



April 2011



Beaver Island Wildlife Club

P.O. Box 103 Beaver Island, MI 49782

Volume 4 Issue 1

Open meeting with DNR and NRC



On April 11th, the BIWC hosted a meeting between the community, the DNR and members of the Natural Resource Commission. John Madigan and John Mantovich, both commissioners with the NRC, Russ Mason, DNR Wildlife Division Chief, Rex Ainslee, DNR Supervisor of the Northern Michigan management Unit and Brian Mastenbrook, DNR Wildlife Biologist for Beaver Island were in attendance. Dr. Jeff Powers, president of BIWC started by giving an overview of the deer management plans and current practices on Beaver Island including data collection. The BIWC is asking for Antler

Point Restrictions of 3 on a side to be instituted on the island this fall. Powers also talked about the Wildlife Certification plan put forth by the BIWC to the DNR (see related article) and cited the economic benefits to the island from the plan.

Brian Mastenbrook, reinforced the points made by Powers, emphasizing the need to continue and to improve our data collection practices perhaps with a camp survey. He also pointed out the economic benefits of hunting and fishing to the community.

Russ Mason then discussed the Wildlife Certification pro-

gram and QDM from the DNR's perspective. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts and the extension of the WC to include nongame species as well. The DNR sees its role as providing assistance to landowners, technical oversight and assistance, financial support and to coordinate volunteers working on state land. Realistic goals need to be set and local needs and conditions need to be considered.

Powers then read letters of support from Erin McDonough (MUCC) and Don Tritsch (BIWC).

During the question and answer portion of the evening

Board of Directors

President:
Jeff Powers

Vice President:
Tom Kludt

Secretary:
Bob Tidmore

Treasurer:
Mark LaFreniere

Newsletter editor:
Jacque LaFreniere,

Directors: Phil Wyckoff, Bill Detwiler, Doug Tilly, Gary Morgan, Don Tritsch, Bruce Beaudoin

By Laws Revisited

In January, the BIWC revised its by-laws, basically cleaning them up some, changing some of the terminology (Chair to President for example), combining sections that were scattered about.

Major changes include the mission statement:

The BIWC is organized exclusively for charitable, sci-

entific, and educational purposes, more specifically to preserve all fish and wildlife throughout the Beaver Island Archipelago. (underlined sections were the changes added)

The terms (from 1 year to 3) for the board members

And the maximum number of board members, changed to an odd number (10 to 11).

The Budget was also discussed noting that in 2010 we spent \$11,801 on projects but only brought in \$8044 through memberships and raffles. The 2011 budget projects \$9950 in expenses on projects and \$10,900 income through memberships and raffles. Big Ticket categories are deer (food plots), Turkey (winter food) and cormorant control (ammo, oil etc.)

Upcoming Events

- *Monthly meetings: second Thursday of the month. 7 p.m. St. James Township Hall*
- *May- General permit, turkey hunt on Beaver Island!*
- *Memorial Day- BIWC raffle tickets on sale.*

Committees

Finance Committee: Mark LaFreniere, Jeff Powers, Tom Kludt, Phil Wyckoff.

Cormorant Control: Jeff Powers, Don Tritsch, Phil Wyckoff, Gary Morgan, Bill Detwiler, Bob Tidmore

Turkey Management: Mark LaFreniere, Bruce Beaudoin

Walleye Stocking: Tom Kludt, Doug Tilly, Bob Tidmore

Wildlife Certification/APR: Jeff Powers, Tom Kludt, Don Tritsch

Deer Data collection: Phil Wyckoff, Jacque LaFreniere

Food Plots: Paul Johnson, Phil Wyckoff

Raffle Winners

Rifle Raffle– Rifles: John Haggard and Mike Thompson. Trail cam: Mary Rose Birch (who also won a knife). \$100 Gift Certificate to Jay's: Walstroms. Other knives and hatchets: Keith Webster, Jeff Stone, Bruce Wildie, Chuck Marshall, Mike McDonough and Bill McDonough.

The 2011 raffle will be renamed the Beaver Island Wildlife Club Raffle and tickets will be on sale earlier– Memorial Day. So far on the list are a 270 Savage, Nikon Binoculars and a Garmen GPS, assorted knives and other prizes. Raffle will be held Nov. 13 during the dinner.

We're on Facebook!

BIWC is on Facebook! A great way to keep in touch and see what the club is doing. There will be photos and updates on projects, membership information, hunting notes and more! Keep in touch on the wall!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/manage#!/pages/Beaver-Island-Wildlife-Club-Beaver-Island-MI-49782/190943384280936>

Want to contact the wildlife Club? Email us at

biwildlifeclub@hotmail.com

Wildlife Certification Draft Outline

I. Purpose

- A. Provide a template for establishing a collective focus on selective wild-life and their supporting habitat through collaborative effort.
- B. Defines a framework for community support and necessary guidance by Michigan DNR and other relevant divisions.

II. Benefits

- A. Encourages native species proliferation within limits of habitat and management goals. Examples currently in place include: Walleye rearing pond and stocking Lake Geneserath and Fox Lake in 9th year, Wild Turkey winter feeding

B. Provides long term conservation improvements.

C. Encourage resident ownership and pride in their environment. Examples include support of wildlife food plots.

D. Positive impact to Island economy.

III. Scope

- A. Initial– Beaver Island Private and Public lands, including the Archipelago and its waters.
- B. Eventual– expand to include Garden Island, etc.

IV. Management

- A. local– Beaver Island Wildlife club working in partnership with other interested island groups such as

the BICC, NRETC, township governments and others.

B. State– working in close partnership with the Michigan DNR, MUCC etc.

C. National– potential partnerships with other organizations to facilitate the achievement of goals, examples include QDMA, Ducks Unlimited, etc.

D. Period– Two year time horizon with periodic detailed review of objectives and results.

E. Funding– self funding through community groups and individuals, fund raising efforts and partnership with other organizations

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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

Meetings with the DNR and Nature Conservancy

On Feb. 15, the Nature Conservancy, through the NREC held a planning workshop on the island. Also in attendance were BIWC, DNR, Tribal Biologists and others. Three topics were discussed: Emerald Ash Borer, Invasive Plants and Deer Browse. A quarantine on bringing firewood to the island was discussed, as well as pallet treatment. The spread of invasives by logging, homeowner landscaping and the local awareness of invasives was also discussed. In discussion about deer browse, public opinion, hunting pressures and carry capacity were all mentioned.

On March 24, Brian Mastenbrook attended the BIWC meeting. Antlerless permits were suggested of 300 on private, 200 public. Habitat work was dis-

cussed in particular, the private land turkey food plot program, adding some more red oaks to the island, working on state land— Black Hills Clearing perhaps to be done this year. Future habitat work such as non commercial aspen cutting on public land, opening maintenance and oak plantings on state and private land were all mentioned with the aspen cutting listed as high priority.

Beech trees— some are resistant. DNR is taking cuttings and working on this as MSU.

Commercial logging was also discussed but the problem is a lack of market and cost of logging on the island is a problem.

Mandatory deer checks were also a top-

ic discussed. Thought was to add a camp survey to the data collection then send out a yearly report generated from that data. Unless there is a CO on the island, the likely hood of everyone bringing their deer in to be checked is low.

APR (antler point restriction), which will be a topic with the NRC/DNR, was discussed to exempt youth 16 and younger for all seasons.

One Buck limit— neither the NRC nor the DNR can make this determination. Only through the state legislature changing law can this be accomplished.

Wildlife Certification con't

V. Activities

A. Identification of focus wildlife and definition of their supporting habitat.

1. Population and inventory and condition of relevant habitat and wildlife species.

A. assessment of soils and forage base thru testing and food plot work, currently there was 50+ acres of food plots planted in 2010.

B. Assessment of White-Tailed Deer population

i. Biological deer harvest data analysis.

ii. Island wide driving surveys for population assessment.

C. Monitoring of walleye stocking efforts using resources of Tribal Biologists interacting with MDNR and local organizations.

D. Monitoring of loon nesting activity and chick survival rates for 35 years.

2. Define realistic target management goals and measurements.

B. Determine detrimental (non-native) competition and improvement factors to focus wildlife and their habitat. Examples: deer, turkey, small mouth bass, common loons.

C. Develop and implement action plans as required to reach management goals using sound scientific methods as recommended by DNR oversight and participation.

1. Cormorant control efforts currently in its 5th year. A joint effort with BIWC working with USDA-WS to reduce cormorant impacts throughout the Beaver Island Archipelago.

2. Institution of APR as a component in the development of a QDM program.

VI. Outcomes

A. certification by DNR that sound principles and conservation efforts are being applied to improve focus animals and their habitats.

Membership Renewals

.Please check your address label.

There will be a date or LT (lifetime) on the label to show when your membership is due.

Your membership dues help to support all of the many projects of the Beaver Island Wildlife Club. Please renew now!

Trees

The BIWC has the opportunity to obtain trees for planting on the island. In the spring, the Conservation Resource Alliance in coordination with Saving Birds Thru Habitat are facilitating the project of Wexford Sand Co. as part of their carbon mitigation program. The club picked up 40 trees (red oak, red osier dogwood, ninebark and jack pine) for distribution on the island.

Also, the DNR is offering red oaks with a 50/50 cost share which they hope to get over this spring as well.

2010 Deer Season Data

2010 Antlerless permits: there were 300 available, 248 were sold.

2010 Driving Survey: This year's driving survey logged 31 bucks, 301 does and 265 fawns. The number of fawns was up from 60 in 2009. This number probably reflects the relatively mild winter and dry spring 2009-2010 which allowed optimum births and survival rates.

2010 Harvest Data:

There were 17- 1.5 year old deer checked last fall (4 does, 13 bucks). The average number of antler points was 4

(3.9) and the beam diameter was 18.6 (highest recorded in 7 years). There was only 1- 2.5 year old deer (buck) checked – again reflecting the lack of fawn survival from the winter of 2008-2009 (high snowfall and predation). 16 deer were checked in the 3.5 year class. 6 were does, 10 bucks. The average number of points on the bucks were 7 and the beam diameter was 29.1 both reflecting an increase from previous years. There were five 4.5 year old checked (2 does, 3 bucks), two 5.5 year old (does) and 4 unknowns. The unknowns were either buried under luggage on trucks, or were going to be head

mounted so age could not be determined. The total checked deer were 45. An estimated 20+ more were taken that were not checked but “heard” about. It is important to have deer checked no matter what the sex or number of points....it's the data we need. We encourage you to please have your deer checked...call one of the checkers to come to you.

This year a suggestion was made to conduct camp surveys and collect that data into an annual report with the rest of our data. Hopefully the deer hunting camps will be agreeable to do this.

Cormorant Control Efforts 2010

Jeff Powers, President BIWC attended the cormorant control advisory meeting. He reported the following data from the USDA-WS.

In 2010 the Beaver Island's had a nest count of 6627. This was down from 2006 data of 11,549. We still have the highest of the area (Les Cheneaux-850, Thunder Bay -745, Bays de Noc-6294, Ludington-169)

Cormorant Culling in 2010 reflected a total of 6928 birds in all areas, Beaver Island culled 3779 of those. This num-

ber was down from 9513 for total areas in 2009. The reasons cited were high winds and a drop in bird populations at culling sites.

Nest oiling also took place on the Beaver Islands- 7616 nests. Other areas totaled about 1000.

Pete Butchko, USDA-WS reported that the allotment for cormorant control in Michigan will likely be raised to 15,000 birds.



Cormorant Control Funding in Jeopardy!

Several years ago, Senator Boohar, Senator Casperson and Senator Walker came as State Representatives and conducted a House Natural Resources committee meeting here on Beaver Island that was an instrumental step in bringing about a much greater emphasis towards cormorant control on behalf of the Michigan DNR. As a result via a joint effort with USDA-Wildlife Services, tribal authorities, MDNR and

local volunteers a 40% reduction in cormorant populations have occurred in the colonies near Beaver Island. It is our understanding that Federal funding may be in jeopardy for this control and we plan on contacting our US Representative and Senator to urge them to push for continued funding for this effort. We hope that the State of Michigan will consider additional funding to make sure that cormorant control ef-

forts in the State of Michigan continue. Recent research conducted in New York State indicated a 15 to 40 dollar benefit to the local economy for every dollar spent on cormorant control.

We urge our members to contact their representatives encouraging them to not cut the funding for this effort!

Lansing Updates

On Feb. 10, 2011 Jeffrey Powers and Don Tritsch made a presentation to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in East Lansing. The following points were discussed:

Antler Point Restrictions: The BIWC with other local organizations and government favor antler point restrictions for 2011. Specifically, a minimum of three points on one side. An exclusion for youth hunters would apply.

QDM is supported for Beaver Island by these same groups.

Data presented included the driving

survey showing a fawn crop of over 265 and the need to protect these with mandatory hunting restrictions. Also a map showing 4750 acres of private land on the island dedicated to hunting, and an economic study on the positive impact hunting and fishing has on the island.

The Commission was sympathetic and asked for a review of our hunter survey, specific definition of the hunting regulation being requested and to obtain letters from our state representative and senator in support. Follow up was also done with Brent Rudolph and Russ Mason.

On Feb. 11, Tom Kludt met with Russ Mason to review the Wildlife Certification Plan. Specific examples of wildlife management were presented showing that actions have been in place for many years with cormorant control, turkey management and loon monitoring. As specific plans are implemented it may open the door for us to apply for government funds that the DNR cannot apply for. Mason suggested a town meeting and a review of the plan with the local tribes.

April Meeting cont'd

points were made regarding the creation of a quality deer herd, not a quantity deer herd, how to manipulate the forest quality for all wildlife, and specific parts of the WC and QDM. Mason stated that there is no conflict between BSA (biodiversity stewardship area) designation and Wildlife Certification. (or QDM).

The procedure for WC is to create a 5 year plan acceptable to both the island residents and the DNR. Antler point restriction is just one part of it. Mason stated that WC is an experiment that may become a model in conservation in the state. Beaver Island is the first working towards WC, as is Drummond Island.

The BIWC will sponsor another public meeting with Brian and the DNR to work on the WC plan for the island. In the process there will be multiple opportunities to discuss issues. Adaptive management must be a part of the plan.

APR will be further discussed at the May meeting of the NRC and voted upon in June. If approved, it will be noted in the hunting guide for fall.

Big Buck Contest Winner

Don Smith won the Big Buck contest this year. He bagged a nice 8 point buck that scored 98 6/8. We won't tell you where he was hunting!

Other big bucks included a 10 point by _____ Hoover but unfortunately, he was wasn't registered in the Big Buck Contest this year.

Congratulations to all the hunters who bagged a deer this year.



Spring Turkey Hunt on Beaver Island

Turkeys! We have them. Hunters! We need you.

This photo is from my front yard on Beaver Island. (April 5). Notice the two toms, two jakes and several hens... just a few of the many— almost 175 hanging around my house all winter.

Hunting turkeys in the spring is awesome! Come join us!



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