

## Land O' Lakes Fish & Game Club Photo Winners

Forty seven people submitted 130 photos to a Photo Contest sponsored by Land O' Lakes Fish & Game Club. The winners of the contest were announced at the Club's annual Valentines Dinner at Gateway Lodge on February 14. Tim Gaffney, professional photographer, selected the winning photos.

**CLOSE-UPS OF NATURE**—1st Place Peter Dring from Land O' Lakes – Mayfly; 2nd Place Perry Renberg from Conover - Squirrel; 3rd Place Amanda Sypor from Watersmeet – Water droplets on a maple leaf; Honorable Mention Vicki White from Land O' Lakes - Spider

**WILDLIFE**—1st Place Dave Franzen from Phelps – Ermine; 2nd Place Shelly Ray from Phelps – Cedar waxwing; 3rd Place Alan Piel from North Land O' Lakes – Trumpeter swan; Honorable Mention Dale Buss from Eagle River – White wolf

**PEOPLE AND PETS ENJOYING THE NORTHWOODS**—1st Place Jennifer O'Brien from Jamestown, CO – Man on a sailboat; 2nd Place Gini Waltz from Delafield, WI – Wet dog; 3rd Place Brenda Henderson from Bowling Green, MO - Sledders; Honorable Mention David Palmquist from Watersmeet – Tail wagging dog

**NORTHWOODS SCENERY**—1st Place David Palmquist from Watersmeet – Moon over river; 2nd Place Alan Piel from North Land O' Lakes – Fall colors; 3rd Place Tom Ferguson from Land O' Lakes – Snowy creek; Honorable Mentions David Thompson from Bailey's Harbor, WI – Storm over lake and Vicki White from Land O' Lakes - Fireworks

Winning photos are on display at the Headwaters State Bank in Land O' Lakes.



Cedar Waxwing by Shelly Ray,  
and Fall Colors by Alan Piel.



## LOCAL LOOK Nat. Press for LOL Guitars

Land O'Lakes guitar builder Jeff Ayers has been featured in the March issue of Vintage Guitar Magazine. Ayers' guitars were the focal point of a Builder's Profile that showcased his artistic instruments, and patented innovation called the Internal Resonance System.



"Every guitar builder in the country tries to get their products in Vintage Guitar Magazine, so I was thrilled that they chose me" said Ayers. "Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones is on the cover so this issue will get read by some pretty good guitar players" he continued. "We did the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Show in Nashville

last summer, and got tremendous feedback from some of the best guitarists in the country. Now we are starting to get exposure in the trade publications which is what you need to succeed in the music industry."

## NP Middle School Artists in Exhibit



Left to right: Lainey Vanden Boom, 7th grade - scratchboard; Maddie Blaedow, 8th grade - pencil drawing; Kali Kolehouse, 6th grade - pastel drawing.

These Northland Pines Middle School students' artwork were selected to be displayed in the WAEA (Wisconsin Art Education Association) North Central Regional Art Exhibit at the Marathon County Public Library in Wausau. The exhibit is open to the public from Feb. 11 to Feb. 25, 2012. On Feb. 25, WAEA will sponsor an artist's reception and awards ceremony for all entrants, family, and friends. The middle school art teacher is Bev Niehaus. For more information visit: <http://www.wiarted.org/youth-art-month-2012.html>





Left to right: Gracie Stevens, Leah Simons, Sofia Lane, and Jenny Pyne.

## LOL Youth Art Month 2012

LOLA, along with Artistree Gallery in Land O' Lakes, will once again celebrate National Youth Art Month (YAM) by hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "What Will Kids Imagine Next?" Art Exhibit. This special exhibit will showcase the work of all art students from Land O' Lakes Elementary School.

Art teacher, Amanda Acklam says the children have been working in a variety of media, creating paintings and sculpture, with "critters" as their subject. This show will be sure to brighten the days of March with colorful works. The Land O' Lakes/Conover PTA will also feature their annual greeting card project. Images for the cards were chosen from the "critters" done at LOL Elementary.

Support these student artists by coming to the opening reception on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meet LOLA Board Members, students, gallery artists and celebrate artistic expression! Light refreshments will be served. Held at LOLA Center for the Arts and Artistree Gallery, 4262 County Road B, downtown Land O' Lakes. Show runs from March 10 through March 24. Hours, Wednesday – Saturday 10:00 – 4:00. Contact Wendy at 715-547-3950 for further information.

## Phelps: Spaghetti Dinner & Meeting Space

The Phelps Snowmobile Club will hold their annual Spaghetti Feed on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event will be held at the Holiday Lodge in Phelps and will run from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Cost for adults \$8.00 and children \$4.00. There will be door prizes and raffles during the event. All proceeds benefit the Phelps area snowmobile trail system. For more info call Vicki Andersen at (715) 545-4011 or Dick Schultz at (715) 545 3910.

Meeting rooms available—Rennes Lillian Kerr Healthcare Center in Phelps has rooms available for committee meetings, family events etc. For information call administrator Pete Leer at 715-545-3984 or pete@rennesgroup.com

## Turkey Shoot and Raffle in LOL

Stateline VFW Post 8400 Land O' Lakes, WI is pleased to announce that on March 3, 2012, they will hold their Annual Turkey Shoot and Raffle. The location will be at Club 45 in Conover, WI. Shooting will begin at 12:00 noon and end at dusk and as always women shooters are welcome.

As in the past this has always been an eventful day as competing shooters display their marksmanship using ONLY open sights. There will be prizes, raffles and good food to be enjoyed by all throughout the day. Your participation will benefit all VFW projects.

## USDA Grant to Support Small Food Processors

Eagle River, WI—Wisconsin farmers wishing to add value to their crops, and small businesses that want to expand their markets are delving into manufacture and sale of canned pickles, salsas and other family-favorite products. A new project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will benefit these growing small businesses.

Barbara Ingham, a Cooperative Extension food safety specialist and professor of food science at the UW-Madison, will play a key role in the project recently announced by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Ingham will collaborate with scientists from Wisconsin and North Carolina, state and federal regulators, food processors and others to work on a National Integrated Food Safety Initiative grant to better understand the survival of toxic microorganisms that can survive in acidified *continued next page>>*

## Public Wolf Hunting Bill Opinion

TWA maintains that the healthy population of wolves now found in the state no longer requires the intense protection it once needed. We have supported both the delisting of wolves in the state, and the use of lethal depredation control – positions based on sound science. Since our mission is science-based education rather than advocacy, we neither support nor oppose the public harvest of wolves at this time. However, we do uphold that any public harvest system preserve an ecologically functional wolf population. In addition, any management system incorporating public harvest must proceed in a manner that incorporates broad public input, the best science available, and sound conservation practices. Assembly Bill 502 and Senate Bill 411 fail on these criteria.

The most scientifically questionable points of these bills include:

Restriction of DNR management options regarding the use of zones and closed areas, common practice in many other animal's hunting seasons; A season that begins before pelts are prime, a waste of a natural resource; A season that closes too late, interfering with mating season and population monitoring efforts; Ability to hunt with dogs; which may increase wolf/dog conflicts and dog depredation payments; The introduction of big game night and road hunting, which pose direct human safety concerns; A generalized harvest with little effort to direct harvest towards areas with the greatest wolf depredation problems.

Furthermore, there is little evidence state wolf biologists or members of the DNR Wolf Science Committee were consulted in drafting this legislation. Many entities, including members of the State's Wolf Stakeholders Group, tribal governments, concerned citizens, and the larger scientific community, were not part of the process nor were they informed of the legislation.

The Timber Wolf Alliance's mission is to use education to promote and maintain healthy, ecologically functional wolf populations in the western Great Lakes Region. We have been working for 25 years with state and tribal officials, natural resource agencies, wildlife managers and the public at large to restore, promote and maintain healthy, ecologically functional wolf populations through education. It is in furtherance of this mission that TWA stands in opposition to Assembly Bill 502 and Senate Bill 411.

For more information, visit [www.timberwolfalliance.org](http://www.timberwolfalliance.org), call toll free (877) 543-2085, or follow us on Facebook.

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# BORDER HAPPENINGS

★ Featured in this issue.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • • •

Daylight Savings Time: Mar 11.

## CONOVER • • •

**Kirk's of the North Fishing Tournament:** Feb 25, 8am-3:30pm.

**Lions Club Kids Fisheree:** Denton Lake by Club 45, Mar 11, 11am-3pm. ★

### Conover Transfer Station:

Sat, Sun, and Wed only from 9am to 3pm.

### Conover Post Office Window:

Mon-Fri, 9am-12:30 & 1:15-4pm, Sat 9-11am.

## LAND O' LAKES • • •

**Kids Fishing Jamboree:** By LVD West Shore Boat Landing, Feb 26, 9am-3pm. ★

**VFW Post 8400 LOL Annual Turkey Shoot & Raffle:** Club 45, Mar 3, 12pm. ★

### LOLA Art Center Classes:

**Watercolor Wednesday:** Every Wed. in Jan, Feb & Mar, 10-4pm.

**A.A.:** LOL Town Hall, Sun, 2pm.

### Headwaters Food Pantry:

mtg, Olympic 76 St, 3rd Tue, 1pm.  
**Food Pantry Pick-up:** Olympic 76 St, 1st & 3rd Wed, 8:30-11:30am.

### LOL VFW Post 8400:

VFW Hall, last Tue, 7pm.

### LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

#### Pre-School Story Time:

LOL Library, every Wed, 10-11am, until May. Stories, games, crafts, treats, and more.

**Hours:** M, T, TH, F: 10am-4pm, W: 10am-7pm, Sat: 10am-1pm.

**Drop Stitch Group:** knit & crochet group, LOL Library, Wed, 1-3pm.

### LOL Planning & Beautification

**Meeting:** LOL Town Hall, 2nd Wed, 8:30am. Public welcome.

**Wilderness Lakes Trails:** LOL Chamber building, 4th Wed, 5pm. Public welcome.

### VFW Post 8400 Ladies Auxillary:

LOL VFW Hall, last Wed, 2pm.

### New-U Club:

Headwaters Bank, Thu, 8:45-10am.

### Frosty Snowmobile Club:

LOL Town Hall, 1st Thurs, 6pm.

### Airport Commission:

Land O' Lakes Airport, 2nd Thu, 5:30pm. [landolakesairport@hotmail.com](mailto:landolakesairport@hotmail.com)

### LOL Chamber Meeting:

3rd Thu, 7:30am. Public welcome.

### LOL Collection Site:

Tue 8-3, Thurs 12-4, Sat 8-4.

### LOL Post Office Window:

Mon-Fri, 9:30am-1pm & 2-4pm, Sat 9:30-11am.

## PHELPS • • •

**Phelps Snowmobile Club Spaghetti Dinner:** Holiday Lodge, Mar 3.

### LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

**Movie-My Week with Marilyn:** Mar 14, 2pm.

**Library Hours:** M, T, TH, F: 10am-4pm, W: 2pm-6pm, Sat: 10am-noon. Check us out at [www.phelps.wislib.org](http://www.phelps.wislib.org) or call 715-545-2887.

### Phelps Town Board Meeting:

2nd Mon, 7pm.

### Phelp's Women's Club Meeting:

3rd Mon, Phelps Fire Barn, 1pm. Call Sharon Gifford for more info 715-545-4008.

### Phelps Senior Center Meeting:

Senior Meeting Jan 30, 1pm at Senior Center. Call (715) 545-3983 for lunch reservation 24 hours prior to the meeting.

### Awana:

Twin Lakes Bible Church 3245 Hwy 17 Phelps, every Wed, 5:30-7pm. Ages 3-high school. 715-545-2791.

### Phelps Lions Club:

3rd Thu, 6pm. Call Dick Martin at 715-891-2296 for location.

### Phelps Historical Museum:

Hwy 17 Downtown. Open by app't

only. No charge. Call Jan Petrick for more info, 715-545-2545.

### Phelps Transfer Station:

Sat, 9am-12pm.

### Phelps Post Office Window:

Mon-Fri, 8:30am-12:45 & 2-4pm; Sat 9-11am.

## WATERSMEET • • •

**Live Music-Borderline:** LVD Casino, Mar 25, 8pm.

### Watersmeet Township Board of

**Education Meeting:** 3rd Mon, 6:30pm, unless otherwise noted.

### Northwoods Quilters:

Watersmeet Bible Church, Tue, 10am-9pm.

### Invasive Species Control Coalition

**of Watersmeet (ISCCW):** Ranger District Headquarters in Watersmeet, 3rd Tues, 9am.

### Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings-

Spiritual Center on Transfer Station Road, Tues@7pm Open Topic; Fri@2pm Closed Step; Sat@7pm Open Grapevine (6pm doors open).

### Watersmeet Dump:

Mon, Tues, Thu, Fri, Sat - 8am-4pm.

### Watersmeet Post Office Window:

Mon-Fri, 9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30-4pm; Sat 9:15-10:45am.

## BEYOND THE BORDER • • •

### BOULDER JUNCTION • •

**Snowmobile Cabin Fever Party:** Gooch's A-1, Mar 3, 5-9pm.

### EAGLE RIVER • •

**Klondike Days:** Northland Pines High School, Mar 3 & 4.

### Life Talks:

Olsen Memorial Library-ER, 2nd Tues, 12-1pm. Hosted by Dr. Kate Hospice.

### Vilas Cty Master Gardener's Mtg:

Prince of Peace Church, 2nd Thurs, 7pm. Public invited & has a speaker.

*continued from page 2>>*

foods such as pickles and salsa, and new processing techniques to help ensure the safety of these products.

"This work will bridge a knowledge gap that exists and provide processors with expanded options for processing their products to ensure safety," says Ingham. "Currently, processors of most products have to heat their product prior to packaging for sale, and also ensure some type of post-packaging heating step."

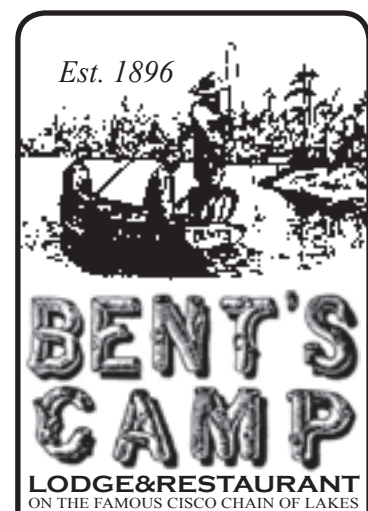
For some products, such as a fresh salsa or a dessert sauce, heating can damage quality. "Most processors now resort to keeping the food item refrigerated, but this limits marketing opportunities. Our work will develop parameters that allow processors to fill room-temperature product into jars, a process known in the industry as cold-filling." The work will also provide information to support the manufacture of foods within a particular pH (or acid) range (pH 4.1 to 4.6).

This information will allow processors to increase sales options. "Our work will expand the scientific basis for critical processing steps in the manufacture of acidified canned foods," says Ingham.

The group will also establish a nationwide training program and web-based resources for processors of acidified canned foods.

"We are delighted to have Wisconsin at the forefront of this work because it will mean that processors in this state will receive the benefits from the research at the earliest possible moment," says Ingham.

To learn more about support for small food processors, visit the Food Safety & Health website: <http://www.foodsafety.wisc.edu>



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Submissions by: February 25, 2012

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# NATURE NOTES Time & the New Year *by Peter Dring*



*Peter Dring is a naturalist, photographer, and was Director of the world renowned Little Red School-house Nature Center for nearly four decades.*

Seasons change; we turn pages on our calendars and begin to write a new annual number on our correspondence. We have marked the end of a year with holiday celebrations and look to a new beginning. Plants and animals mark time too, in ways unfathomable to us.

Different cultures have placed the New Year at almost every season, but all people have marked it as especially significant. A day near the winter solstice, as we have chosen, is a logical division point as the sun has reached its southern limit and begins its slow path back north toward spring and summer. The renewal of growth in spring is another likely place to mark beginnings.

Whatever the date chosen, the annual turning of the seasons through one complete cycle is an important natural marker of time. A year, or more particularly a full cycle of seasons, is very important in the lives of most creatures. Plants and animals respond to the natural calendar of longer and shorter days, warmer and colder temperatures, and the other weather changes that the seasons bring.

The average life span of people makes a year important to

us. Other creatures, if they could think in such abstract terms, might find the year more or less significant. To a small bird, that undertakes an annual migration of several thousand miles only a few times during its short life, a year might be of gigantic importance. On the other hand in some tropical areas, where conditions change little through the year, an annual division might go practically unnoticed.

Another major marker of time is the 'day'. Whether they prefer daylight or darkness creatures must make adjustments to each day's cycle. In the temperate zone changes in the length of light and darkness are also a major part of seasonal change. Unfortunately for people who like things to be mathematically neat, days do not fit perfectly into years. To keep our New Year's Day from creeping around the calendar into another season we have had to invent leap years and other adjustments to our calendars.

A third astronomical cycle that marks time for us is the monthly change of the moon. While the lunar cycle is visually significant, it has little real effect on our lives. Still, the mythology and culture of most peoples have attributed major effects to the phases of the moon. Some rural folks still faithfully plant potatoes according to the sign of the moon, and we all know how the full moon affects those unfortunate souls called werewolves. Originally a month was intended to mark the passage

of one lunar cycle. Because there is no real connection between the revolution of the moon around the earth and that of the earth around the sun, lunar months and solar years make a very poor match. We see about twelve and a half lunar cycles each year, so our months have been stretched to fit evenly in a year.

A seven day week, derived from cultural history instead of nature, is the most arbitrary of our time divisions and does not match well with either months or years. Hours, minutes and seconds are based on the division of the circle described by one daily rotation of the earth into 360 degrees, and while mathematically neat they are also arbitrary.

One way of looking at time on a large scale is that it is simply a playing out of endless cycles. One theory holds that even the begin-

ning and ending of our universe are only parts of a cycle lasting billions of years.


"We're captive on a carousel of time," from an old song, but Walt Whitman wrote, "To think of time, To think of today and the ages continued henceforward..." Is time like a circle or an arrow"? If it is a circle then why can't we cut across to travel back and forth in time? However one looks at it, the passage of time is a major preoccupation of people, marking out our brief span on the earth.

As said by someone, "Time flies



1st place photo, ermine in winter coat, by David Franzen (see cover story).

like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana. Every calendar's days are numbered." and "Ever since the invention of the calendar man's days have been numbered."



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## PALATE PLEASERS The S's of Wine Drinking *by Kris & Mark Gostisha*



Kris and Mark Gostisha, of the Forest Lake Country Store, share their passion for the gourmet and the unique.

Beginning wine drinkers can be overwhelmed by the varieties of red, white or blush wines. You may have a certain wine you always drink. Like an old friend, you are comfortable going to the same bottle for your wine drinking pleasure. But what if you want to increase your circle of favorite wines?

When you drink wines, the wine industry will sell you on the idea of five S's of wine drinking. It is not hype; it will definitely help you identify wines that you like or dislike and help you understand why you appreciate certain wines.

Begin your lessons with a pocket size notebook and a sharp pencil.

Label each page with a wine you taste. Include the winery name, the vintage, and any other specific information you may find on the label. Some wine drinkers go as far as saving the entire bottle label!

The five S's are See, Smell, Swirl, Sip and Savor. These are very important techniques to enjoying wine. It appears that the 5 S's are used only for show, but the more you try it the more you will learn about wines and hopefully the more you will enjoy wine.

When you See the wine you want to examine the color of the wine. Do not just look at the wine from the top or the side. Pick up your glass and look at the edge of the wine, hold the glass up to a bright light or sun filled window. You will see the depth of color in the wine. In some red wines the edge may even have a brownish tinge to the color. Take your notebook and jot down anything you

see about this wine.

The next S is smell the wine. Put your proboscis right in the glass and give a hearty whiff. Even leave your mouth open a little and suck the wine thru your nose and mouth at the same time. What do you smell? The range of possible odors is astounding. Close your eyes and think of memories the smell may kindle. Smells like fresh mown grass. Smells like licorice in the hot sun, smells like ripe red cherries. Use your imagination and catalog the smells in your notebook.

Next is the swirl. Put the base of the glass on a flat table top, press your fingers over the base and swirl the wine in the glass. Two things happen. First you are exposing more wine surface to oxygen. Technically you are volatilizing the wine molecules with oxygen. In layman's terms you are "opening up" the wine. As the air hits the surface of the wine it adds incredible depth to the flavor. The second thing that happens, at least with red wine, is that some of it will cling to the sides of the glass. Some people will call this "legs". The longer the wine clings to the glass the more tannin you will find in the flavor. This is also a good time to go back and Smell the wine.

The next S is my favorite. Sip the wine. Get a little wine in your mouth and move it from the front of your mouth to the back. Move it from side to side. Let all of your taste buds enjoy the flavor of the wine. Do not be bashful. Move the wine around and give it a good test ride! Add to your notebook what you are experiencing.

When you finally swallow the wine you will get a minute for the last S—savor the wine. How long does the taste last in your mouth? When does the taste finish? Does the taste get better after the swallow?

Give the wine another swirl, and another sip and another savor. Continue to take some notes. Every wine will change a little with time. It is important to remember these nuances of each wine. If you find one that gets incredible after a half hour, when you plan to entertain you can open the bottle a half hour before dinner and from the first sip your guests have a WOW factor!

Remember your notebook. Take good notes and refer to them often. You will find wines you like and wines you will not buy again.

So those are the S's that the wine industry extols. There are a couple others you may want to remember

as well!

Search. Look for opportunities to try new wines. Look at wine web sites, local shelves in the stores or wine lists at restaurants. See what other people have learned about wines and the flavors and aromas they find in the wine. Remember there is no right or wrong answer.

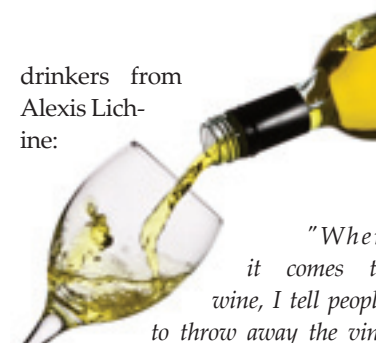
And the best S is Share. When you find a new best friend in a bottle, share it with your best friend.

Here is a great quote for wine

drinkers from Alexis Lichine:

*"When it comes to wine, I tell people to throw away the vintage charts and invest in a corkscrew. The best way to learn about wine is the drinking."*

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# From the PASTOR'S WINDOW by Pastor Skip Pullen



Skip Pullen is a pastor with Village Missions, serving two churches in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan—the Watersmeet and Bruce Crossing Bible Churches.

One of my favorite animated films is "Up". The story is about an old man who has lost his wife and is about to be removed from the home in which they spent their lives. He plans to fulfill their dream of going to Paradise Falls in South America, when onto the scene comes Russell, a wilderness explorer scout, who is looking to get a merit badge for helping the elderly. Through a series of events which I won't go into here (you'll have to see the movie), they end up in the jungles of South America. As they trek to Paradise Falls, Russell goes through the typical traveling kid clichés. "I'm tired. My knee hurts. Are we there yet?" My favorite line is when they are spending their first evening out and Russell sets up his tent for old Mr. Fredrickson. He doesn't have it quite right and a moment later the poles spring out, sending the tent flying away. Russell dejectedly sits down and laments, "Tents are hard!"

Sometimes we can feel like Russell when it comes to the Christian

life and serving others. We can have an idea of how things are supposed to go together and then they can fall apart. When they do, we can feel like failures, which in turn can become self-pity. Isaiah 49:1-4 says, "The Lord called me from the womb; from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God."

Like the servant in this passage, we can have a sense of God's call and power in our lives, yet deal with frequent feelings of frustration and futility. We do this vital work with God's amazing resources, yet we come away feeling we have accomplished little or nothing. At these times, we can grumble and complain about our lot in life. We may not whine openly, but God sees it in our hearts. Reality isn't measuring up to our ideals. We may feel our only reward is with God in eternity. Part of our problem is that we can have a wrong expectation. We can view spiritual work like production work, where if we do A plus B, we

will end up with C. Possibly a better illustration can be in comparing the carpenter with the farmer. The carpenter controls the saw, hammer, and other tools. There is no delay; he sees the immediate results of his work as he builds. The wood and other building materials have no life of their own, so the results are primarily from his skill and hard work. Spiritual work is more like that of the farmer. The farmer can influence the growth of the seeds he has planted. He can plant, fertilize, weed, and water; but there are a host of other variables at work, such as the weather, pests, and even God. Because the farmer is dealing with living things, he cannot directly shape the

growth, only influence it. We cannot force people into the kingdom of God, nor can we force its principles upon them. We can only work hard to influence their growth. Yet let's never miss how valuable that hard work is when we invest in others to produce even small gains towards the things of God.

Does the Christian life seem hard right now? Don't give up. Listen to the words of Paul who said, "Therefore, my beloved brethren,

*ren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58). "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Gal. 6:9). While the results of your spiritual labors may not be what you thought, or happen when you think, they are not in vain. Don't grow weary in well doing. When Life is hard, look up, and keep your eyes on Jesus Christ. Know I'm praying for you.*

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## IN 'DA WOODS Woodland Potpourri *by Melanie B. Fullman, US Forest Service*



Melanie Fullman works for the U.S. Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest, Bessemer, MI; and has also been stationed in Alaska, Idaho, and Washington State.

In rather constant preparation for these articles, I now save tidbits of other publications, emails, and conversations about natural phenomenon. Sometimes, I don't really have enough material for an entire column but the news is still interesting (to me, anyway). So this week's edition is a compilation – a potpourri basket of small wonders. I'm hoping you find them intriguing and not wondering why I saved them in the first place.

### WIZARD IN TRAINING

Do you like online games and birds? The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is in the process of creating

a new kind of bird identification tool. Public answers to common bird ID questions will enable their computer to learn what we think birds look like.

This 'Merlin Project', funded by the National Science Foundation, uses artificial intelligence software along with data from citizen birders. The goal is to improve the ability of the general public to successfully query a database of all North American birds – a "What bird was that?" app perhaps – just by answering a few key questions.

When I took the multiple choice 'test' (a mere 18 questions) for their Mark My Bird game, I was shown a photo of a bird, then asked how big it was, what colors I noticed, how long its beak was, etc. It was fun, lasted just a few minutes, and resulted in a Nashville Warbler! I also tried-out the Bird Color Challenge, a quick paced game where

I was shown a bird photo for just 5 seconds, then asked to recall the 3 most prevalent colors. There are no rights or wrongs, just birds.

Go to [www.allaboutbirds.org/labs](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/labs) for these exercises and other nifty bird stuff. Oh, and be sure to 'tweet' your friends!

### EMERALD ASH BORER

Good news! Another summer of those funky triangular purple insect traps failed to collect any emerald ash borers in the western UP. Unfortunately, the Mackinac Bridge Wood Products Inspection Station was forced to close last fall due to budget cuts. The firewood-quarantine, however, continues. That law prohibits the movement of firewood from most of the Lower Peninsula into the UP. In addition, both the States of Michigan and Wisconsin remain committed to enforcing their respective quarantines to prevent the further spread of this pesky, non-native, and significantly damaging insect.

EABs, native to Asia, have already killed or damaged 30 million ash trees in Michigan. The larvae live and feed undetected beneath the bark of ash, making any piece of ash firewood a potential vehicle for accidental transport. Firewood that "looks OK" could, in fact, be carrying thousands of little EAB larvae. Almost 10% of the Ottawa National Forest is ash and there's no native way to control them if they arrive, other than cutting down ALL ash trees.

Individuals or businesses found violating the Michigan EAB quarantine are subject to fines up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in jail. Additional information about EAB and a map of the quarantine boundaries are available at [www.michigan.gov/eab](http://www.michigan.gov/eab) or [www.emerald-dashborer.info](http://www.emerald-dashborer.info).

### COLD, DAMP, GRAY DAYS

Speaking of trees, I was inspecting a logging operation the other day. The day was overcast but warm by our standards – in the mid-20s but very DAMP. I remarked to a colleague that I always feel colder on a gray day with high humidity than I do on a gray day with lower humidity, even if the air temperature is exactly the same. "Me, too", he said, which got us both wondering... Why??

The answer involves the cellular structure of air. Cold moist air feels colder than dry moist air because moist air has a higher specific heat than dry air. For those that might be unfamiliar with, or forgot the

term 'specific heat' immediately after your last high school chemistry test: specific heat is the amount of energy that it takes to change a given substance by a specified temperature. Water is able to carry more heat energy than air, which means wet air carries more heat energy away from our skin than dry air. More energy lost results in a greater temperature drop, so our skin and lungs feel colder.

It might help to think of this as strictly energy transfer. Our bodies have receptors that measure the temperature of our skin and tissues. Our skin is warmed by our blood and cooled by outside air. If the cooling is rapid, skin temperature drops.

In addition, wet air can remove more heat from our skin and lungs faster and with less convection. And while density of the air has little to do with this feeling (moist air is actually less dense than dry air), it increases the number of molecules hitting us every second.

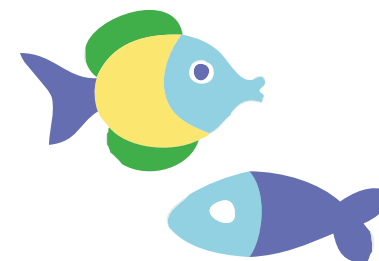
Oddly, it's the same reason hot moist air feels hotter than hot dry air. Kinda weird to learn that a hot muggy day in August is caused by the same physics as a damp, cold, gray day in January!

## Lions Club Kids Fisheree '12

The annual Kids Fisheree hosted by the Conover Lions Club will be held Sunday March 11, from noon to 3 pm. on Denton Lake, located off Old Highway 45 in Conover.

Bait, predrilled holes and some fishing equipment will be provided by Northern Waters Angling & Archery of Conover. The largest fish caught will be mounted and donated by Lax Taxidermy in Conover.

The Fisheree is open to children ages preschool through 14 years old. All participants will be required to register Sunday before the start of the event at Club 45 Sports Bar & Grill. Food and beverages will be available at Club 45. For more information, call 715-479-6673.



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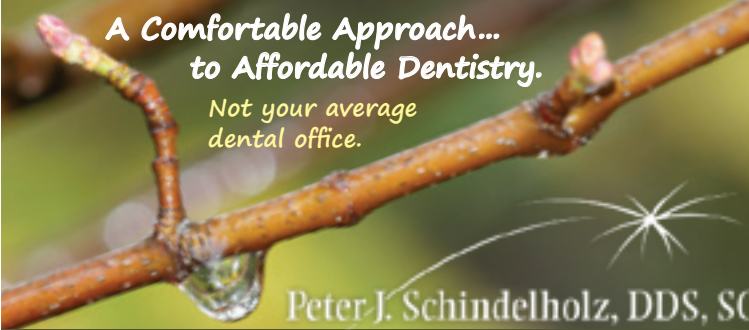
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