



PRACnet: One Useful Tool by Jeff Price

Member and PRACnet Moderator

Our membership e-mail list server, “*PRACnet*,” now provides for the exchange of professional information and thought between 152 individual subscribers out of PRAC’s current 208 members. Since its inception in April 2000, *PRACnet* has transmitted 2,412 discussion messages, job opportunities, professional training alerts and current Board activity updates to member subscribers.

If you are one of the 56 PRAC members reading this who are **not** already subscribed to *PRACnet*, you are really missing a great benefit. Drop us a note webmaster@calranger.org or visit <http://www.calranger.org/members/yahogroup.html> for more information. (**Note:** Look for your new password when you re-subscribe as a PRAC member in 2008.)

We care about your privacy and protection on *PRACnet*. To that end we do not allow attachments to prevent potential virus spread, we employ a strong **spam** filtering system to block unwanted posts, and we only allow confirmed PRAC members to subscribe.

If you are currently subscribed, here are some hints on making *PRACnet* a more useful communication tool:

Post job opportunities or planned agency training opportunities yourself directly on PRACnet by sending an e-mail to PRACMembers@yahogroups.com.

Don’t reinvent the wheel; if you are starting a new project, ask other members if they have already been down the same road.

Members agree to abide by several rules of “*netiquette*” such as only sending personal opinions, information or links pertaining to the profession. Your Moderators assure compliance.

Alert members to professional issues or threats to our parks, so others can provide support.

Prevent Endless Message Loops; If you are going to be away and plan to set an “auto reply message,” please let us know in advance so we can place your account on temporary hold. If you don’t, there is a potential for that message to loop hundreds of times before we act to delete it. One way around this hassle is to subscribe to *PRACnet* using your personal e-mail address, leaving your work address free for “auto reply messages.”

If you change addresses, let *PRACnet* know so we can update.

A note regarding our membership; PRAC currently has 8 Associate, 11 Honorary, 162 Regular, 4 Retired, and 23 Student members. PRAC also has 23 agency memberships from 16 small and 7 large park departments. Thanks to all for your support!

It is has been my pleasure to serve as your Moderator on *PRACnet* over the past four years. Helping me are Mike Chiesa and John Havicon as backup Moderators. Please ask when you have a question and pass along any suggestions for improvement to us at webmaster@calranger.org.

From the President's Patrol Truck

This will be last article I write as the President of PRAC. After the new president is elected I will move into the role of past president. The position of past president is a non elected voting position that the former president resides in until the current president is replaced. As I enter into the past president position I will offer the knowledge and experience I have acquired over the last six years to help guide the new president. A role that I am very excited about.

I want to take just a moment to thank some people for their guidance and support. First I would like to thank Mike Chiesa for letting me jump into the role of president with both feet and provide just enough guidance to help me to become a better president. Next I would like to thank Tom Smith (Smitty) for pulling me aside after each conference and giving me the pat on the back that boosted my confidence. I would like to thank David Brooks for always giving me the extra day after the deadline to get my article in. A big thanks goes out to Jeff Price for always offering advice just when I needed it. A special thanks to our office manager Marcia Joyce for always having the information I needed and providing it to me in such a timely manner. I also would like to thank the current and past board. It's easy to delegate when you have a team that is enthusiastic and supportive. Lastly, I want to thank the membership for putting me in a position to lead.

So, enough with the mushy stuff and let's get down to business. Can you feel it? The end of 2007 is near and 2008 is bringing us back to Tahoe. That's right; the 2008 conference is approximately four

months away. The conference will be held March 31 through April 3, 2008. This is one month later than we traditionally have it. The CPC will be held at the Embassy Suites in Southlake Tahoe. The rooms come with a full buffet breakfast and all you can drink happy hour. The conference team has been doing their best to stay on schedule so that you will have the best experience possible. If you missed the Tahoe conference in 2003, you definitely don't want to miss it again. If you would like more information you can contact Pam Helmke at region2@calranger.org.

At the General Membership meeting it was brought to the attention of the Board that PRAC could save money and paper if we went to an electronic newsletter. Discussion ensued and it was a consensus of the Board that we would let the membership decide on how we should proceed with this issue. So I would like to hear from all of you via email. If you would like an electronic version of the newsletter as opposed to the traditional paper copy let me know via email at president@calranger.org or take the opportunity to hear what the other members have to say by using PRACnet at PRACMembers@yahoo.com.

The Board is looking into purchasing liability insurance for the association. This is to protect the Board and the association from any legal matters that should arise.

We are still looking for nominations for the 2008 Honorary Ranger award. If you have a person that would like to nominate contact a board member in your region. Check the website at www.calranger.org



It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.

Ansel Adams

From the President's Patrol Truck

(Continued from previous page)

for information on how to nominate someone.

One of the duties of the region directors is to provide two trainings during their term in office. These trainings are offered to PRAC members at a discounted rate and most of the time they are related to the Generalist Ranger Standards. In November I had the opportunity to attend the PRAC Search and Rescue training that was hosted by the Region 1 Director Matt Cerkle. The cost of this training for PRAC members was \$15 and Matt had a packed house. The four hour training provided information that refreshed my knowledge on how to do a hasty search in addition to teaching some new techniques such as tracking and how to approach a vehicle without destroying clues that may help you in determining direction of travel. The training was a mix of lecture and hands on field experience. Nice job Matt!

Marie Fong PRAC's Region 6 Director also provided a couple of trainings' that unfortunately I was unable to attend. All of the PRAC hosted training's are posted on the website at www.calranger.org.

Before I bid my final farewell I would like to correct an error that was brought to my attention by my Chief in regards to the "Lybarger" warning. In the last issue I stated that if a supervisor comes to you and starts asking questions about an

event that could lead to punitive action, you should stop and contact a union representative immediately. If your supervisor orders you to answer questions without a representative present you are protected by the "Lybarger" warning. The correction I want to make is that the "Lybarger" warning only applies to peace officers. However, there is a case pending where a non peace officer tried to use the "Lybarger" warning for his protection. I will keep you posted in a separate article on the outcome of that case.

It has been my pleasure to serve all of you and I hope to see you at the conference.

For the last time,

Lee



Meth Lab Awareness

by Marie D. Fong

As meth labs and their associated hazards continue to impact parks and public lands in a variety of ways, increased awareness of the inherent risks is of ever-increasing importance to the outdoor professional. This September, Region 6 was privileged to host a Meth Lab for Beginners Training Course presented by Paul Donald of the Washoe County Health Department. Designed to increase awareness of what methamphetamine is and the hazards associated with a meth lab, the training course covered the drug's history, its physiological effects, chemical and physical properties of homemade meth ingredients with an emphasis on household chemicals and equipment, which was supported with scenarios determined by locally processed labs. With formal methamphetamine-focused training opportunities often unavailable, alternative learning tools are becoming more accessible and comprehensive, especially for park rangers.

For an amazingly in-depth look at methamphetamine and its history, author Frank Owen's *No Speed Limit The Highs and Lows of Meth* published 2007, offers a fascinating read. The book's jacket says it all:

"Hells Angels and televangelists. Cross-country truckers and suburban mothers. Trailer parks, gay sex clubs, college campuses, and military battlefield. Frank Owen traces the spread of methamphetamine-meth from its origins as a cold and asthma remedy to the stimulant wiring every corner of American culture.

Meth is the latest "epidemic" to attract the attention of law enforcement and the media, but like cocaine and heroin, its roots are medicinal. It was first synthesized in the late nineteenth century and applied in the treatment of a wide range of ailments. By the 1940s meth had become a wonder drug, used to treat depression, hyperactivity, obesity, epilepsy, and addictions to other drugs and alcohol. Allied, Nazi, and Japanese soldiers used it throughout World War II, and the returning waves of veterans drove demand for meth into the burgeoning postwar suburbs, where it became the "mother's helper: for a bored and lonely generation.

But meth truly exploded in the 1960s and '70s, when biker gang cooks using burners, beakers, and plastic tubes brought their expertise from California to the Ozarks, the Southwest, and other remote areas where the drug could be manufactured in kitchen labs. Since then, billions of dollars have been spent by federal, state, and local governments to battle meth. Murders, violent assaults, thefts, fires, premature births, and AIDS-rises in all of these have been blamed on the drug that crosses classes and subcultures like no other.

Acclaimed journalist Fran Owen follows the users, cooks, dealers, and law enforcers to uncover a dramatic story being played out in cities, small towns, and farm communities across America. *No Speed Limit* is a panoramic, high-octane investigation by a journalist who knows firsthand the powerful highs and frightening lows of meth."

Included in this issue of *the Signpost*, is Jonathan Schechter's article, *Explosive Epidemic*, recently published in *Parks and Recreation-October 2007*, reprinted with the permission of the author. The article not only clearly illustrates the very real danger that the clandestine labs present, but also proactive techniques for protecting your property. Jonathan's article includes learning links at nrpa.org/p&r where a supporting section provides techniques on how to "walk your land," learning to identify potential meth hazards, as well as attractants to potential problems.

For those who have not yet dealt with meth in any of its far-reaching consequences within their parks or region, these resources will provide a basic knowledge which may serve as a first alert to the nature of the incident. For those with limited knowledge through expertise, the understanding that meth is a constantly changing challenge, with constantly changing hazards, effects, and social implications, these current resources should provide some helpful updates. The goal of these resources is to keep everyone safe and alert to the complex challenges methamphetamine creates.

Spotting a Meth Lab

It's critical that park personnel understand the hidden threat to active and abandoned clan labs. What do you look for that might tell you there is trouble cooking, that an actual clan lab is in your jurisdiction and that it could have booby traps and armed defenders?

- Evidence of unusual chemical odors in isolated areas.
- Propane tanks with fittings that are blue-tinged.
- Fortifications on abandoned buildings.
- Discarded cold medication containers for drugs containing ephedrine or pseudo-ephedrine.
- Laboratory equipment, such as beakers, stoves and funnels.
- STP, Heet Containers or Red Devil lye.
- Large quantities of stripped Lithium batteries.
- Hydrogen peroxide, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid or iodine.
- Plastic bottles with hoses attached.
- Large number of matchbooks minus match strikers.
- Red-stained coffee filters.
- Red phosphorus road flares.
- People stepping outside of out-building to smoke.

Ranger News and Updates

by Matt Cerkel

2007 is coming rapidly to a close and even though some might call it the slow season for rangers things haven't slowed down. In earlier November PRAC and the Marin Municipal Water District hosted a *Basic Search and Rescue Management* course that was attended by over two dozen rangers from across the state. I heard nothing but positive feedback from those that attended the course. I look forward to organizing additional quality training next year. The same day of the SAR training a major oil spill hit the Bay Area. Rangers from the National Park Service, State Parks, Marin County Open Space and perhaps East Bay Regional Parks were kept busy with beach closures, clean up and mitigation. During the oil spill emergency a local Marin newspaper with a history of "ranger bashing" tried to portray NPS rangers in a negative light, when a well-intentioned, but misguided, park user trying to help with the oil spill clean-up forced a confrontation with rangers after ignoring three lawful orders to leave the beach that was posted closed due to the spill. The article was also online and some of the comments made about rangers clearly show how little some members of the public know about rangers. To me it illustrates why we as rangers need to do a better job educating the public about what rangers do and that there needs to be statewide standards on ranger duties and authority. In Southern California, the NPS, State Parks and MRCA have been kept busy with repeated fires in the Santa Monica Mountains. Finally, in Bay Area ranger news on November 20th ten new park rangers graduated from their training and started patrolling Golden Gate Park the next day, congratulations to the new rangers.

On the national front two serious incidents have recently occurred that are good reminders of the seriousness and dangers of being a park ranger. In early November the Minneapolis Park Police Officer Mark Bedard, 34, was hit by a Minneapolis Police squad car while chasing suspects who may have been involved in a shooting. He suffered broken bones and serious internal injuries. Officer Bedard died of his injuries a few days later; he was a 12 year veteran of the park police. He left behind a wife and 2 year old son. Police eventually arrested two suspects. Meanwhile on December 1st at Abiquiu Lake, NM, a US Army Corp of Engineer (USACE) park ranger was shot. The ranger, Alfred J. Chavez, 51, was on patrol when he noticed a lock and chain that secured a pump-house gate was broken. When he went to investigate, he was "met" by two men leaving the pump house. Chavez asked the men what they were doing, and one of them took a handgun from his waistband and fired two shots at him. Chavez told investigators he heard one round pass near his head and the other struck him just above the right knee. Chavez had to "crawl away from his attackers." Chavez was flown to University Hospital in Albuquerque. He has since been released. The FBI is investigating the incident. At the present time, USACE rangers are not issued defensive equipment or body armor. As they often say in the Academy there are no routine calls, so be safe.

Hope you all have a wonderful Holiday Season and New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Park Conference at Tahoe or a PRAC training in 2008.

What Makes a Park?

by Sara Girard, Park Ranger

Adding a new park to your agency presents a dichotomy to determine which type of park it should be. Some people think of a park as acres of manicured turf with attractions such as playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, picnic shelters and barbecue pits. Others believe a park should remain as an open tranquil area from which to observe nature and the only amenity should be a trail system for mountain bikers, equestrians, hikers and bird watchers.

Public opinion is a huge factor to consider as every type of user group lobbyist will try to stick their thumb in the pie. Planners must survey what types of users will frequent a new park and analyze their desires to spend time there. In the ever-growing world of cookie cutter homes without backyards, a neighborhood park that offers a safe place for kids to play and for their dogs to crap could be the best choice. Conversely, for a community with a large population of working adults or seniors with limited quiet getaway time, providing a sanctuary of open space may be the wiser selection.

Planning a park to meet the needs of all races and socioeconomic classes is a challenge. In Southern California the diverse population makes this particularly difficult. Museums, tranquility gardens and polo fields may appeal primarily to the influential highbrows and politicians. Swimming pools, soccer fields and volleyball courts would probably accommodate a greater variety of users. These are important choices and not easy decisions.

We all know funding is often the deciding element. Even when funds are allocated to establish a park there can still be a controversy when there are parking fees or charges for attractions to sustain the facility. Many people feel strongly that their parks must be entirely free to use because that's what their tax dollars are paying for.

When final plans are made, a new park should be a place that will preserve natural resources while providing recreational elements for a significant slice of the population.

Explosive Epidemic

“Stumbling unaware onto a meth lab in your park is a deadly mistake.”

by Jonathan Schechter

(Reprinted with permission of author, Originally published in Parks and Recreation October 2007)

Before the paramedics reached the emergency room they knew “Dave” would be permanently blind. Charred skin hung from his arms, face and upper torso. An endotracheal tube used to open his airway protruded from between swollen lips. A quick assessment by the trauma team at the emergency department revealed much more: shattered ribs, collapsed lung, bruised heart, ruptured eardrums, damaged spleen and small jagged metal fragments imbedded in his thigh, skull and groin.

It would take three months before Dave would recall what happened, but the conservation officer who arrived at the emergency trauma bay a few minutes behind the ambulance had witnessed the thunderous explosion when she neared an abandoned storage shed with light smoke coming from behind one of its boarded windows: Dave had an accident while cooking. And in a plastic baggie full of ice, wrapped in cloth, she carried something else she found—Dave’s severed right hand.

Dave was a methamphetamine, or meth cook. He is just one of the many cooks that set up their labs, or “kitchens,” on public land. Some labs are well hidden in the backcountry; others are highly mobile kitchens in car trunks, vans or modern campers and trucks of all sizes. The danger to parks that unknowingly host these vehicles or stationary clandestine labs is extreme. Meth is more than a dangerous and popular illegal drug; it is a lurking epidemic, a chemically hazardous scourge in rural areas, locations where the odor of narcotics cooking on the stove may go unnoticed—unless it blows up.

The good news is that highly volatile kitchens that produce meth and just a few years ago overwhelmed rural and suburban communities, bringing new dangers to park and forest lands are becoming less common as ingredients to make methamphetamine become more difficult to acquire.

But clan labs still operate in parks, perhaps in the old building you meant to tear down, the storage shed near your picturesque kayak portage or that recreational vehicle that is always parked way back in the long-term loop.

More likely than not, you have stumbled unaware into warning signs of a clan lab. Debris from meth labs can be found along our hillsides, creeks, roadsides, meadows and woods. A trash bag full of matchbooks missing their red phosphorus strike pads is a red flag. If you find dozens of empty cold medicine packages outside a remote trail cabin, it is not likely the occupant had one very bad cold. Not recognizing meth-related items—much of it having ordinary household uses—can cost you dearly.

As overall clan lab numbers decrease, cooks continue to favor public lands, and with good reason. Public lands are not subject to forfeiture if the lab is discovered; a fact discovered long ago by east coast Marijuana farmers who made large tracts of public land their pot-growing lands.

The problem of countryside clan labs in recent years became an epidemic in Kentucky according to narcotic officers. The problem was so widespread, a “Walk Your Land” program had been initiated, encouraging homeowners to take inventory of their land and search for household items that appear to be trash but may be part of illicit meth production. Missouri had

a similar epidemic. Mark Twain National Forest—a beautiful Ozarks landscape, a land blessed with spring-fed rivers and streams, pastoral views, rocky bluffs and second-to-none back country trails—had a not-so-secret secret: abundant meth labs.

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri’s Eighth District did not mince words in her 2003 press release. “Here in the Eighth District, we are lucky to have nearly all of the 1.5 million acres of Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF). Unfortunately, with that honor goes the dubious distinction of having a forest that has been besieged like no other public land. Sadly, our forest has had more meth labs seized than all other national forests in the United States combined.” Records indicate 324 labs and dump sites were found in 2000 alone.

Funds earmarked by Emerson for the MTNF went toward cooperative law enforcement agreements with local sheriff’s departments and the South Central Drug Task Force, a multi-jurisdictional drug task force. As of August 2007, the situation at Mark Twain has greatly improved, with only five meth labs and dump sites located this year. According to Mary King, assistant special agent in charge of the Eastern Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service, “The law enforcement program on MTNF now consist of three special agents, one patrol captain and six law enforcement officers. Other initiatives include the procurement of a K-9 handler and a drug detection dog assigned to the MTNF. This is a critical mission to keep our forest safe and free of illicit drug activities.”

“Charlie” is a woods-wise Appalachian sheriff’s deputy in the mountains of North Carolina. His shotgun is always present. He has witnessed the rise and partial fall of clan labs in his rugged patrol territory. He did not hesitate to list some simple but important advice on approaching meth labs:

- Don’t touch it.
- Don’t smell it.
- Don’t taste it.
- Don’t turn on a light switch.
- Don’t turn off a switch.
- Don’t do anything with it.
- Never confront anyone.
- Turn and walk away.
- Call law enforcement.

Charlie, like many in law enforcement knew the problem of clan labs scattered across the countryside started with over-the-counter cold tablets. He says the turn-around started with the restriction of the medicine, a small inconvenience that has made a huge difference.

Two years ago Michigan State Representative Rick Jones, the recently retired sheriff of Eaton County, authored a state bill to control the easy distribution of pseudoephedrine.

When his bill and the Combat Meth Act, a federal law that requires retail stores to keep medicine coating pseudoephedrine and ephedrine behind the counter and requires customers to show identification, took effect, change was dramatic. The U.S. Department of Justice said, “States that enacted similar or more restrictive regulations have seen a dramatic drop in clan labs.” Jones added, “Before the legislation passed, an illegal drug maker could walk into the corner drug store and

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buy a grocery bag full of medication. Within one year of the law taking effect, the Michigan State Police reported that meth labs were down 65 percent in Michigan.” New statistics from the Drug Enforcement Agency show a 58 percent drop in national numbers to 7,347 meth labs and abandoned sites seized last year by agents and police. In 2003, 17,356 sites were seized. The ground truth is clear: trying to make meth without pseudoephedrine is akin to baking bread without flour.

But just what is meth?

Meth is a highly addictive drug first synthesized in 1919 by a Japanese chemist. During World War II, it gained a degree of notoriety as a powerful stimulant used by the German Army. Today, narcotics officers look at meth labs as the ugly brothers of the marijuana farms because of the extreme environmental dangers the clan labs present.

The dangers of meth are two fold.

For users: The body is slowly destroyed with high doses damaging blood vessels in the brain, which causes strokes and death. Meth users quickly go on binge and crash cycles, lose extreme amounts of weight and suffer severe exhaustion and frequent depression. Because the body develops a tolerance for meth, users crave more, leading to higher dosages.

The cycle continues with impaired judgment, psychosis, anxiety, and severe aggression. In this stage, “tweakers” will take the drug continually for two or three days, not eating or sleeping. The tweakers’ intense cravings and delusions often lead to unpredictable, explosive violence. Some are so delusional that they will tear at their own skin, exposing tendons in search of non-existent bugs. The overall physical appearance of a chronic user is nothing short of devastating: teeth rot and fall out, skin becomes leathery and wrinkled and open sores appear.

For non-users: your park staff, back country hikers and hunters, trail riders, wildland firefighters, forest rangers and conservation officers, an unexpected encounter with a meth lab or a meth lab trash heap can be figuratively and literally explosive.

Figures indicate approximately 20 percent of meth labs are discovered when they burn down or violently explode. This is not surprising considering that meth cooking combines flammable, explosive, reactive and toxic liquids with open flames. When the cook is poorly educated, sleep-deprived, paranoid, desperate and under the influence of drugs while working in less than optimal lab conditions, the results are disastrous.

The reactive hazards and resulting chemicals released to the air present extreme life hazards to all who enter the area. If your park field technician opens the door of an apparently abandoned sugar shack to investigate the cat urine-like odor, the investigation can turn into a tragedy. Acute exposure to a meth lab can cause instant shortness of breath, chest pain, dizziness, lack of coordination, chemical irritation, burns to the skin, eyes, nose, mouth and lungs, and in some cases, instantaneous death.

Additionally, these labs create a second hazard, waste. For every pound of meth produced, five to six pounds of hazardous waste end up on the soil and in rivers, damaging flora and fauna, necessitating moon-suited hazard materials teams to do the tedious and extremely dangerous clean up. A mobile lab rollover accident is a nightmare. One of the chemicals

that must be dealt with is anhydrous ammonia, or AA. AA is raw ingredient in one common type of meth production, as well as a common farm product.

At a meeting of the Great Lakes Parks Training Institute in Angola Indiana I met with undercover narcotics officer Dan Mawhorr of the Indiana State Police Clandestine Laboratory Team after learning of a meth lab in a recreational vehicle parked in a popular Indiana State Park. He emphasized the dangers of AA and its use in meth production. Human exposure to AA causes blindness, suffocation, caustic burning and instant tissue freezing.

Mawhorr worked a case in which a 1,000–pound AA tank had been stolen. When it was recovered, the tank, still holding 800 gallons of AA, was found with 35 smaller compressed tanks. Much of the AA was stored illegally and moved at high risk, in 20-pound propane tanks in coolers duct-taped closed. AA illegally stored in propane tanks will turn the valves blue-green with corrosion. And the tanks can easily explode and kill. Unfortunately, parks are often used as tank dump sites to avoid detection.

If you suspect a meth lab or dump site, do **not** approach or investigate the site. Leave the area at once and contact your local police or designated emergency responders. If it can be done safely, cordon off the area to protect the public. Make it policy that if something seems wrong, police professionals investigate, rather than the park maintenance staff.

Federal laws and enforcement may be reducing the numbers of clan labs across the country, but demand remains. In California alone, 19,000 users of meth take part yearly in a “treatment instead of incarceration program” and national drug intelligence figures show a rise in first time use of “crystal” meth by young adults. The DEA sees an additional trend: Organized crime and Mexican drug cartels are stepping in to fill the production gap. The U.S. Forest Service and their special agents are preparing to face the increased challenges of smuggling of illegal drugs across National Forest Service lands. (Through a memorandum of understanding with the DEA, the Forest Service assumes a lead role for enforcement on NFS lands.)

In the beautiful Sonoran Desert of Arizona, all is not well at the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Their web site warns of armed drug runners and states: “All back country areas are closed to both hiking and overnight use until further notice.” Their heavily armed rangers are on the front lines of a drug war, and are struggling to hold the line as drug trafficking moves into the desert wilderness. The visitor center is named after Kris Eggle, a young National Park Service Ranger killed on duty pursuing members of a drug cartel hit squad.

Some law enforcement officials believe a battle against organized crime in the meth world will be less hazardous and more effective than searching out and destroying small-scale clan labs. Others aren’t so sure. But one thing is certain: The world of clan labs remain a clear and present danger for park users, enforcement officers, the cooks, the users, and for you, the park professionals who must continue to increase the awareness of your staff. No park is immune from meth.

The author would like to thank Michigan Rep. Rick Jones, the Indiana State Police Clandestine Lab Team, the Michigan State Police and the Eastern Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service for their invaluable assistance in contributing to his article.

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