



April 2010



Beaver Island Wildlife Club

P.O. Box 103 Beaver Island, MI 49782

Volume 3 Issue 1

Wildlife Club Alive and Well!

Yes, The Beaver Island Wildlife Club is alive and thriving.

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club has been in existence since the 1940s. It was organized for charitable, scientific and educational purposes.

Upon review, there is a thread that moves through the years: everything takes time and moves slower than we hoped and every project requires hours of physical labor and/or conferencing.

Our concerns include the Double Crested Cormorant (DCCO) overpopulation and its effect on the smallmouth bass fishery; establishing a

walleye fishery in Lake Genesereth to augment fishing opportunities; habitat for whitetail deer, grouse and turkeys; management of whitetail deer; and management of the wild turkey population.

Our first voiced concerns about the DCCO were in 1995. The USDA Wildlife Service became involved in 2006 along with our first public hearing on Beaver Island with the State Legislature. Because of the undying efforts of the Wildlife Club, the Beaver Island Archipelago is now slated to receive the state's largest depredation order in 2010. Data has

By Lois Williams

shown that this type of control in the Les Cheneaux Islands has seen a return of their perch fishery. We hope to see the smallmouth bass fishery recover in much the same way. This was only accomplished by countless hours of commitment on the part of our members and many trips by our president, Jeff Powers, attending meetings in Lansing. DCCO control in addition to our club's successful effort to get the opening of the smallmouth season changed to July 1st in 2001 will add to the recovery of the fishery.

The concept of walleye rearing began in 2000. (continued on pg. 3)



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Wildlife Club Hosts DNRE Visit

The Wildlife Club invited DNRE Wildlife Division supervisor Tim Ries and senior wildlife biologist, Brian Mastenbrook to hold a meeting on Beaver Island. (Wildlife Division Chief, Russ Mason was unable to make it at that time). The meeting focused on deer and habitat management with a little Cormorant control

thrown in. Brian presented information regarding the past antlerless permits issued and estimated buck harvest data collected by DNRE and Wildlife Club volunteers. The trend in permits purchased and harvest has been downward for both does and bucks. Beam diameter and antler points shows an increasing trend.. with

the exception of 2009. Brian also presented several scenarios of population growth based upon differing potential population sizes.

Brian also presented information about the forests of the island. Of interest was that a lot of the forest is old... and our deer, turkeys, grouse etc... need young growth.

The meeting was well attended.

Upcoming Events

- *Spring Turkey Hunt: May 1-30*
- *Monthly Meetings: 2nd Thursday 7 p.m. St. James Township Hall*
- *June 28- Forestry and Wildlife Management Symposium- Beaver Island Community Center 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

Fall Turkey Hunt Is “Most Likely” On!

At the same meeting with Tim Ries and Brian Mastenbrook, turkeys were discussed. Why can't we be designated a separate unit from Unit J? It was then mentioned that Unit J would not be having a fall turkey hunt, including Beaver Island. There was discussion about convincing the powers that be to reconsider this for Beaver Island. Brian and Tim convinced Russ Mason to reconsider and it is “most likely” that the NRC will approve Beaver Island as a separate unit status and the fall turkey hunt will once again be on. Stay tuned.

Cormorant Control

The Wildlife Club recently sponsored training for deputies in harassment and killing of Cormorants. While they haven't returned in full force as of the first of April, they are on their way. We currently have about 15 deputies. If anyone else would like to volunteer, please contact Jeff Powers. The techniques involve flash-bangs, boat chases and other methods to chase the birds off Lake Genesereth and out of the harbor. Most likely some volunteers will be tapped to help with efforts this summer by the USDA Wildlife Service to lower populations of Cormorants.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Much has been happening this winter about which we would have liked to keep members informed. We only have about 30 email addresses from our 100 members. Would the rest of you with emails please send them to me at

jacquel@tds.net?

Write “Wildlife Club” and your name in the subject line and I'll have your emails.

What you missed were updates on deer management issues and a survey on monkeysurvey.com. We want to hear from you and want to keep you informed about events as they happen!

Peaine Township Passes Resolution

Peaine Township passed a resolution at its March meeting supporting a Deer Management Survey on Beaver Island. It reads:

1. Whereas: Beaver Island recognizes a need to actively manage natural resources, and;
2. Whereas: Whitetail Deer are recognized as the top game species in the state, with over 1.2 million licenses sold in 2009, and;
3. Whereas: Hunting related tourism is an important component of the Beaver Island Economy and can play an increased role in the future, and;

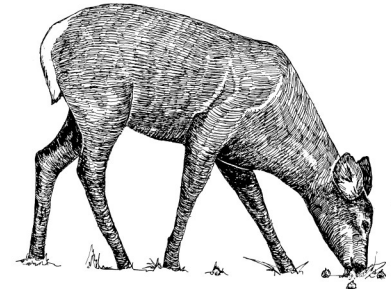
4. Whereas: It is believed that a significant reduction in the size and quality of the Beaver Island deer herd has occurred in the past few years, and;

5. Whereas: Prior to developing a plan to manage deer, the Island must first obtain sound scientific and factual information:

6. Therefore be it resolved:, that the Township of Peaine supports a survey to be conducted by the MDNR, in cooperation with the Beaver Island Wildlife Club, the Natural Resources and Ecotourism Commission and the Beaver Island Conservation Club, to document the current composition of the Beaver Island deer herd, including sex ratio,

age distribution and total population:

7. Be it further resolved: that the survey information and relative scientific and factual information be used to develop a strategy for subsequent years.



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

Email: _____

NAME

Address : _____

City/
State _____

Zip _____

Return to:

Beaver Island Wildlife Club

Attn: Treasurer Mark LaFreniere

P.O. Box 103

Beaver Island, MI 49782

Wildlife Club cont'd

The pond became a reality on property on lease from Jon Fogg. The first fry were released in the pond in 2003. Four members rose to the challenge and spent 10 hours a day for 5 days shaping a half acre hole in the ground to fit the requirements. Twenty-two volunteers showed up to put the liner in place and 16 students with Jim Gillingham finished the work with shovels and rakes.

Habitat for wildlife has always been high on our list. We requested clear cutting as early as 2000 but it wasn't until 2006 that the first clear cutting was done near camp #3. According to Brian Mastenbrook, the DNR would like to do 100-150 acres per year. In 2005, the last time we had a DNR officer here to do deer checks, he told us he was going to push for timber har-

vest. In 2003, the DNR sponsored materials for 8 acres of food plot planting. We have encouraged private owners to establish food plots on their acreage.

When it comes to management of white-tail deer on the Island, even the experts disagree but most do agree that Island management is uniquely different from mainland management. In 2005, we sponsored a QDM discussion at Peaine Township Hall. Perry Russo, North Central regional director spoke. The club decided to implement a volunteer effort to encourage non-harvest of small bucks in a campaign to "let him go, let him grow". Some landowner deer hunters have implemented their own regulations to take only bucks with 3 points on a side. The consensus was to keep QDM voluntary. To help the DNRE we

have organized data gathering of the deer through deer surveys by driving the island roads and checking deer, again volunteers doing the work.

Wild Turkeys were reintroduced in 1995. The population is now estimated at nearly 800. We now purchase and distribute nearly 10 tons of corn each winter. Volunteers feed them all winter.

Last November, we celebrated our first annual Harold Lounsberry Memorial Hunter's dinner. Proceeds of the dinner are matched and given to the school's scholarship fund.

So, the Wildlife Club, comprised of many volunteers, continues to work hard to manage and preserve the island habitat and wildlife as it has for almost 70 years.

Food Plot Program from the Wildlife Club

The Wildlife Club has discussed new procedures for assisting landowners with food plots. Rather than the \$300 per acre that has been paid in the past, the wildlife club will buy lime and provide it to the landowners who have been pre-approved by the wildlife club to create food plots. Other qualifications will require a soil sample so that accurate amounts of lime can be added (potentially 1-2 tons per acre), seed re-

quirements that include at least 50% perennials and types to provide food for the deer when it is most needed (winter/spring).

Anyone wishing to get started on this should contact Phil Wyckoff (231-448-2874).

Wildlife Certification

The DNRE is considering a Wildlife Certification program that would include both private and state land in an area. The NRETC and Wildlife Club believe we should be involved with the development of the program for Beaver Island. Anyone wishing to read the Private lands Deer Cooperative Certification (some components which may be included in the Wildlife Certification) should email jacquel@tds.net and I will send you a

NRETC to host Symposium

The Natural Resources and Ecotourism Commission (NRETC) plans to host a Forest and Wildlife Management symposium June 28 on Beaver Island. This all day event will feature speakers in the morning and discussion groups in the afternoon. The topics for this symposium will focus on Beaver Island forests and how our wildlife uses those resources. Some of the wildlife included in the discussions will be whitetail deer, grouse and turkey. The discussion groups will address key issues regarding management of those resources. There is the possibility for field trips to

specific habitat types the day before and/or after the symposium.

The NRETC is working to develop an island wide management plan. The symposium is open to the public and will be held at the Beaver Island Community Center 9a.m.-4 p.m.

More information will be posted on the Beaver Island forum and the local newspapers as it becomes available. Emails will also be sent to club members (who have sent me their email addresses!).

Walleye Pond

The walleye pond is now being filled in preparation of the arrival of fry near the end of April. Beaver Island Electric hooked up the electricity and Doug Tilly got the pump going. It is anticipated that it will take about 30 days to fill the pond.

The pond will be seeded soon with material designed to grow the food the young fry need. We have used soy bean meal and manure in the past, but it has also been suggested to use yeast..

The fry will be released into the island's lakes this summer.

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