

abiding citizen \$100? When did it become practice to charge a citizen for what is granted him by the constitution of this state and country? Our rights, no matter which one, should not be charged. What will you support next? Charging a fee for our right to vote?

Why should concealed firearm permit holders be subjected to stricter alcohol levels than those driving an automobile?

I do agree that Michigan does need concealed weapons reform now, but it needs reform that is not full of governmental fees and hoops that honest citizens have to jump through.

GARY T. DUDA, *Richmond*

More on Fees, Stands

It's unfortunate that our senior citizens are being asked to pay more for their licenses. Most of our seniors are living on a fixed income that was established by a low income, long before most of us ever entered the world. I'm appalled at the taxes that senior citizens pay in Michigan. Some of our seniors have paid off their farms and homes a long time ago, but they cannot afford their property taxes.

I'm 34 years old. I believe that people who live to be seniors should be able to have some breaks in their lives.

I'm in the military and have been fortunate enough to travel around the world twice and to cover several states. Regarding hunting from tree stands, the rules are a bit different in every state and country. In Germany people are allowed to hunt from platforms that are between 12 and 15 feet off the ground. But before one can hunt he or she is required to take a hunter's safety course that's "40 odd hours" long. In Illinois, people are entered into a lottery for each county. If they are selected to hunt that county, they have an option to hunt from a stand or the ground.

I've archery hunted in Michigan for years, remembering safety, whenever climbing in or out of the tree stand. I also hunted in Illinois using a tree stand. When I first arrived at my stand last year, there was an individual 10 yards directly in front of my position. I approached him and we talked. Would you believe he moved? Which one would move in Michigan?

No matter where I have been, safety has been the main issue.

MICHAEL W. KUEHNLE,
Fairview Heights, Illinois

A Different Belief

My sister and I have a father who is an avid hunter. We question the idea of hunting. Why do you find it enjoyable to kill animals? Wouldn't you rather see the animal running around in the wild than its head hanging on a wall? We know that some people enjoy being out in the forest to enjoy nature and hunt, but we do not see the joy in being out in the forest pulling the trigger to kill the animal that others with different beliefs would be marveled to come upon.

The idea of trapping animals also makes us shiver. Just think: If that animal was the mother of babies, and she was out to get food for them, she might become caught in a

trap, and her helpless babies would die. My sister and I believe that people should think twice before setting a trap or shooting an animal.

ELIZABETH AND LAURA PADALINO,
Grosse Pointe Woods

Rating Baiting

I've read and listened for about four years now about how you're not a hunter if you bait deer. I've done both. I was more successful not baiting than baiting. I bait so when I sit in my blind I can see deer. They know the bait's there, and are much more cautious and alert than when they are in the woods along a runway or next to a cropfield.

If somebody doesn't agree with what I have said—that it's a lot easier to get a deer without bait—I welcome you to hunt with me. I will show you how difficult it is to get a deer.

About tree stands: There are at least 300,000 bow hunters in Michigan who hunt from a stand. If there were going to be a problem, we would have already had one with them.

BOB CAMPBELL, *e-mail*

Are Warblers Worth It?

I read "Warblers Worth Saving" by Ann Bailey Dunn with some interest. The Kirtland's warbler has very specific habitat needs: jack pines. Ms. Dunn states that lumberjacks cut down the jack pine. I doubt that was the case, as jack pine wood is considered useless in most references I have read. I believe that due to species competition, jack pine was never prevalent in Michigan forests. It also has never been valuable in regard to particleboard and paper, as stated in the article.

The Kirtland's warbler has been so specialized that it has never had a large population, but has always been endangered.

We spend a large amount of money to save a species that, due to specialized needs, has endangered itself. The question begs asking: Is this a wise use of resource dollars or should we just let nature take its course?

DEAN GRABOSKE, *Roseville*

(Editor's note: While the reader raises some valid points, jack pines are used in particleboard nowadays.)

The True Hunters

When all that we hear about is how bad some hunters are, I am telling you about how good two hunters, Randy Kutschall and Paul East, are.

Three years ago they asked permission to turkey hunt on my property located north of Higgins Lake. I refused their offer of payment after their successful hunt, but they sent me a thank-you letter with a Gander Mountain gift certificate attached. This year they were successful again, and I found a case of beer with a "thank you" note on the front porch of the lodge house. Needless to say, they will always be welcome, simply because they are what true hunters are really like.

JIM NEERING, *Flushing*

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