



Lake trout make comeback in the Great Lakes

The recovery of lake trout in Lake Huron means that very soon, wildlife officials will no longer have to stock the species in the lake. According to michiganradio.com, lake trout are rapidly regaining ground after decades of parasitism by sea lampreys and complications with alewives.

“I felt we were so completely stymied by one thing after another after another. The litany of challenges working against the reestablishment of a self-sustaining lake trout population seemed insurmountable,” said Jim Johnson, a researcher with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. “But then, with the collapse of alewives, everything changed.”

The lake trout is the largest trout native to the Great Lakes and was at one time economically vital to the area’s commercial and sport fishing

industries. That era of prosperity for the species was interrupted when sea lampreys devastated the trout population from 1935 to 1965. Lampreys, sometimes referred to as “lamprey eels,” feed by hooking onto fish and consuming their blood. They are considered an invasive species and became a major problem after waterway construction in the early 20th century allowed them to enter many rivers and streams.

Lampreys are known to be detrimental to fish species where they are introduced. According to the **Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)**, a single lamprey can kill up to 40 or more pounds of fish in its lifetime. In fact, when the GLFC was formed in 1955, one of its primary goals was to control the lamprey population in the Great Lakes. Thanks to the efforts of multiple agencies, a

lengthy reduction program has shrunk lamprey numbers to about 10 percent of what they were in 1955.

After the severe reduction of sea lampreys, the lake trout in Lake Huron began to make a slow recovery. However, the fish were having problems reproducing. Biologists identified part of the problem to be related to alewives, which lake trout fed on. Alewives are a small saltwater fish that colonized the Great Lakes several decades ago when trout numbers were low. Due to the lack of predators, alewives multiplied. Alewives also cause problems for lake trout young and eggs, stymieing their population growth.

As the number of alewives dwindled due to new predators such

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MI DNR Fisheries annual report

Highlights 2013 accomplishments and activities

A report highlighting the various activities of the DNR Fisheries Division during Fiscal Year 2013 has been produced and is now available online at www.michigan.gov/fishing.

The [2013 Fisheries Division Annual Report](#) summarizes programs and work completed in the past fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2012-Sept. 30, 2013) in an effort to maintain and improve Michigan’s fishery. The report categorizes the division’s work within the five goals it developed as part of its five-year strategic plan.

These goals include:

- 1) Healthy aquatic ecosystems and sustainable fish populations
- 2) Diverse fishing opportunities
- 3) Strategic resource partnerships
- 4) Strategically focused assessment and decision support tools

5) Efficient division operations

The report also includes Fisheries Division’s mission and vision, partnership efforts during 2013, and fisheries-related quick facts.

“This report provides Michigan citizens with a snapshot of Fisheries Division’s management of the state’s aquatic resources,” said Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. “It helps us track our progress as we work toward completing our strategic plan and is something we are proud to share.”

Input on the activities of Fisheries Division is encouraged by readers of the 2013 Annual Report. All communication can be shared by email through DNR-Fish-Accomplishments@michigan.gov. ✧

Illinois Yellow Perch Summit

The Lake Michigan Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission will host a yellow perch public meeting at the UIC Forum in Chicago on Saturday, March 22, 2014. Anglers and interested stakeholders are invited to attend.

WHEN:

8 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Saturday, March 22, 2014

WHERE:

UIC Forum, 725 W Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60607 Parking is available in public lot, 2 blocks west on Roosevelt Road for \$10/day.

COST:

Free, but registration is required by March 15, after that the fee is \$20. If you cannot attend in person, MI Sea Grant will be offering a webinar option that also requires registration.

This multi-jurisdictional meeting will take place 8:30 am - 3:00 pm and is open to persons from all Lake Michigan states (IL, WI, IN and MI) and tribal jurisdictions. The morning program will consist of informative presentations by invited experts, highlighting the latest science about Lake Michigan ecology and yellow perch populations, fishing, and management. The afternoon session will consist of small-group breakouts where constituents can comment on the information presented and provide input to Lake Michigan fishery managers. A webinar of the meeting will be available to registered participants unable to attend in person.

The event is being hosted by the Illinois DNR and GLFC. Registration is free of charge until March 15, after which a \$20 fee will be charged. Participants may register online at www.glfc.org/lakecom/yp or by calling the Illinois DNR at 847-294-4134 during regular business hours (8:30 am to 5:00 pm Mon. – Fri.).

Lake Michigan yellow perch experienced a rapid, lakewide decline in abundance during the early 1990s, and has since remained low relative to earlier peaks. Management authorities

convened a yellow perch conference in December 1994 to alert constituents about the drastic decline in perch abundance around the lake. A Yellow Perch Task Group was created and the group developed and implemented a research strategy to explore the causes of declining yellow perch populations.

Later in the decade, individual management authorities closed the commercial perch fishery in the lake's main basins and reduced the potential harvest from recreational angling by implementing restrictive harvest regulations (e.g., slot limits, bag limits and closed seasons). These regulations were intended to ensure that adequate numbers of mature perch remained for future spawning seasons when favorable conditions returned to the lake. Original or modified versions of these regulations have been in place for almost two decades. While the cooperative actions by Lake Michigan management agencies prevented a complete collapse of the perch population, recovery has been slow and recent stock assessments indicate a continued gradual decline in population abundance.

The meeting will provide anglers a lakewide view of the latest information available on Lake Michigan yellow perch and managers with input from anglers and other stakeholders around the lake. Possible next steps by the management jurisdictions may include changes to yellow perch management, assessment and/or research. ✧

Lake trout comeback

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as salmon, the lake trout began making a speedier comeback. This is welcome news to anglers who prefer lake trout, which is a popular game fish and often praised for its taste. "Oh yes, the end of stocking is in sight for the main basin of Lake Huron," Johnson said. Researchers are working on making habitat more suitable for spawning lake trout. ✧



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Position Statement

Representing a major interest in the aquatic resources of the Great Lakes states and the province of Ontario, the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is a confederation of organizations and individuals with a concern for the present and future of sport fishing, our natural resources and the ecosystem in which we live. We encourage the wise use of our resources and a search for the truth about the issues confronting us.

Inland Seas Angler

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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New York State of Lake Ontario Meetings

Biologists to update status of Lake's fisheries

The public will have the opportunity to learn about the State of Lake Ontario fisheries at public meetings in Monroe, Niagara, and Oswego counties March 3, 13 & 18.

Lake Ontario and tributaries support thriving populations of fish, including a variety of trout and salmon, bass, walleye, yellow perch and panfish. New York's Lake Ontario waters comprise more than 2.7 million acres. A 2007 statewide angler survey estimated more than 2.6 million angler days were spent on Lake Ontario and major tributaries. The estimated value of these fisheries exceeded \$112 million annually to the local New York economy.

The meeting dates are as follows:

► **Monday, March 3**, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Carlson Auditorium, Chester F. Carlson Center, (76-1125) Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) campus, Rochester, Monroe County.

► **Thursday, March 13**, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Cornell Cooperative Extension Bldg, 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport, Niagara County.

► **Tuesday, March 18**, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., DEC Training Academy, 24 County Route 2A, Pulaski (the former Portly Angler Motel), Oswego County.

DEC, USGS, USFWS and Ontario MNR biologists will make presentations, including updates on the status of trout and salmon fisheries, forage fish, stocking programs and fisheries management plans. Ample time will be provided at the end of scheduled programs to interact with presenters. Prior to the public meetings, information summaries for a host of [Lake Ontario fisheries](#) assessment programs will be posted on DEC's website. Previous annual reports can also be found at this site.

For more info: Steven LaPan, New York Great Lakes Section Leader: 315-654-2147. ✧

Lake Erie annual Charter Captains Conference

Brings together Lake Erie fishing professionals

HURON, OH – For the 33rd year, Ohio Sea Grant's Charter Captains Conference will help prepare Lake Erie fishing charter boat captains for the upcoming season by providing updates about Lake Erie's 2014 fishing outlook, environmental conditions, licensing, regulations, and business management. The conference will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2014 at the [Cedar Point Conference Center on the Bowling Green State University Firelands Campus](#), and is co-sponsored by the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.

Jessica Barber, Fish Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will update captains on the Service's efforts to control invasive sea lampreys in Lake Erie. Jonathan Coholich of Navionics will present the company's newest navigation and sonar equipment, and OSU Extension Tax Field Specialist Larry Gearhardt will offer tax tips to charter business owners.

Other speakers will include representatives from the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, ODNR Sandusky Fisheries Research Unit and Lake Erie Law Enforcement Unit, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District and the U.S. Coast Guard. Scott Zody, ODNR Division of Wildlife Chief, will present the Charter Captain of the Year Award.

In past years, nearly all the captains who attended the conference reported that they learned new information that will help in future decision making, and that they intended to share what they learned. Three-quarters of captains who attended previous years said they modified their behavior because of what they learned at the conference, and 30 percent reported an increase in

Lake Huron Fisheries Workshops

Workshops offer research and information related to status of Lake Huron fishery

Michigan Sea Grant and partners will be hosting three evening regional workshops across Lake Huron's coastline.

Workshops are open to the public, and will provide valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals, and others interested in attending. Workshops will include information and status updates on fish populations and angler catch data, resurgence of native species such as Lake Huron walleye and lake trout, forage fish surveys and results from the Lake Huron predator diet study, updates of fisheries management activities, among other Lake Huron related topics of local interest.

Approx. 3 hours each, they are open to the public at **no cost**. Workshop opportunities include:

- **Port Huron: April 9th** – hosted by Blue Water Sportfishing Association's scheduled meeting
- **Alpena: April 22nd** – hosted by NOAA Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Visitor Center
- **Cedarville: April 23rd** – hosted by local Les Cheneaux Sportsman's Club

To register: Val Golding, Michigan Sea Grant - 989-354-9870, goldingv@anr.msu.edu

Workshop details available online:

www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/fishery-workshops/ ✧

profitability thanks to information from the conference.

Open to the public, pre-registration (by Feb. 21) is required to attend. Contact: Tory Gabriel 419-898-3631, gabriel.78@osu.edu for more info. ✧

2014 Black Lake sturgeon harvest results

DNR officials announced the 2014 Black Lake sturgeon harvest season lasted 82 minutes on Saturday, February 1, with six fish being harvested. The fishing season, which included spearing or hook-and-line fishing, was scheduled to run February 1-5, or until the harvest quota had been reached.

“The 2014 allocation of Black Lake sturgeon for the State of Michigan was six fish, although DNR officials imposed a voluntary quota of five fish for recreational anglers,” said Todd Grischke, Lake Huron Basin coordinator. “Establishing this one-fish buffer before the fishing season allowed us to stay within our allocation of six fish. This year is a great example of how our harvest allocation model and on-ice communication effectively reduce the chance of overharvest of lake sturgeon in Black Lake.”

There were 228 registered anglers on the ice on Saturday, down from 268 the year before. Most anglers registered at the pre-registration held on January 31, which allowed for a much more streamlined

process.

According to Tim Cwalinski, DNR fisheries biologist, lake sturgeon were moving the last couple days,



including opening day, which meant more fish were able to be seen by anglers. The first three fish were harvested before 8:45 a.m. opening day, then a short flurry of activity occurred just after 9:15 a.m. as three additional fish were harvested.

Dan Stroup, a 71-year-old retiree from Bronson, got things going shortly after fishing began at 8 a.m., with a 66-inch, 90-pound fish, which turned out to be the biggest taken this year. Stroup, who has been spearing

sturgeon for 33 years, took the eighth sturgeon of his career and his fourth at Black Lake. (His other four were taken in Wisconsin.) The 90-pounder was his personal best.

The fish “came in beautifully,” Stroup said, about 12' down in 22' of water, swimming in from the side toward his white decoy. Stroup, who had been living in his 7½ x 13' shanty for 10 days, said he'd speared a muskie five days earlier, then covered his spearing hole and waited for Saturday. Stroup said he'd fry and bake portions of the leviathan. “These are better than the ones in Wisconsin,” he said. “Those we smoke.”

Data of the six harvested fish: fish one was female, 90 lbs. and 66"; fish two was female, 59 lbs. and 61"; fish three was male, 70 lbs. and 66"; fish four was male, 12 lbs. and 41"; fish five was male, 28 lbs. and 51"; & fish six was male, 28 lbs. and 51".

Three of the six fish taken had been captured several times before by Michigan State U and DNR researchers during lake netting surveys. ✧

MI catfish record broken second time in less than two years

The Michigan DNR has confirmed the catch of a new state record flathead catfish on Monday, January



13. The catfish was caught by Dale Blakley of Niles, Mich., on January 12, on Barron Lake in Cass County. The fish weighed 52.0 lbs. and measured 46.02". Blakley was ice fishing for crappies when he landed the record fish.

The record was verified by Brian Gunderman, a DNR fisheries biologist, at the Plainwell office. The previous state record flathead catfish was caught by Rodney Akey of Niles on the St. Joseph River in Berrien County on May 22, 2012. That fish weighed 49.8 lbs. and measured 45.7". Prior to that, the record hadn't been broken since 1943.

It should be noted that flathead catfish typically inhabit large river systems, like the nearby St. Joseph River. Based on the size of this fish,

it mysteriously found its way to Barron Lake several years ago, perhaps through illegal stocking as there are no direct connections to a large river system. Anglers are reminded that transferring fish from one water body to another is prohibited because such transfers can disrupt the fish community in the receiving water through predation, competition with native species, or introduction of new disease-causing organisms.

State records are recognized by weight only. To qualify for a state record, fish must exceed the current listed state record weight and identification must be verified by a DNR fisheries biologist. Watch video: <http://youtu.be/864YR-OAKMY> ✧

\$72,500 in fines for illegal activities at lodge

Eleven people pleaded guilty to a total of 68 charges and have been fined \$72,500 for offences that took place at a hunting and fishing lodge in northwest Ontario.

Steve Herbeck, former owner and carrying on business as Andy Myers Lodge, on Eagle Lake, west of Dryden, was fined a total of \$7,500 and his business was fined a total of \$27,000 for 22 offences. He is not allowed to hunt in Ontario for ten years.

Ten others including employees and guests from Ontario, New York, Wisconsin and New Zealand pleaded guilty and the total charge for all 11 were 68 charges under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, Ontario Fishery Regulations and Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Their offences included: unlawfully hunting wolf, unlawfully using a hunting license belonging to another person, making a false statement in a document, making a false statement to a conservation officer, having a loaded firearm in a vehicle, possessing uncased firearms at night, discharging a firearm from a roadway, unlawfully selling game wildlife, unlawfully selling migratory birds, fishing with more than one fishing line, failing to comply with the requirements for an Ontario Hunting and Fishing License Issuer, and possessing an over-limit of Canada geese.

The court heard that Ontario MNR conservation officers conducted a two-year covert investigation in cooperation with the USFWS, the DNRs WI, MI, NY & MN, and the New Zealand Commission of Wildlife. Conservation officers discovered that Steve Herbeck and his staff encouraged clients to hunt wolves without a license. Staff then used their own resident licenses to validate the wolf or arranged for guests to buy licenses afterward. Steve Herbeck allowed guests to fish without a license and later sold them backdated fishing licenses.

Trucking co. fined \$75,000 for importing live Asian carp

An Edmonton, Alberta, trucking company and a Markham, Ontario, truck driver have been fined total of \$75,000 for possessing live Asian carp in Ontario. Allthway Trucking Inc. and Yong-Sheng Zhang were each found guilty under the federal Fisheries Act for possessing live invasive fish. The company was fined \$70,000 and the truck driver was fined \$5,000. In addition, over 3,000 kilograms of grass carp was forfeited to the Crown.

The court heard that on January 25, 2012, a truck from Allthway Trucking Inc. entered Canada at the Ambassador Bridge's Windsor/Detroit border crossing carrying grass and bighead carp from Arkansas. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources to assist with the inspection of the truck. Conservation officers with the Lake Erie Enforcement Unit inspected the truck and found that some of the grass carp were still alive. They subsequently seized all of the fish.

On February 28, 2012, the same truck and driver again entered Canada at the Ambassador Bridge's Windsor/Detroit border crossing carrying bighead carp from the state of Arkansas. After being contacted by the CBSA, conservation officers found 6,350 kilograms of bighead carp, some of which were alive. They seized the truck and fish. Both the truck and the fish were held until such time as officers were able to determine that all of the bighead carp in the truck were dead. ✧

As part of their package, guests were fed grouse and mallard duck and advised they were fed American elk, all of which the lodge was not allowed to sell. Steve Herbeck also took guests muskellunge fishing and used more than the allowable number of fishing rods. ✧

Derby directors encouraged to schedule events at DNR sites through new Web application

The Michigan DNR recently completed development and testing on a Web application designed to allow bass tournament directors to schedule events at DNR access sites, and to report their catch results online.

The Michigan Fishing Tournament Information System (MFTIS) is now available to tournament directors for use in scheduling their 2014 tournaments. This application gives tournament directors the ability to view other bass tournaments scheduled on a selected waterbody, so they can plan appropriately.

In addition to alleviating scheduling concerns, this application will help directors voluntarily share their tournament catch data with the DNR's Fisheries Division, which can be valuable information in managing the state's fisheries.

Tournament directors will have to set up a Michigan Single-Sign-On account so they can log in and voluntarily schedule their events at DNR-administered public access sites and to record their catch data. The public can use the MFTIS application to check tournament schedules on a given lake or access site, without creating a log-in. However, the public will not be able to view catch results.

Tournament catch results will be downloaded monthly by Fisheries Division staff. The level of participation and quality of tournament catch records provided by directors will directly determine the use of the data for fisheries assessment and management purposes. The Michigan Fishing Tournament Information System is available at <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/fishingtournaments>. ✧

Smoking linked with increased risk of most common type of breast cancer

Young women who smoke and have been smoking a pack a day for a decade or more have a significantly increased risk of developing the most common type of breast cancer. That is the finding of an analysis published early online in *Cancer*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society. The study indicates that an increased risk of breast cancer may be another health risk incurred by young women who smoke.

The majority of recent studies evaluating the relationship between smoking and breast cancer risk among young women have found that smoking is linked with an increased risk; however, few studies have evaluated risks according to different

subtypes of breast cancer.

To investigate, Christopher Li, MD, PhD, of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, and his colleagues conducted a population-based study consisting of 778 patients with estrogen receptor positive breast cancer and 182 patients with triple-negative breast cancer. Estrogen receptor positive breast cancer is the most common subtype of breast cancer, while triple-negative breast cancer is less common but tends to be more aggressive. Patients in the study were 20 to 44 years old and were diagnosed from 2004-2010 in the Seattle-Puget Sound metropolitan area. The study also included 938 cancer-free controls.

The researchers found that young women who were current or recent smokers and had been smoking a pack a day for at least 10 years had a 60 percent increased risk of estrogen receptor positive breast cancer. In contrast, smoking was not related to a woman's risk of triple-negative breast cancer.

"The health hazards associated with smoking are numerous and well known. This study adds to our knowledge in suggesting that with respect to breast cancer, smoking may increase the risk of the most common molecular subtype of breast cancer but not influence risk of one of the rarer, more aggressive subtypes," said Dr. Li. ✧

University Hospitals study: regular mammograms for women in their 40s remain beneficial

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The findings of an expanded study conducted by researchers at University Hospitals Case Medical Center are lending even more credence to the value of screening **mammograms** for women in their 40s.

Published in the February issue of the **American Journal of Roentgenology**, the study showed that women ages 40-49 who had regular screening mammograms had their breast cancer diagnosed at earlier stages, had smaller tumors and were less likely to require chemotherapy than women whose cancer was detected by a diagnostic mammogram.

Led by Dr. Donna Plecha, director of breast imaging at UH, the researchers first began looking at the topic shortly after a task force issued a **recommendation in 2009 saying that women don't need regular annual mammograms before age 50**.

They wanted to see if there were significant differences in outcomes of women getting screening mammograms and women getting a mammogram only in response to a symptom (finding a lump, experiencing pain, etc.).

Earlier findings on screening women in their 40s, in which researchers analyzed the results of biopsies performed in 2008 and 2009, were published in 2012.

Not only were they looking for the incidences of breast cancer, but they also were interested in the detection of high-risk lesions.

"One of the benefits of screening that a lot of people don't talk about is that we are identifying patients at high risk, and we can actually do something to help decrease their risk of breast cancer [and recurrence]," said Plecha, assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Reviewing the pathology results of 1,004 imaging-guided biopsies performed at UH's main campus, UH Chagrin Highlands and UH Westlake from January 1, 2008 through the end of 2011 (two more years of data than the earlier study), the researchers analyzed treatment recommendations, stage at diagnosis, and the identification of high-risk lesions in the two groups.

Their findings:

- Of 230 primary breast cancers, 149 were in the screened group and 81 were considered non-screened;

- Non-screened patients were more likely to undergo chemotherapy;
- Eighty-one percent of the high-risk lesions detected were diagnosed in the screened patients; and
- Screened patients with cancer were significantly more likely to receive a diagnosis at earlier stages; to have no sign of cancer in axillary lymph nodes — a predictor of a patient's prognosis and of a possible recurrence of cancer; to have smaller tumors; and to not require surgery compared with the patients who had a diagnostic mammogram.

"This emphasizes the importance of screening in this age group," she said. "A lot of women in their 40s don't get screened because they don't have a family history of breast cancer. But 70% of women diagnosed don't have a family history." "The biggest thing is that yearly screening is important," Plecha said. "We have the best chance of curing you if you catch it early." The American Cancer Society, American College of Radiology and other groups continue to recommend annual exams beginning at age 40. ✧

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MI DNR releases information on actively managing cormorants

The Michigan DNR announced figures from its efforts with federal partners to manage cormorants in several parts of Michigan.

For years anglers have observed cormorants feeding in their favorite fishing spots, with substantial increases in bird numbers over the past few decades. These observations have concerned anglers about the potential effects cormorants may be having on the fish they are targeting. In response to these growing concerns, the federal government enacted a depredation order in 2003 that authorized states, tribes and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct cormorant management, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service overseeing the process. Under this authority, the DNR developed management goals at several cormorant breeding colonies across the state to determine what, if any, impacts cormorants were having on the state's fishery resources. On-the-ground work to meet these goals

is conducted by USDA's Wildlife Services, which began oiling eggs and culling cormorants in the Les Cheneaux Islands in 2004.

Since that time, Wildlife Services has expanded its operations to include efforts at Thunder Bay (Alpena), Beaver Island, Ludington and Bays de Noc (Escanaba), with the culling of up to 10,000 birds per year for the past several years. Subsequently, cormorant nesting populations have been reduced 54-94% at peak nesting counts. The estimated cormorant nest count in Michigan waters has gone from more than 23,000 in 2007 to less than 10,000 in 2013.

Also, Wildlife Services has directed volunteer groups in harassment programs at many inland lakes and Great Lakes bays during spring migration periods. Volunteer groups also assisted in cormorant harassment programs during stocking events at many Great Lakes ports. Each year, management locations are mutually agreed-upon by a committee

of representatives of several federal, state and tribal agencies.

It's difficult to evaluate the effects of cormorant management and its relationship to sport-fish populations due to constantly changing food-web dynamics, including the establishment of invasive species throughout the Great Lakes," said Steve Scott, Michigan DNR fisheries biologist. "Fisheries surveys have shown an increase in sport-fish populations during the same period cormorant populations were declining in areas where activities have been conducted. We are seeing some very encouraging results in fisheries at several locations, and anglers are reporting improvements. We are very pleased with the progress we are making with Wildlife Services."

USDA website cormorants: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/aquaculture/aquaculture_cormorant.shtml. ✧

Streamflow alteration impacts fish diversity in local rivers

A [new USGS study](#) quantifies change in fish diversity in response to streamflow alteration in the Tennessee River basin.

The USGS study highlights the importance of the timing, magnitude, and variability of low streamflows and the frequency and magnitude of high streamflows as key characteristics critical to assessing how fish communities change in response to streamflow alteration. This study was completed using fish community data collected by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and predictions of streamflow characteristics at more than 600 locations.

The Tennessee River basin is one of the [richest areas of aquatic diversity](#) in the country, if not the world. However, expanding urban development, more than 600 privately held small dams on medium to small streams, and withdrawal of more than 700 million gallons of water each day threaten this diversity. Understanding

the effect of streamflow alteration on aquatic ecology is increasingly important as change in land use and human population are projected.

One of the examples from the study shows that as maximum October streamflow deviates outside reference conditions by approximately 6 cubic feet per second per square mile, fish diversity may decline by almost nine species in the Blue Ridge ecoregion of eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. Results such as this were identified across the Blue Ridge, Ridge and Valley, and Interior Plateau ecoregions for 11 categories of fish and will help resource managers identify when streamflow alteration may result in too much ecological degradation.

"Managing river flows to meet the needs of our growing communities and economies will become increasingly challenging in the future," said Sally Palmer,

director of science for The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee. "Maintaining our rivers to support an abundance of natural wildlife, including our native fish, is an important goal as well. Studies like these give us better information to make management decisions which more effectively balance all the demands placed on our river resources."

The National Park Service, responsible for the protection and management of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and the Obed Wild and Scenic River in Tennessee, has a need to assess potential impacts to the resources they are charged with protecting. "This research enhances our ability to respond to current development pressures and serves as the foundation to develop a decision support tool to address future water resource issues" said Jeff Hughes, hydrologist with the NPS. ✧

Farm Bill now law, ending long struggle Bill is a win for conservation

On February 7, President Obama signed the 2014 Farm Bill, ending years of legislative uncertainty for farmers and conservationists alike.

The massive package was unveiled last week and approved by Congress in just a matter of days. It was the first time Congress has approved a new Farm Bill since 2008.

The deal also saves billions by consolidating government conservation programs. Government estimates say it is supposed to cut \$16 billion in government spending in the next decade. The bill has changes to programs involving environmental regulations on farms, aid to dairy and sheep farmers and the kind of food the U.S. Agriculture Department may buy for the Nation's food banks.

This bill includes proactive and common sense conservation programs that will help deter wetland and other habitat loss, incentivize habitat conservation and keep working farmers and ranchers on their land. The 2014 Farm Bill includes the conservation and sporting community's top priorities of [re-coupling conservation compliance to crop insurance](#) and a [Sodsaver](#) program affecting the top duck producing states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Conservation provisions included in the 2014 Farm Bill are designed to encourage the conservation of our nation's remaining wetlands and grasslands, which help keep our waters clean, prevent soil erosion and provide vital habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

The \$956.4 billion package includes a sweeping overhaul of Federal farm and nutrition policies on what farmers grow, how food is packaged and sold and how the government helps the poor pay for their food. The 959-page bill ends billions of dollars in direct subsidy payments to farmers. In their place, farmers may take advantage of a new crop insurance program, the newspaper said. ✧

Winchester recalls .22 ammo

Winchester has released the following notice about some of their .22LR ammo. The ammo affected is 2 lots of their M*22* 40gr ammo. The issue is that some of the rounds could be double charged. A double charge is one of the worst ammo defects you can experience as it could possibly cause damage to a firearm and/or harm to the shooter or bystanders.

Here is the full press release

Olin, through its Winchester Division, is recalling 2 lots of M*22™ 22 Long Rifle 40 Grain Black Copper Plated Round Nose rimfire ammunition.

Symbol Number: S22LRT

Lot Numbers: GD42L and GD52L

The above lots of 22 Long Rifle ammo may contain double powder charges. Ammunition with double powder charges may subject the shooter or bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury and/or death, or cause firearm damage.

DO NOT USE WINCHESTER M*22™ 22 Long Rifle RIMFIRE AMMUNITION WITH LOT NUMBERS GD42L or GD52L. The Lot Number is imprinted (stamped without ink) on the left tuck flap of the 500-round carton as indicated here. The 1000-round intermediate carton does not have a Lot Number.

To determine if your ammunition is subject to this notice, review the Symbol # and Lot #. If it is Symbol # S22LRT with a Lot # containing GD42L or GD52L immediately discontinue use and contact Winchester at 866-423-5224 or visit <http://www.winchester.com/Product-Service/Pages/Contact-Us.aspx> for free UPS pick-up of the recalled ammunition.

This notice applies only to Symbol Number S22LRT with Lot Numbers GD42L and GD52L. Other Symbol Numbers or Lot Numbers are not subject to this recall.

For questions call toll-free 866-423-5224, write to Winchester (600 Powder Mill Road, East Alton, IL 62024 Attn: S22LRT Recall), or [contact Winchester Customer Support online](#). ✧

Industry and 27 States challenge EPA Ruling EPA's actions in case create uncertainty, hurt future investment

Washington, D.C., Dec 16, 2013 – NAM Senior VP and General Counsel Linda Kelly released this statement after the Manufacturers' Center for Legal Action joined with other business associations in filing an [amicus brief](#) in *Mingo Logan Coal Company v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*. A bipartisan group of 27 states also filed a brief challenging the EPA's actions in this case: "It is impossible to overstate the negative impact the EPA's actions in this case will have on future investment and job creation, which is why such a diverse group of business associations along with 27 states are fighting this ruling.

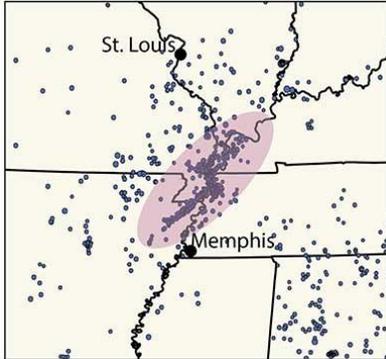
Congress explicitly vested the Army Corps of Engineers with authority to issue Section 404 permits; yet, the EPA now believes—for the first time ever—that it has the ability to revoke these permits. This precedent has the potential to impact an array of future projects, including the construction of utility infrastructure; housing and commercial development; renewable energy projects, such as wind farms or solar arrays; and transportation infrastructure projects, such as highways and rail lines.

Manufacturers are already disproportionately affected by federal regulations, and the EPA's actions in this case only add to that burden while creating uncertainty for businesses across the country."

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) is the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Manufacturing employs nearly 12 million men and women, contributes more than \$1.8 trillion to the U.S. economy annually, has the largest economic impact of any major sector and accounts for two-thirds of private-sector research and development. ✧

Threat of Earthquakes in central US still alive

Earthquake activity in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the central United States does not seem to be slowing down. In a new study



published in the journal "Science," seismologists Morgan Page and Susan Hough of the U.S. Geological Survey investigate whether current quakes in the region could be aftershocks of large earthquakes that occurred 200 years earlier.

Using extensive computer modeling of aftershock behavior, they show that the dearth of moderate (Magnitude 6) earthquakes following the series of large earthquakes in 1811-1812, combined with the high rates of small earthquakes today, is not consistent with the long-lived aftershock hypothesis.

A debate has swirled in recent years, fueled in part by past studies suggesting that continuing New Madrid seismic activity could be the tail end of a long-lived aftershock sequence following the 1811-1812 earthquakes. If modern activity is an aftershock sequence, the argument goes, then there is no evidence that stress is currently building in the zone. Instead, Page and Hough conclude that the current level of activity must be the signature of active, ongoing processes that continue to generate stress in the region—stress that we expect will eventually be released in future large earthquakes. In other words, the New Madrid Seismic Zone is not dead.

The New Madrid Seismic Zone in the central U.S. produced 4 large earthquakes with magnitudes upwards of 7 over the winter of 1811-1812. Over the last two centuries, small

quakes have continued to occur in the zone at a higher rate than elsewhere in the central United States. Geologic evidence also shows that large earthquake sequences occurred there in about 1450 A.D. and 900 A.D.

The paper, "[The New Madrid Seismic Zone: Not Dead Yet](#)," is available online. Additional information about the [New Madrid Seismic Zone](#) and its history is available from the USGS online. ✧

Bass Pro Shops to open in Metro Vancouver, B.C.

Bass Pro Shops will locate the company's sixth Canadian store in Metro Vancouver, British Columbia. The 145,000-sq. ft. store will be a key anchor for the Tsawwassen Mills — a 1.2-million-square-foot, value-oriented mall, located on the northwest corner of Highway 17 and 52nd Avenue — being developed by Ivanhoe Cambridge. The store will include the popular Uncle Buck's Fishbowl and Grill and is scheduled to open in 2016. ✧

Think spring and plan your Learn to Hunt turkey event for adults & novice hunters

MADISON – Think of it as Thanksgiving in the spring with a meal-time theme for families and others enjoying the great outdoors and Wisconsin traditions. [Read Full Article](#) ✧

Now is the time to take hunter education

MADISON – People who will need a hunter safety certificate to hunt in this year should not wait until fall to get enrolled in Hunter Education if they want to go in the woods hunting this fall, according to Wisconsin state hunting safety officials. [Read Full Article](#) ✧

IN DNR seeks input on fish, hunt, trap regulations

Share ideas on fishing, hunting, trapping and other fish and wildlife related regulations in Indiana, including special permits. Until February 28, use a convenient online form to contribute ideas and provide input on topics the DNR has identified for consideration. If you've already looked at the topics, you might want to look again. Background information has now been added on each of the topics. The form is at [wildlife.IN.gov](#), at the "Got INput?" box near the middle of the page. [Read more](#) ✧

MI DNR creel clerks collecting info this winter

The Michigan DNR agency personnel will be interviewing anglers about their fishing trips. DNR creel clerks will ask anglers about how long they fished, what species they were targeting, what they caught and where they live. It usually takes only a couple of minutes to answer the questions. The DNR appreciates anglers' cooperation. In some cases, the creel clerks may ask to measure or weigh fish and to take scale samples.

Creel clerks will be stationed at Saginaw Bay, the Au Sable River, the Les Cheneaux Islands, Munising, Au Train, Marquette, Keweenaw Bay, Little Bay de Noc and Menominee Harbor. Starting April 1, creel clerks will appear at Great Lakes boating access sites, fishing piers and shorelines across the entire Great Lakes coastline to survey spring, summer and fall fisheries. ✧

Online map details shooting ranges open for public use

MADISON – People looking for a shooting range to sharpen their shooting skills now have a new online resource to help them find target ranges. [Read Full Article](#) ✧

Does taking multiple medicines increase your risk of being admitted to hospital? Yes and No.

Patients with a single illness who take many drugs have an increased risk of being admitted to hospital, but for patients with multiple conditions, taking many medicines is now associated with a near-normal risk of admission. This is the key finding of work published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. Doctors call the situation where people take many drugs ‘polypharmacy’, a state of affairs that is becoming increasingly common in part because we have more elderly people and also a rising number of people are being diagnosed with multiple health conditions.

“The commonly-held assumption that polypharmacy is always hazardous and represents poor care is misleading. Our work shows that we need more sophisticated approaches to assessing the appropriateness of each patient’s set of medicines,” says lead author Dr Rupert Payne who works at the Cambridge Centre for Health Services Research.

Working with colleagues in Nottingham and Glasgow, Dr Payne analyzed Scottish NHS primary care data for 180,815 adults with long-term clinical conditions. They identified the numbers of regular medications each person was taking and linked this to whether or not the person was admitted to hospital in the following year. They found that for patients with only a single medical condition taking 10 or more medications was associated with a more than three-fold increase in the chance of having an unplanned hospitalization compared to patients who took only one to three medicines. However, patients with six or more medical conditions who used 10 or more medications only increased their chance of admission by 1.5 times compared to the group taking one to three medicines.

“This work is highly relevant to the development and assessment of prescribing skills in general practice where the majority of long-term clinical care is undertaken and where

doctors often prescribe drugs for long periods of time. It is particularly important when doctors are caring for older patients and those with multiple medical conditions where multiple medications are often used,” says Payne.

Dr Payne says that previous studies have missed the different effect that polypharmacy has in different people because they used overly simplistic approaches when looking at the effect of taking many drugs at once. He points out that their new work demonstrates the need for more sophisticated and nuanced approaches when measuring the impact of polypharmacy in future clinical research. ✧

Draft plan for Green Bay wildlife, fisheries and natural areas available for input

PESHTIGO, Wis. – Protection of aquatic resources and habitats — including northern pike and sturgeon spawning areas — and high-quality and rare natural communities are among the objectives of a draft plan for the management and use of the Green Bay Planning group, a collection of Department of Natural Resources properties scattered along the west shore of Green Bay. [Read Full Article](#) ✧

IN lawmakers take aim at gun turn-in programs

A proposal forcing Gary and other Indiana cities to end their gun buy-back programs was approved 6-2 by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senate Bill 229, which now goes to the full Senate, prohibits local governments and their police departments from conducting gun buy-back events intended to reduce the number of guns circulating in a community. [READ MORE](#) ✧

MI anglers no longer required to keep baitfish receipts

A new VHS regulation went into effect January 9 removing the regulation for anglers who purchase and use minnows as bait to retain the retail sales receipt. Anglers will no longer be required to possess their bait receipts while fishing and retail minnow sellers will no longer be required to provide anglers with detailed receipts for minnows.

VHS was first identified in the Great Lakes in 2005 and has caused mortalities in a number of fish species in the Michigan waters of Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair and Detroit rivers, Lake Erie, and inland in Budd Lake near Harrison and Base Line Lake near Pinckney. It has also been found in Lake Michigan waters of Wisconsin. The DNR actively monitors for VHS and as other areas are identified positive for VHS, they will be listed online at www.michigan.gov/vhs. ✧

DNR seeks partners to preserve Wisconsin’s hunting heritage

MADISON – A new grant program, aimed at increasing hunter recruitment and retention in Wisconsin, will provide up to \$10,000 in cost-sharing grants to organizations with creative plans to attract and train new hunters and mentors. [Read Full Article](#) ✧

Gander Mountain coming to Chattanooga

Gander Mountain is once again expanding with a new location in Chattanooga, set to open in the fall of 2014. The store will be located in an existing 50,000-square-foot facility in the Oak Park Town Center, just off Tennessee Highway 153 in Hixson. It will be the fourth Gander Mountain location in Tennessee. ✧

Huron-Erie Corridor receives honor

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative received a 2013 Department of the Interior (DOI) *Partners in Conservation* award, which is one of the highest recognitions bestowed on organizations by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

“The Department of the Interior is proud to recognize the accomplishments of those who are innovating and collaborating in ways that address today’s complex conservation and stewardship challenges,” Secretary Jewell said at an awards ceremony at the Interior headquarters in Washington. “These partnerships represent the gold standard for how Interior is doing business across the nation to power our future, strengthen tribal nations, conserve and enhance America’s great outdoors and engage the next generation.”

Representatives from the Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative, including the U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center, Michigan Sea Grant (University of Michigan and Michigan State University), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Great Lakes Fishery Commission attended the 2013 *Partners in Conservation Awards* Recognition Event on January 16, at Main Interior in Washington, D.C. A local presentation of award certificates also took place February 5, during the Annual Meeting of the Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative, at Weber’s Inn in Ann Arbor. The initiative was honored for its relevant new science that will assist resource managers in making decisions concerning the restoration of native aquatic species and their habitats in the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers.

“The Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative partners have been committed to collaborative restoration activities and research since the early 2000s,” said Leon Carl, USGS Midwest Regional Director and a founding member of the partnership.

“Ten years later, we’re recording the fruits of that commitment through ongoing fish spawning habitat restoration efforts and the development of a strategic restoration plan to carry us into the next ten years and beyond.”

The *Partners in Conservation Awards* recognize outstanding examples of conservation legacies achieved when DOI engages groups and individuals representing a wide range of backgrounds, ages and interests to work collaboratively to renew lands and resources. The achievements of the Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative have been realized through the outstanding participation of diverse organizations on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border.

The St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River, also known as the Huron-Erie corridor, are the international waters that connect Lake Huron to Lake Erie and provide habitat for over 65 species of fish. The region, which includes the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, is part of the central Great Lakes flyway for millions of migratory waterfowl. It contains some of the largest and most diverse wetlands remaining in the region.

“I am indeed so proud of all these public and private partners who are working together on sound science in support of restoring this ecological corridor,” said Congressman John D. Dingell. “This critically important work is not only supporting the restoration of fish and wildlife populations, and their requisite habitats, but it is helping bring conservation into a major urban area where nearly seven million people live in the watershed and thereby helping develop the next generation of conservationists.”

Environmental changes in the corridor over time have resulted in the loss of habitat for fish and other organisms. The partners developed a plan to increase habitat for lake whitefish, lake sturgeon, walleye and

other native fish populations, based on research suggesting that water flow, depth and temperature are important in the placement of spawning reefs. Pre- and post-construction monitoring demonstrated an immediate response by over 14 native fish species, including spawning by the commercially important lake whitefish, which was a first in over a century; use by the globally rare northern madtom; and spawning by lake sturgeon, which is listed as a threatened species in both Michigan and Ontario.

Seven additional fish spawning habitat projects are planned for construction in the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers by 2015. With funding support from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, over 20 acres of fish spawning habitat will be restored in these urban rivers by 2015. The Huron-Erie Corridor Initiative is an international, collaborative [partnership](#) including federal, tribal, state, provincial, local governmental and non-governmental participants. ✧

Voluntary youth license

Continued from page 13

- Approved a grant of up to \$151,397 to American Rivers for habitat stream restoration work on Bigby Run, Somerset County. The Department of Transportation provided the funding as part of mitigation efforts related to the construction of Route 219. At its January 2008 meeting, the PFBC approved a grant of \$270,000 to remove Bigby Dam, owned by Garrett Borough. The restoration work is needed to stabilize the channel and stream banks of Bigby Run. ✧

PA commissioners approve voluntary youth license

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) voted at its quarterly meeting today to create a voluntary \$1 youth fishing license and to dedicate the revenue generated from it to programs to increase youth fishing participation.

“Increasing youth and family participation in fishing, boating, and conservation programs has always been part of our strategic plan,” said PFBC Executive Director John Arway. “This goal responds to the fact that the percentage of children and young adults ages 6 to 15 who fished in Pennsylvania in 2010 was only 24 percent, as compared to 37 percent in 2005 and 41 percent in 1995. We want to continue to refine and develop programs to engage kids.”

A youth license also provides an added benefit when it comes to federal funding, which accounts for approximately 25 percent of the PFBC’s budget. For every youth license sold, the PFBC will receive approximately \$5 in federal revenue from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Sport Fish Restoration Act program, which provides funds to states based on a formula that includes the number of licenses a state sells.

According to the *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, 367,000 children and young adults ages 6 to 15 fished in Pennsylvania in 2010.

“I want to emphasize that this is purely a voluntary youth license, and it is not required for kids to fish,” Arway said. “If just 25 percent of those 367,000 children were to purchase a voluntary \$1 license, it would result in more than \$550,000 in revenue for the Commission to invest in youth programs,” added Arway.

He added that the potential market for voluntary youth license sales goes beyond the youth anglers and their family and friends. Clubs, organizations, businesses, individuals and others who are interested in promoting youth angling could

purchase quantities of voluntary youth license vouchers to distribute to children.

Once a voluntary youth license is purchased or a youth license voucher is redeemed, the individual will be assigned a unique customer identification number (CID).

“Having unique CIDs allows us to analyze license purchasing patterns and trends, tailor messages and programs, and correspond directly with customers,” Arway added.

The voluntary youth license was available beginning February 1 from all licensing agents and online through the PFBC’s Outdoor Shop. With a \$1 agent fee and a \$0.70 transaction fee, the total cost to purchase the license is \$2.70.

Youth who plan to participate in the upcoming Mentored Youth Fishing Days must obtain either a voluntary youth fishing license or a free mentored youth fishing permit. It is not necessary to obtain both. The Mentored Youth Fishing Days are scheduled for March 22 and April 5. More information is available at www.gonefishingpa.com.

Also, Commissioners voted to seek public comment on a staff proposal to remove the option seniors 65 and older currently have to purchase a lifetime trout/salmon permit in conjunction with the purchase of a \$50 senior resident lifetime fishing license. Under the proposal, seniors who want to fish for trout would have to purchase a permit each year, beginning January 1, 2015. Seniors who purchase a lifetime trout/salmon permit in conjunction with a lifetime license before that date would be grandfathered.

“About 70 percent of seniors purchase a trout/salmon permit, which mirrors the rate for other anglers,” said Arway. “The Commission’s trout program accounts for 36 percent of the Fish Fund annual expenditures, and the cost of trout production continues to rise. We simply can no longer afford to allow anglers to fish for trout without paying for the annual permit.”

The PFBC estimates that the proposed change would generate approximately \$300,000 in additional annual revenue by the fifth year. Once the notice of proposed rulemaking is published in the PA Bulletin, individuals will have 30 days to submit comments. Comments can be submitted through the PFBC [website](#).

In other action, Commissioners:

- Approved a regulation change that permit anglers who purchase a one-year, multi-year or senior lifetime fishing license and then move out of state to continue to use the license until it expires. “This is a customer service improvement that benefits both the agency and anglers,” said Arway. “We want anglers to get the maximum benefit from their license and to enjoy their fishing experience. This change makes fishing more convenient for those individuals.” The change will take effect after being published in the PA Bulletin.
- Approved the elimination of the regulation which requires boat owners to affix a temporary validation decal to their boats while their registration application is being processed. Boat owners now will be able to demonstrate proof of registration by showing a copy of their registration application. The change goes into effect on April 1, or upon publication in the PA Bulletin, whichever is later.
- Approved a change to the Statewide Natural Gas Leasing Program which removes the restriction on how funds generated from the program must be used.
- Approved a habitat improvement plan submitted by Solebury Township, Bucks County, to remove a dam on Aquetong Creek at Ingham Springs and restore the stream channel to its natural flowing condition.

Voluntary youth license

Continued on page 12

A lesson learned as Chicago's gun laws fall

By Congressman Bob Barr

In his ruling last week that struck down one of the last relics of Chicago's long-standing gun ban, U.S. District Court Judge Edmond E. Chang made a startling observation. Chang noted that while one of the fundamental duties of government is to protect its citizens, "certain fundamental rights" are protected by the Constitution, and thus should be "outside government's reach." To put it more bluntly, government cannot – and should not – be trusted with those rights.

This was bad news for Hizzoner Rahm Emanuel, who along with President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder, have been trying to rewrite America's gun laws during their tenure in power (in the case of Holder, I have called [publicly for his resignation](#), and for Obama, the "[I](#)" word should no longer be off-limits).

Yet, Chang's ruling was just one of many since 2010 that have struck down, blow by blow, key parts of Chicago's gun ban that made it one of the most unfriendly cities in America for gun rights — and, by no coincidence, among the most dangerous for its citizens.

In 2008, the Supreme Court case, *District of Columbia v. Heller*, established once and for all, that the Second Amendment codified an "individual right to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation." Two years later, in a follow-up decision, the high Court ruled in *McDonald v. Chicago*, that the right guaranteed in the Second Amendment applied to local governments as well as the federal government. These two foundational rulings set the stage for a comprehensive and long-term campaign, waged by pro-Constitution organizations, against the city of Chicago's gun laws, and those of the state as well.

Last year, I wrote about the federal Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit striking down Illinois' unconstitutional ban on private carry of firearms, in an

[opinion](#) authored by well-known jurist Richard Posner. Since then, Illinois has been flooded by citizen applications for concealed carry permits—in numbers that dwarf the inflated enrollment figures for ObamaCare in the state.

It appears citizens know which program will really keep them safe and healthy.

However, the lesson here is not entirely about guns. In fact, the real lesson we can learn from Chicago is just how dangerous conditions for liberty can become when we allow government to ignore the Constitution. Years ago Democrats in Illinois decided, for themselves, that the Rule of Law vested in the Constitution was no longer applicable in [modern society](#). They believed, like most of today's Democrats (and some Republicans) in Congress, that unique, modern challenges warranted extra-legal solutions. The result was years of public policy designed specifically to crush individual freedom.

And, the scariest part? The people of Illinois were brainwashed into believing that "modern times called for modern answers," and this was the way "freedom" had to be presented in the "post 9/11 world." Only now, after pro-Constitution groups have spent millions in legal fees, are we seeing the true cost to undo years of wrong-headed laws; not to mention the rights violated, and the lives lost, because liberty was made illegal by Chicago politicians and their enablers in Springfield.

If we are to learn one thing from this ruling in Chicago, it is not that liberals' attempts at gun control are bad and unconstitutional. Americans already know this from watching countless gun crimes committed in ["gun free zones,"](#) or while waiting for the police to arrive as an intruder prowls through their homes. Rather, the lesson is about how constitutional rights are nearly impossible to reclaim fully after being abandoned in favor

of society's understanding of "contemporary" freedom.

So, as we debate the future of gun rights in America, as well as key policy decisions involving our other civil liberties, Americans must reject the claim that our Founding Fathers did not and could not envision the [NSA](#), TSA, local police with [armed drones](#), international terrorism, FISA courts, or no-knock warrants when they drafted the Constitution. They *did* understand, because they truly understood the inherent nature of government and its drive to control the citizenry with whatever tools are available to it, whether those be muskets or drones. We ignore their lessons at our own peril. ✧

Smith & Wesson stops selling guns in California due to microstamping law

Smith & Wesson announced that it will stop selling its handguns in California rather than manufacture them to comply with the new microstamping law. The other publicly traded firearms manufacturer in the U.S., Sturm, Ruger, also said this month that it will stop new sales to California. [READ MORE](#) ✧

Snowmobilers urged to slow down, gear up & have fun

MADISON — Wisconsin's Snowmobile Chief Warden Gary Eddy is urging all snowmobilers to mark the upcoming International Snowmobile Safety Week in two ways: ride with a safety mindset and take a friend snowmobiling. [Read Full Article](#) ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Trout Unlimited under the microscope](#)

The Center for Consumer Freedom — the same organization that exposed the shenanigans of PETA and HSUS — launched a campaign against sportsmen's advocacy groups, exposing them for what they say are "radical environmentalists with a hidden far-left agenda." Dubbed "Green

[Camp Perry wind turbine project halted following threat to sue](#)

One of several wind turbine projects planned for the shores of Lake Erie has been halted following submission of a letter of intent to sue from American Bird Conservancy and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. The two groups had vigorously opposed the project due to its

[Senate panel signs off on guns on Post Office grounds — but not in buildings](#)

A Senate committee unanimously passed a measure to allow people to carry guns on postal service property, but killed a broader push to let gun owners carry their firearms into actual post office buildings.

[Ice cover, snowfall expected to help Great Lakes levels make small gains by boating season](#)

Subzero temperatures plus record snowfall in parts of Michigan and above-average amounts in Great Lakes states are expected to solidify last year's gains in lake levels and, in some cases, help them rise closer to normal levels.

[Landscape: A city lies buried under Michigan's west coast](#)

Buried under sand dunes on Michigan's southwest coast, near Saugatuck, lies Singapore that was a port town until about 130 years ago.

[DoD Plan Would Gut Commissary's Budget](#)

The Defense Department is discussing a \$1 billion cut over the next three years to the commissary's budget in a move that could lead to a widespread closure of stores, Pentagon and industry officials said.

[Feds Cannot Require a State to Carry Out Federal Acts](#)

A number of States are now considering bills to thwart the implementation of Obamacare or legislation to turn off resources like water and power to National Security Agency facilities around the country. The bills seek to direct State agents and employees to stop participating

[Identity mix up: Concealed carry applicant logs in to another's information](#)

Illinois State Police are investigating a computer glitch that's putting some concealed carry applicant info in the wrong hands. When some applicants log in to the website, they're finding another person's photo, address, and phone #, along with other personal info. A Tazewell

[Cleveland traffic camera system unconstitutional, appellate court rules](#)

Cleveland's automated traffic camera system for spotting motorists who speed and run red lights is unconstitutional, the Eighth District Court of Appeals said Thursday. The panel ruled unanimously the system violates the requirement that traffic tickets issued come under

[Great Lakes funding restored](#)

Congressional leaders have announced a new bipartisan compromise budget bill that includes \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for 2014.

[Scientists to go ahead with \\$600K algae study](#)

A new \$600,000 study funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will sample sediment at the bottom of Lake Erie to track various forms of phosphorus and nitrogen believed to feed harmful algal blooms.

[Put Your Information On Obamacare Site And A Hacker Will Have It In 4 Minutes](#)

David Kennedy, the hacker who recently testified before Congress about Healthcare.gov's many security failures, explained during a TV appearance Sunday how he was able to compromise the Obamacare insurance exchange website in fewer than four minutes.

[Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act proposed in Congress](#)

Sen. John Cornyn has introduced the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which is the first pro-gun legislation. He added that the iron is hot since Illinois became the 50th state to allow for concealed carry, after being forced by the federal courts to rewrite

[Deer Hunting More a Sport than Football](#)

Super Star Ted Nugent says outdoorsmanship is on the rise: especially since it was traditionally associated with a more upper-crust segment of society, he described as flaccid with a certain feebleness. In football and baseball you can strike out or miss a catch, if you miss in deer hunting you buy a chicken for dinner."

[Great Lakes see sizable gains in water levels over 2013](#)

The Great Lakes have come closer than they have in years to returning to their long-term average water levels, thanks to 2013's wet weather, according to hydrologists with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

End