



April 2009



Beaver Island Wildlife Club

P.O. Box 497 Beaver Island, MI 49782

Volume 2 Issue 1

Update on 2008 Hunting Season and Events

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club held its annual Hunter's Dinner at Nina's Restaurant.

This also concluded the rifle raffle and the winner was Jared Pike! Other winners of items were John Haggard-an engraved knife and GPS, Anita Erber- an engraved knife, Jon Bonadeo and Mike Piechocki- knives.

The Big Buck contest was won by Denny Hoover. His 9 point Big Buck scored out at 92 4/8 points. Congratulations to him!

Last summer the Wildlife Club conducted its annual Deer observation survey on the island. 2008 showed a Buck/Doe ratio of 1 to 2.5. Previous years showed higher ratios ranging from 1 to 4, to 1 to 10!

During the fall Rifle season, club members manned a deer check at the Beaver Island Boat Co. dock recording deer taken from Beaver Island. The results were 77 deer checked, 29 does and 48 bucks. Most of the does were in the 2.5 to 3.5 year range.

The oldest doe checked was 6.5 years old. Of the bucks checked, there were 1- 9 point, 9- 8 points, 2- 7 points, 10- 6 points, 7- 5 points, 9- 4 points, 6- 3 points, 3 spikes and 1 button buck. The Wildlife Club encouraged hunters to let the spikes go and it looks like most did.

Recently there has been discussion about decreasing the number of doe permits issued this fall. The wildlife club is recommending 250 private land and 200 public land be issued.



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Chronic Wasting Disease and the Baiting Ban

Dr. Jeff Powers, DVM and Wildlife Club president, continues to work to remove the baiting ban from the lower peninsula and specifically Beaver Island.

Last fall, just prior to hunting season, the state of Michigan instituted a baiting ban (feeding ban) in the lower peninsula after a penned deer from a deer farm in Kent County tested positive for CWD. Since then the

DNR has tested over 9000 deer during deer season and found 0 (zero), no cases of CWD in the wild population, even in the counties surrounding Kent and where the farm was located.

However, NRC commissioner Keith Charters said the ban will remain in effect for at least another 2 years while testing continues.

Dr. Powers believes that to be extreme when other

states with documented CWD in the wild herds maintain winter feeding programs and allow baiting during hunting season.

Beaver Island deer herds were adversely affected by the winter feeding ban and the larger coyote population. Deer numbers are down and many carcasses have been sited around the island. We had a severe winter with record snowfall and lower temperatures than normal.

We'll keep you updated on this.

Upcoming Events

- Spring Turkey hunt begins April 20th.
- April 15th- training for designated agents for DCCO control efforts.



Turkey Season Coming Soon!

Did you get your Turkey license yet? It's not too late. Over the counter and online licenses are still available for the spring Turkey Hunt.

Our turkeys faired well over the winter and we have plenty for the hunters to practice calling in this spring. If you haven't tried Spring Turkey Hunting, you should. It can be exciting and tremendously rewarding.

The DNR is offering incentives for people wishing to create food plots for the turkeys on Beaver Island. Contact Don Tritsch if interested.

Cormorant Control Measures on the Island

Dr. Jeff Powers and Representative Kevin Elsenheimer have been diligent in their efforts to promote more control over the cormorant population. Powers has been asked to testify at the Michigan Senate to convince them to provide additional funding for cormorant control. Kevin Elsenheimer has met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife service officials on the same topic.

Last Spring, the Wildlife Club hosted a Cormorant meeting on the island and showed those attending the damage these birds can do to habitat.

Pete Butchko, director of Michigan Wildlife Services pledged \$139,000 to

controlling the cormorant. Hopefully, the federal government will also see the value of controlling the cormorant population and add some funds to this amount.

Recent discussions with USDA Wildlife Services Tony Aderman have centered around a control program similar to that in place in the Les Cheneaux Islands. Harassment reinforced with some lethal control measures, as well as increased management efforts by the wildlife services personnel will be carried out this spring and summer. Bob Tidmore will coordinate the efforts of the Wildlife Club.

Walleye of Genesereth

For the past three years, the LTBB Natural Resource Division has surveyed Lake Genesereth for its walleye population.

In April 2008, they used Electrofishing along the shoreline and Fyke nets in the middle of the lake capturing and measuring Walleye 14" or larger. They were marked, released and then a week later another capture was made. Based on their data, they estimated the population of walleye on the spawning grounds to be approximately 1400. A large number of the fish caught were males, but a significant amount were

unknown sex. Few females were captured.

Overall, it looks like there is a decent walleye population in Lake Genesereth. They seem to be attempting to spawn but may not be real successful at it yet.

Walleye fry will be sent to the island this spring for restocking in Lake Genesereth.



Michigan Will Allow Crossbows!

In March, the NRC voted to allow the use of crossbows for hunting in Michigan. The new regulations would allow crossbows for any season, large or small game, and by anyone 50 years of age or older. Limits include the velocity (no more than 350 feet per second). A crossbow stamp will be required in addition to hunting licenses for those using crossbows within the state.

Membership

Would you like to help the wildlife club fund its many activities? Join now:

Youth (under 16): \$5

Adult one year: \$15

5 year: \$50

Lifetime: \$200

Would you like email updates from the Wildlife Club? Yes No

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