

# Fishery Managers Change Pattern of Trout Stocking in Lake Michigan

By Jonathan Eppley

Federal, state, and tribal governments are stocking lake trout in Lake Michigan at two concentrated areas rather than at multiple areas around the lake to help replenish their low population. Lake trout are now being stocked around Beaver Island in the northern part of the lake and at the Mid-Lake Reef area between Muskegon and Milwaukee.

Concentrating stocking sites will promote fish reproduction at a more abundant rate, said Mark Holey, project leader at the Fish and Wildlife Services office in Green Bay, Wisconsin. "If you're going to restore lake trout, the thing you have to do is

stock them," he said. "We're trying to get as much bang for our buck" as possible.

The new management strategy is being carried out by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Departments of Natural Resources from Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

About 71% of the 3.3 million lake trout yearlings transferred annually from hatcheries in Elmira, Bay Mills, and Iron River, Wisconsin, have been sent to the two concentrated areas in each of the last two years, up from 43% previously sent to these areas, Mr. Holey said. The remaining 29% of

yearlings go to stock areas near Charlevoix, Ludington, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and Michigan City, Indiana.

More than 60 years ago when lake trout were the only predator in the lake, he said, they would naturally reproduce 10 million yearlings annually.

The lake trout population in Lake Michigan dropped to near zero in the late 1950s, owing to years of overfishing and non-native species moving into the lake. Mr. Holey said sea lampreys and alewives can be blamed for the depletion of lake trout.

Steve Lenart, fisheries biologist with the Odawas, gave a pres-

entation Saturday, May 2, at the Straits Area Regional Fishery Workshop at Little Bear East Conference Center in St. Ignace to inform the public of the stocking efforts and identify the non-native species affecting lake trout in Lake Michigan.

Lake trout are getting sick from eating alewives, he said, which are a small, herring-like fish that migrated to the Great Lakes from the ocean. When eaten, the alewives produce an enzyme that creates a vitamin deficiency in lake trout.

Lampreys attack the fish from the outside. They are a parasitic, eel-like marine animal with a

toothed, funnel-shaped sucking mouth that attach onto fish, particularly lake trout, and suck their blood, often resulting in death. Lampreys are being controlled by being poisoned in their larval stage with a trifluoromethyl chemical, more commonly known as TFM, Mr. Holey said. The chemical was discovered in 1958 as an effective way to control the lamprey population without significantly impacting other aquatic species, he said.

The lamprey population in the Great Lakes has been reduced by 90% since the 1960s, said Dan O'Keefe of the Michigan Sea Grant Extension.

Mr. O'Keefe gave a separate presentation at the fisheries workshop in St. Ignace about lamprey control efforts. He is encouraging anglers to register online with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to help get an accurate count of the lamprey population in the lakes. Anglers are encouraged to count the number and type of lamprey wounds on fish, or note if the parasite is still attached to a caught fish, and enter the data into an online database at [www.glfsc.org/lampreyhunters](http://www.glfsc.org/lampreyhunters).

The data will be used to raise awareness of where lampreys are and where to target control efforts.

"If enough people get involved, hopefully we can present this information at other workshops," he said. "Hopefully we can get enough people to get some meaningful data."

## Moran Township

### Gravel Pits Grandfathered In; Board Mulls Noise Ordinance

By Mark Tower

Moran Township's board of trustees voted unanimously Wednesday, May 6, to allow gravel pits in the township to be grandfathered in and to sidestep the \$150-per-year fee for a special use permit required by the zoning board.

In the current zoning ordinance, gravel pits are required to report how much gravel is taken out and pay for a special use permit. According to Trustee and Zoning Administrator Mark Spencer, this was never enforced prior to 2004 and, when he requested the fee from the eight pits currently in the township, he received few positive responses.

"Out of the eight letters I sent out last year in May, I received one back with a check and I've received three answers back with 'We've been operating like this for the last 20 years, why do we have to do this now? We don't think we have to do this,'" Mr. Spencer said, quoting some of the responses he received.

Court decisions have largely upheld the right of gravel pits that are established prior to such a law being enforced to refuse paying the fees, as long as they don't expand their operations to new areas.

The township's attorney, Tom Evashovski, agreed that any current operations would not be required to pay the fees or report outtake from the pits, according to Mr. Spencer.

The board decided not to enforce the zoning restrictions on any of the grandfathered-in gravel pits, but to enforce the ordinance with any new operations or if current pits expand to new parcels of land in the township.

Mr. Spencer said he agreed with the board's decision. "These gravel pits are going to become a very big issue," he said.

### Noise Ordinance Draft Goes Back to Drawing Board

The board considered a new noise ordinance Wednesday, but decided to make revisions before voting in favor of passing the new restrictions.

As well as language changes, Mr. Spencer asked that the board request a written statement from the county sheriff's office in which it would agree to conduct any noise measurement in enforcing the ordinance. Board members also agreed that the city attorney should review the ordinance before it is considered.

In the current draft, any noise of more than 60 decibels during the day and 50 decibels at night would be a violation. For comparison, a television at a normal volume from one meter away would be about 60 decibels and a jackhammer at one meter would be about 100 decibels.

The Michigan Townships Association, in its sample noise and public nuisance ordinance, recommends a limit of 55 decibels during the day and 50 decibels at night in residential areas. The sample ordinance specifies sound be measured from property limits, while the Moran board decided to specify measurement meet the manufacturer specifications of the sound measuring device used.

Mr. Spencer suggested a warning be issued before the penalty, listed at "no more than \$500," is levied.

The township has never before had a noise ordinance, although a section regarding noise has been including in the zoning ordinance.

### Bids for Church Repair, Cemetery Mowing Approved

Two bids were accepted by the board; one for repair of Gros Cap Church on Gros Cap Road and one for the mowing of Western Cemetery on US-2 near Brevort.

After receiving a bid for \$257,000 and a letter of explanation for both repair and painting of the church, the board decided to accept the second bid from Sayles Builders for \$4,450 for repair only, and bid out the painting at a later date.

The letter with the higher bid explained that the presence of lead paint at the church made the job much more difficult and expensive.

The board was wary of approving the painting bid from Sayles because of the mention of using stain instead of paint in the accompanying letter. While approving the bid for repair, some board members expressed concern about the final cost of restoring the church.

"In a few years, we're going to realize, 'How much money are we

Turn to page 8: Moran Twp.

## 'Fund the Future' Gives \$40,000 to Cedarville District



Fund the Future organizers (from left) Lisa Dunn, Amy Smith, and Brianna Freel present Les Cheneaux Community Schools Principal Amy Scott and Superintendent Rod Goehmann with a check for \$40,000, Friday, May 1, to go toward the district's projected \$99,000 budget revenue deficit. The campaign has raised more than \$46,000 since December, and has several fundraisers planned over the next several months that are expected to raise the remainder of the funds.

## Lions Clubs Gather on Drummond Island



Members of the Pickford Lions Club (from left) Stanley and Marlene Kennedy sit with Janet and Ernie Hagen, and Bill Kish of the Les Cheneaux Lions Club at the 87th annual Convention of Upper Peninsula Lions Saturday, May 2, on Drummond Island. Club members took part in bowling and golfing, as well as silent and live auction events between Thursday, April 30, and Sunday, May 3. (Photograph by Carol Martin)

At right: District 10 Lions Club Governor Robert Miller stands with Lions Club International Director Beverly Stebbins at the 87th annual Convention of Upper Peninsula Lions on Drummond Island. More than 100 Lions from Michigan attended a Governor's Banquet Saturday, May 2. Ms. Stebbins traveled from Arlington, Texas, to address the crowd.



## Brevort Twp. Considers Wireless Access Towers

By Ryan Schlehber

The Brevort Township board planned to discuss the possibility of erecting towers near Moran for improvements to wireless communications at a special meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 12.

Walter Walsh of Nodi Wifi spoke with the board at its meeting Tuesday, May 5, discussing how erecting two towers in the township, on township-owned property, would provide better reception for cellular telephones and wireless Internet access.

In other business, the board scheduled its annual community clean-up day for Saturday, June 13, at the Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Residents can bring junk and scrap that day to be collected by Waste Management. A&L Iron Company will take

scrap metal. Wade Huskey is volunteering with his excavator to assist the township in loading refuse into the large waste containers.

Refuse that will not be accepted includes tires, chemicals, paint, oil, car batteries, and household garbage.

The St. Ignace Department of Public Works has no plans to unload sludge from its wastewater

treatment plant on 80 acres of property in the township on M-123, Township Supervisor Ed Serwach reported to the board.

Concerns arose when the township received a letter from Synagro Company announcing plans to dump the sludge, but Public Works Director Les Therrian, after a meeting with Mr. Serwach and

Turn to page 8: Brevort Twp.

## EUP Volunteer Firefighters Put Effort in Extra Training

By Jonathan Eppley

Twenty-one volunteer firefighters from 10 EUP fire stations completed five months of training Saturday, May 9, at the fire hall in Kinross to earn their state Firefighter I and II classifications. Volunteers from Pickford Township, Clark Township, Raber Township, Kinross Township, Rudyard, Bruce Township, Dafer Township, Bay Mills Township, Superior Township, and Soo Township completed 300 hours of training, culminating in a 200-question written final test and 12-station practical examination last weekend.

Volunteer firefighters are only required by the State of Michigan to complete class I training within two years of becoming volunteers. Pickford Fire Chief Jim Miller, the instructor of the courses, said his students chose to complete both levels to become more well-rounded and experienced firefighters.

"It's just more in depth. It takes it a little further than Firefighter I," he said. "They've met and exceeded state requirements to be volunteer firefighters in the state of Michigan."

Students met two days during the week and sometimes on Saturdays in Pickford and Kinross

to complete the training. Chief Miller said the classes were moved around so his students could become familiar with different types of equipment used by the different stations around the region.

He said volunteer firefighters are a different kind of citizen and deserve extra recognition.

"It takes a special type of person to be a volunteer firefighter. They don't get paid. They do it because they want to do it," he said. "We had a real good group of people. They are all dedicated and really want to be here."

Students were tested at 12 stations Saturday that simulated actual situations when putting out a fire, including search and rescue, ventilating a building, hooking up hoses, using and examining a self-contained breathing apparatus, tying knots, using ladders, and a speed test where they had 75 seconds to get all their gear on.

"They're going to get run through the gauntlet," Chief Miller said before the tests. "It's going to be a full day for them."

Before the practical examinations, students Arnulfo Ortiz of the Kinross station and Ryan

Turn to page 8: Firefighters

## Families Will Visit Lansing for Star Rally

### Early Childhood Services Are Focus

By Mark Tower

Parents and children from across the Eastern U.P. will lobby state legislators for early childhood education funding at the third annual Star Power rally next week. A group of 29 parents and more than 40 children will be leaving Bridge View Park in St. Ignace at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 20, bound for the state capital.

Heather Bird, the coordinator for the parent coalition in Mackinac County, said the group will discuss autism awareness, cooperative preschools, and funding for breast-feeding education with Senator Jason Allen and Representative Gary McDowell.

The Mackinac County parent coalition is part of the Eastern U.P. Great Start Collaborative, which is funded from the Early Child Investment Corporation (ECIC) and seeks to build support for early child education. Across the state, there are 55 Great Start Collaboratives, which sponsor Star Power with ECIC.

The annual two-day trip includes lunch on the Capitol lawn and an afternoon at a hands-on museum.

"How often do your kids get to play in the state representative's office?" she asked.

Star Power begins at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 21, with a parade of coalitions around the Capitol. The EUP youngsters will carry picket signs during the parade that read, "Invest in Me."

This year's rally is expected to be the largest since it began in 2007.

"This issue is more important than ever as the state makes cuts to balance the current budget and works on the 2010 budget," said Judy Samelson of ECIC. "We cannot sacrifice services for families and children."

The number of Eastern U.P. parents involved has more than doubled since last year's rally, Mrs. Bird said, for which the EUP brought more participants than any other coalition.

"All the parents that are attending are very involved," she said.

The group from the EUP district also plans to bring the legislators gift bags with fudge, maple syrup, and other local treats.

The parent coalitions from Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties partnered with the Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District in chartering a bus, although Mrs. Bird said many parents will be taking their own vehicles.

When not organizing trips to Lansing, she said the Great Start Collaborative partners with the Early Childhood Investment Corporation to discuss local and state issues, publish a monthly newsletter, sponsor advocacy training for parents, and run mailing campaigns in support of early childhood education.

To become a member of the parent coalition, one must be the parent of a child, be a resident of Chippewa, Luce, or Mackinac counties, and attend all coalition meetings.