle. The 16-year-old was lectured and educated about having uncased firearms in a motor vehicle
- **CO Jon Busken** was on patrol when Mackinac Central Dispatch requested any available unit to respond to a possible injury accident on US-2. CO Busken was the closest unit and responded to the crash. No injuries occurred. The driver who was at fault was found to have been operating carelessly. Enforcement action was taken.
- **Sgt. Mike Hammill and CO Jon Busken** were patrolling the Tahquamenon River for marine activity. While contacting an angler fishing from a boat, CO Busken smelled the distinct odor of unburnt marijuana. When questioned, the suspect produced only burnt marijuana. Further questioning led to the suspect producing marijuana, rolling papers and THC chewable. Enforcement action was taken and the illegal substances were seized.
- **Sgt. Mike Hammill and CO Jon Busken** were returning from a marine patrol when they saw a vehicle in the ditch. Contact was made with the driver who admitted to falling asleep while driving. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken** was returning from a marine patrol when he observed an ORV operating without a current registration. Contact was made with the operator who was found to be improperly transporting medical marijuana and in possession of an unregistered handgun. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith** contacted a bear hunter he had determined started an early bear bait. The suspect initially denied starting the bait early until confronted with pictures showing him tending the bait prior to the legal start date for baiting bear. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Tom Oberg** received a complaint of several large trash bags full of garbage dumped on state land on Drummond Island. CO Oberg located the trash and found a pill bottle that appeared like someone tried to scrape off the label. CO Oberg was able to make out a last name and located several first names looking through the trash and was able to develop a suspect through a name search from central dispatch. CO Oberg found that the possible suspect had an address down by Lansing and just a couple days prior got arrested on a warrant on his way back down. CO Oberg will continue to follow-up on the possible suspect.
- **CO Oberg** was travelling back to his residence at the end of his shift when he located a dump truck in the ditch just down the road from his house. CO Oberg stopped and found out that the driver had blown a front tire and lost control and ended up in the steep ditch and got very lucky with it resulting in no injuries or flipping the truck. CO Oberg contacted central dispatch. Soon after a Michigan State Police trooper arrived on scene and handled the accident report.
- **COs Bobby Watson and Mark Zitnik** were on patrol for the first season bear hunt in the Newberry Unit. The two COs responded to a tip on a possible party hunting situation, to which no violation was found. While patrolling the

surrounding area, CO Zitnik and CO Watson observed fresh tracks which led to a parked truck as well as a parked four-wheeler. After a short wait, a second vehicle pulled in. Contact was made with the friend who claimed he was there to pick-up his friend from the woods on the four-wheeler. Eventually the two COs made contact with the hunter in the woods who had been driven in by the four-wheeler approximately .5 mile through a thick swamp along a freshly opened trail. Among the violations found were; Riding an ORV with no helmet, Riding double on an ORV, no name on tree stand, more than two gallons of grain used for bait, failure to make grain inaccessible to deer, plastic buckets used in the bait site, operating an ORV in a closed area and remove/destroy trees on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Bobby Watson** responded to a complaint of fishermen taking an over limit of Coho salmon from Lake Superior. CO Watson observed the group fishing throughout the morning and witnessed them catch and keep several fish. CO Watson then observed the same group return in the evening to continue fishing. When CO Watson made contact at the end of the night as the group returned, they failed to inform CO Watson they had been fishing all day. The group had what they thought to be a limit of steelhead caught that evening, when they in fact had a nice catch of Coho, but 6 fish short of a 3-man limit. CO Watson gained permission to check their freezer back at camp, where it was discovered they were within the legal possession limit. The group admitted to believing they were over limit on steelhead. CO Watson educated the group on ways to better identify fish.
- Grouse hunters in Mackinac County are seeing a good number of birds, but the warm weather and extensive leaf cover have limited success. Hunters are still encouraged at the number of birds.
- **CO Brett Gustafson** responded to an abandoned net complaint off Goose Island near Hassel. An abandoned trap net was located that was assumed to have been removed but it had not been. Follow-up with fishermen contracted to remove it is taking place.
- Eighty degree plus temperatures have hampered the bear hunting season up until this point. A few hunters are reporting some success over bait. The houndsmen are having a slow, hot start to their season this far.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Education Services Section

Following are highlights of our work over the last couple months:

- MOD has welcomed Tracy Page to our Education Services Staff as the new Statewide Aquatic Education Coordinator. Over the next several months, Tracy will transition into the point person for the popular Salmon in the Classroom Program. She will also collaborate closely with Fisheries Division on their education needs, add more environmental education expertise to our many professional development workshops and work with our interpreters in the field when necessary.
- The Salmon in the Classroom program has completed training workshops for a new batch of classroom teachers committed to raising salmon through the 2017-2018 school year. More than 250 classrooms around the state will be raising salmon this year. Teachers must apply to participate in the program and attend one of several workshops held around the state before they are provided eggs, fish food and program support. The application window opens again in January with an April 15 deadline for teachers considering this program.
- Managing Your Forestland-Outdoor Skills Academy held at Hartwick Pines Visitor Center hosted 48 participants on September 16. The one-day academy included an introduction to Michigan forest types (oak/pine, aspen, northern hardwoods, etc.), tree identification and forest ecology (succession, disturbance, regeneration). Lots of hands-on activities had participants using forester tools (Biltmore Stick, prism, pacing, etc.) and management of specific forest and land types. Teaching partners included the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Michigan Tree Farm System.
- Marketing and Outreach Division worked with Wildlife Division and Law Division to conduct four Bear Hunting Clinics at the Hunt and Fish Center in Cadillac again this year. 200 participants learned bear biology, law enforcement, hunting techniques for bear, tree stand safety and other aspects of bear hunting. The stories and pictures are again piling up showing how successful these participants have been this season.
- The Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) held its annual conference at Central Michigan University on October 6-8. The DNR again played a large role this year serving up breakout sessions and conference organization.

- Sunny and unseasonably warm weather has again kept the fall school programs around the state really busy. We are on pace to grow the fall school programming into record levels for a third consecutive year.
- DNR education staff has again been busy with programming at the Boardman Weir, Platte River Weir and Little Manistee Weir. Program numbers at the Boardman Weir alone have cruised past the 10,000 participant threshold. School groups and public tours help citizens understand the natural history of Great Lakes salmon, the impact invasive species are having on salmon populations around the basin and the role of the DNR in managing Michigan fisheries.
- The Pocket Park is locked up following a solid season. The water will be drained in coming days and the remaining bluegill will be moved to the quarry pond in Manistique where they will be enjoyed by young ice anglers through the winter.
- Many of our visitor center operations have completed harvest festival events including some extremely popular Halloween trail events at Hartwick Pines and Bay City where we have costumed volunteers teach thousands of trail hikers about the critters that are customarily scary during this holiday (and beyond).

Eastern UP Fisheries Division

Field Units (Cory Kovacs, Lake Superior Management Unit)

- SIGMA Training
- Newberry Fisheries staff completed fall index sampling for walleye on area lakes. This sampling effort using the electrofishing boat targets young of year (age-0) walleye. Catch rates in 2017 were above average suggesting good survival of stocked fish as well as a good recruitment year in the lakes with natural reproduction. Local lakes sampled in 2017 included Muskallonge Lake, West Bay (Grand Marais), St. Mary's River and Manistique Lake.
- Newberry Fisheries staff conducted netting surveys on inland trout lakes. Area lakes surveyed were Youngs Lake, Tank Lake, Wolverine Lake, and Sitka Lake.
- The Newberry Fisheries technicians attended the mussel workshop in Gwinn. Identification characteristics and handling protocol were some of the highlights of the training.
- Starry Stonewort was reported in Milecoquins Lake in 2014. This observation was never verified by the observer. Fisheries staff conducted a site investigation in an attempt to verify the presence of this invasive species. Starry Stonewort was not found during staff's effort. The Three Shores CISMA has been contacted and collaboration will occur in the future on trying to identify this sole observation in a UP water of Starry Stonewort.
- Fisheries staff participated in the Rock Show at Muskallonge State Park. Displaying fish mounts, electrofishing boat, and answering questions throughout the day proved to be valuable as many of the attendees showed appreciation for our work in natural resources. This event typically targets agate enthusiasts and rock hunters, however the Park Manager has recognized the need for other Division's presence. An estimated 2,250 people attended this event.
- Forest Resource Division compartment reviews are in progress. Staff has attended compartment review meetings across the Upper Peninsula. Compartment reviews in progress for the East UP are Gwinn, Shingleton, Newberry, and Sault/Naubinway.
- Upper Peninsula fisheries staff has completed the streams listed for the 10-fish bag limit Brook Trout proposal by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). Fisheries Division is responding to the public's interest of increasing the bag limit for Brook Trout on Type-1 streams in the UP only. This final version of the project will be presented to the NRC for information in October.
- East UP trout lakes are being stocked with fall fingerling Brook Trout. Lakes of note receiving fish in 2017 are Naomikong Lake, Naomikong Pond, Moon Lake, Ward Lake, Brockies Pond, Milecoquins Pond, and Holland Lake.
- Fisheries staff attended the Lake Superior Basin Team meeting in Marquette. Agenda highlights were hatchery production updates, steelhead stocking in Lake Superior, and 10-Brook Trout bag limit update.
- Fisheries staff will be heading down to Mio to complete a population assessment on the Au Sable River. Brown Trout are the dominant species in the Au Sable River and highly popular among anglers from across the nation.
- Coho fishery has been good in the Two Hearted River. When the water began cooling more fish entered the river. Anglers are reminded that the Type-4 section begins at the High Bridge (CR 407) and ends downstream at Lake Superior.

Marquette and Thompson State Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg)

Thompson State Fish Hatchery

Fish Culture

- First year for mass marking steelhead completed with no major problems encountered.
 - 297,000 yearlings clipped and coded wire tagged comprising 4 unique tag groups
 - 320,000 yearlings adipose clipped only
 - 151,000 fall fingerlings clipped and tagged- one tag group.
- Have approximately 60,000 surplus fall fingerling steelhead for stocking in Lake Superior watershed (various sites).

Hatchery Maintenance

- Conceptual design report for Thompson Hatchery steelhead and coolwater fish production upgrades and Little Manistee River Weir updates with cost estimates are completed and waiting for date for State Building Authority to present the package to the House and Senate subcommittee for capital outlay for funding approval.
- Received DEQ permit and material for culvert replacement at Thompson Hatchery; Parks and Recreation equipment crew to do work next week
- Jim Barker and his wife had their first baby. Jim, baby and wife are doing fine
- Energy efficiency audit tentatively schedule for the end of October

Marquette State Fish Hatchery

Fish Culture

- 2015 lot of future lake trout broodstock are currently experiencing a mild EEDv (virus) outbreak; no treatment is available so we are waiting for cooler weather, hoping the outbreak will subside
- One lake trout egg take has been completed
- Expect to start stocking fall fingerling brook trout the week of October 16th
- Hatchery technicians are working with research staff over the next three weeks assisting with coaster brook trout surveys in Lake Superior tributaries.
- Brook trout and splake egg takes are scheduled for mid-October
- Maintenance
- Energy efficiency audit tentatively schedule for the end of October
- Robin Smith retirement set for December 15th
- Staff water proofed the generator compartments on the 3,200 gallon Great lakes planting unit to protect equipment from corrosion
- Changed all the bulbs in the UV sterilizer unit above broodstock raceways

Parks & Recreation Division: Eric Cowing, Eastern Supervisor

Indian Lake & Palms Book State Park

- Design work continues on the Laughing Whitefish Falls stairs & observation deck project. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring. The Wagner Falls parking lot, sign & walkway project is complete.
- The Indian Lake/Palms Book Friends group held their annual fishing derby at Indian Lake on 8/12. Everything went very well with several people participating.
- Camping -2%, mini cabins +4%, shelters +34%. The SFCG's are running a little slower for the year. Palms Book -1%
- We are working on well issues at the following SFCG's, Canoe Lake & Kingston Lake.
- It's been very busy at Palms Book again this year. We are beginning to have issue with the parking lot not being able to handle the number of cars & RV's.

Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Lime Island dock project (planning & design) should be bid soon. Detour Village BAS breakwall project (planning & design) should be bid soon. Hazardous materials survey completed on structures at Raber property. Isolation flange was installed on Detour Harbor diesel fuel tank in September.
- Detour Harbor and Brimley S.P was unable to become fully staffed over the summer (STW's)
- Brimley camp nights for FY17 almost identical to FY16. Munuscong SFC camp nights up 16 for the year compared to FY16. Detour SFC camp nights up 110 for the year compared to FY16. BAS usage has been up and down depending

on weather and fishing reports. Lime Island FY17: Boat camps down 44, camp nights down 34, cabin nights down 35 compared to FY16. Detour Harbor slip nights for FY17 down 66 compared to FY16

- Issues with historic structures on Lime Island...School House was found to be leaking and needs new roof (waiting for Stewardship for approval to proceed). Victorian House needs wall/ceiling repair.
- BSP had a full campground for its annual harvest fest weekend Sept 29th & 30th.

Fayette Historic State Park

- Campground: Minor blockage of grinder pumps – staff still learning new system. All Roads re-graveled with limestone chips – fantastic job by contractor.
- Townsite: Furnace Stack Warranty work completed. All light colored roads re-graveled with limestone chips – fantastic job by contractor. *New vinyl fencing placed around Railroad Roundhouse & Charcoal Kiln sites. Continuous gutter installed on Hotel to help prevent moisture retention between wings of the building
- Ran season one State Worker short.
- Heritage Day held August 12th: 2017: Day Users: 1,470 - 2016: Day Users: 875 – 68% increase! Campground: Full both years Friday & Saturday nights.
- 2017 compared to 2016: Camp nights: up 20%, overall attendance: up 11%.
- Staff has one season operating the new toilet/shower building and a modern harbor – much learned, much to be applied to do a better job next year.
- *Nature, history & fall decorations all in one location!*



Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- The Lower Falls Boat concession phase 2 design pre-proposal meeting is coming up on October 25th. The Upper Falls Water/Sewer infrastructure design pre-proposal meeting is also on October 25th.
- Park Manager, Craig Krepps retired on 9/30. Kevin Dennis is the Acting Manager until the position is permanently filled. Most of our STW's have left for college...the few that remain will be finished for the season on 10/21.
- The "Hike between da Falls" was a big success again this year. 256 people participated in the Sept. 30th event. Harvest Festival is coming up on 10/14.
- The campgrounds have been full every weekend in September, which is unprecedented. 24,800 non-resident daily passes were sold at Tahquamenon in FY17.

Trail Report

Snowmobile Trail Updates

- Grant sponsors are beginning signing and brushing for season.
- UP preseason meetings are done, reviewed program updates and Sponsor concerns.
- Several new field contacts in various areas.
- Snowmobile Trail permits for 2017 fiscal year was 130,000.

ORV Trail Updates

- Mackinac County Routes proposal is approved. Making plans to get signed, Grant sponsors are willing to sign now, did receive the markers.
- ORV permits compared to last year this time, Regular ORV permits are at 230,000 for the fiscal year.

Pathway Projects

- Volunteers have been working on various trail projects across the EUP.