



January 2008



# Beaver Island Wildlife Club

P.O. Box 497 Beaver Island, MI 49782

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## Deer Season Successful/ Big Buck Contest Winner

This year's deer season was successful by hunter's standards. Deer checks were done at the boat on the first weekend after opening and then continued through the end of rifle season. 74 deer were recorded although the take was obviously much higher. The Wildlife Club encourages hunters to leave the spike horns go, and also to shoot more does. Jeff Powers, Jacque LaFreniere and Bob Tidmore performed the deer checks at the boat.

Total Deer	74
Does	41%
7-8 Pt. Buck	16%
5-6 Pt. Buck	7%
3-4 Pt. Buck	20%
Spike horn	16%
Fawns	7%

### Big Buck Contest winner:

John McCafferty took the biggest buck on the island this rifle season. Scored by Denny Keehn, the raw score totaled 105.6. With a 4 point reduction, it's official score was 101.6 points.



### Board of Directors

*President:*  
Jeff Powers

*Vice President:*  
Ivan Young

*Secretary:*  
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*Treasurer:*  
Harold Lounsberry

## Hunter's Dinner and Raffle

The Hunter's Dinner and rifle raffle were very successful this year raising over \$5000 for the club. More than 130 dinners were served at Nina's Restaurant on Nov. 17. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts were provided by Wildlife Club members (and their wives!). 50/50 raffles were held throughout the dinner bringing in about \$250.

Then came time for the big Rifle Raffle drawing. This year's winner was Harold Lounsberry! In addition other prizes of knives and hunting accessories were awarded.



Wendy Fogg hugs winner Harold Lounsberry at the Hunter's Dinner. Photo by Elaine West.

### Upcoming Events

- Next Wildlife Club Meetings: January 10, February 14.
- Feb. 1, 2008 Turkey Application deadline for Spring Hunt

# Turkey Feeding Program/ Turkey Hunting on Beaver Island

Thanks to the generosity of the Michigan Turkey Federation, the club once again has corn available for feeding turkeys this winter. Mark LaFreniere organizes the feeding program and distributes the corn to area feeders. Between the Wildlife Club and the Federation, 12 tons of corn were ordered this year. Large flocks are being formed around the island and designated feeders are obtaining corn to keep the flocks in place. Last year we had over 700 turkeys and suspect the flocks have grown to 1000 this year. Once again, there will be no feeding of the town flock as they will be "encouraged" to

move elsewhere for the winter.

Sen. Jason Allen and his daughter Meredith, arrived for a turkey hunt in late October and bagged a nice large turkey.

Turkey hunters are encouraged to try Beaver Island. We have a lot of birds and virtually no hunting pressure. Applications for the spring hunt must be made prior to February 1, 2008.



## Dead Bird Problem on Beaver Island

Many hunters and beach walkers reported finding countless dead birds—primarily loons and white winged scoters on the island's beaches this fall. Many were collected for analysis and it appears to be due to Botulism E. Botulism E occurs naturally in the lake, but thanks to some invasive species, they are making their way into the food chain and affecting the water birds. Over 70 Loons have been reported dead on the main beaches of the island. One was found barely alive but soon died. Botulism makes the birds too weak to even lift their heads. In the case of loons, who spend most of their lives in

water, they end up drowning when they can no longer lift their head out the water. What a sad end to such a lovely bird.

Beaver Island is not alone in these findings. DNR biologists report dead birds on the north shore of Lake Michigan along the UP and northern lower. Last spring over 3000 birds were found near Sleeping Bear Dunes in Benzie County. Anyone finding dead shore birds, please report them to Jacquie LaFreniere 231-448-2220

## Cormorant Update

The Wildlife Club has been working closely with Federal and State officials on the control of the Cormorants in the Beaver Island archipelago. In 2007 the Federal officials eliminated approximately 10% of the flock and for next year (2008) we have sent letters recommending that number be increased to 90%. Other locations where these control measures have been implemented have shown a dramatic increase in the fish population.

## 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:  
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