



May 2012



Beaver Island Wildlife Club

P.O. Box 103 Beaver Island, MI 49782

Volume 5 Issue 1

Fisheries and Walleye Pond Update

Tom Kludt has had ongoing discussions with the DNR Fisheries Management Biologist, Heather Hettinger, regarding improvement to our Island fisheries.

Heather has considerable expertise in walleye pond management and has provided the following suggestions on how we may improve our success in rearing the fry.

1. Tadpoles feed upon plankton in the pond and stress out the walleye by occupying spaces and using oxygen that the walleye would normally have to themselves. Elimination of the tadpoles by netting out frog eggs would help. The club has one pool skimming net that can be used effectively

in removing the globs of eggs. We have also applied a cattail herbicide to reduce the number of egg attachment sites.

2. Painted turtles and sliders feed on the walleye. Keeping a sound fence in good repair is necessary.

3. Treatment of the pond with Rotenone to eliminate unwanted organisms. The state doesn't provide this service and the local pest control is unfamiliar with Rotenone treatment so any treatment of the pond by the club will have to be with over the counter chemicals.

4. An aeration system would be very helpful in controlling algae in the pond. The club has budgeted some

funds for this and will make a decision after Heather visits in late May.

5. Application of copper sulfate to the outer perimeter of the pond when netting the fry will help to concentrate the walleye in the net.

Another discussion included the subject of perch in the harbor. The state does not stock perch. Perch tend to roam large distances. If the club wants to attempt stocking perch in the harbor, a permit is required. Along these lines, Don Tritsch bought up the idea of fish habitat improvement similar to the artificial reefs used in the Gulf of Mexico and the south Atlantic. Tom has raised this idea with Randall Claramunt of the



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

Cormorant Control

On April 24, the USDA Fish and Wildlife service held training for those interested in helping harass and later possibly help them reduce the numbers of cormorants in the Archipelago. Twelve showed up for the training. Harassment will continue until May 12 on the harbor and inland lakes.

This year's goal is to reduce the cormorant nesting to 3000 nests. That will be a significant reduction from when the efforts first began several years ago. With the reduced numbers of cormorants, the bass population should show signs of improvement.



Upcoming Events

The BIWC meets the second Thursday of the month at the St. James Township Hall.

June 14- 3-5 p.m.
NRES hosts a summit on Invasive Species.

Spring Turkey Hunt

Opening day was April 23rd and several of the locals suited up for the event. Others arrived towards the end of the week to take advantage of the hunt over the weekend. Many large Toms have been reported.

Mark LaFreniere and Tom Kludt show off their opening day birds.



The State of Michigan has passed a mentored youth program for hunting. The goal is to get our youth into the woods, and having an enjoyable hunting experience.

The Mentor must be 21 years old with previous hunting experience and preferably a hunter safety course. It is recommended that the mentor has a valid license for the hunting season for which they are mentoring youth. The mentor may have "unlimited" mentees, but only two weapons total per group. The weapon used by the mentee must be appropriate for their age and size, i.e. a 30-06 for a six year old is not appropriate. Mentors must also be within an arm's length of the mentee while in possession of the

weapon.

Regarding firearm deer season currently, youth age 10-12, can obtain deer tags but they are only valid on private property. This will also be true for the mentored youth, under age 10. Bow season is open on public and private lands for youth.

Youth under the age of 10 must have a mentored youth hunting license and follow the rules of the program.

Mentored Youth Licenses are a package including fishing, turkey (both seasons), small game, trapping furbearers and deer (2). The cost is \$7.50.

2011 Rifle Raffle and 2012 Dinner Plans

Winners of 2011 Raffles:

- Rifle- John Haggard
- Engraved Knife- Don Smith
- Garmen GPS- John Haggard
- Binoculars- Patty Wickering
- Jay's Gift Certificate- Mark LaFreniere
- Pocket Knives- Eric Hodgson, Rex Dowling, Bill Detwiler
- Mini Multitools- Don Eckardt, Bob Welke
- key chain lights- John Haggard, Trisha Chandler

50/50 raffles- Rex Dowling and Tom Kludt

Donation to the Harold Lounsberry Scholarship fund- \$400 (Donations from Shamrock and BIWC from dinner)

The 2012 Annual BIWC Harold Lounsberry Memorial Dinner and Raffle will be held Nov. 17, 2012 at the Shamrock. This gives all hunters three days in the woods (except for Eric Hodgson) to bag their prize and then come tell tall tales and celebrate. Eric Hodgson, after some arm twisting, has graciously volunteered to come out of the woods Saturday morning to cook another wonderful, world class buffet that will include game and non-game entrees. We will be conducting our annual raffle (some of the same prizes as last year) and the 50/50 raffles. Fun for all! Time is 5 p.m. Hope to see you all there!

-Phil Wyckoff

Deer Data Fall 2011

Last Fall's deer checks showed 60 bucks and 56 does taken over all the seasons. The does ranged in age from fawn to 7.5 years. The bucks ranged from fawn to 4.5 years. Fourteen 8 pts were taken during firearm season. A 6 point was weighed at 192 pounds dressed.

This year we also conducted written camp surveys of which 7 were returned. Three rated this season as good, three at fair and one poor.

Driving survey last fall involved 68 routes. 68 bucks were seen, 314 does and 178 fawns. The buck to doe ratio was 4.6.

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

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

NRESC NEWS

Jeff Powers, president of the BIWC, is also the representative on the NRESC. He reports that the planning process is being facilitated by John Beck and Julie Brockman from MSU working in cooperation with MDNR representative Brian Mastenbrook. There will be facilitated meetings this summer as the committee continues to develop the Natural Resources Plan for Beaver Island. All are welcome to participate and have input into the process. As a rough plan is developed, it will be brought back to the BIWC and other organizations for their review.

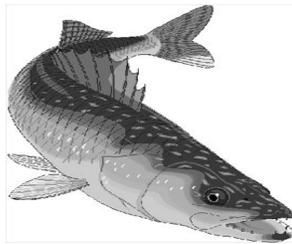
Powers encourages interested people to peruse the plethora of information on the NRESC website <http://bineresc.org>.



Fisheries and The Walleye Pond cont'd

DNR Fisheries Research Station who provided an outline to approach reef/habitat improvements. To begin with we need consolidate historical information. Tom has begun to research some of the harbor history through the islanders with much harbor experience above and below the surface.

Another discussion with the state is the question of establishing walleye slot limits on Lake Geneserath and the surrounding archipelago for small mouth bass. Regarding Lake G., that decision would begin with Heather Hettinger who advised that before any regulation change, good biological data from a netting survey would be required. Heather has requested that Lake G. be added to the net survey workload this summer. The state has not yet made that decision. For the archipelago, smallmouth, Tom contacted John Clev-



New Wildlife Biologist for Beaver Island

Mark Monroe is the new DNR Wildlife Biologist for the Beaver Island Archipelago. He works closely with Brian Mastenbrook who has been moved to a more regional position.

Mark grew up on a farm in Alma, MI and then went to Michigan State for his Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and later a wildlife degree. He has been with the DNR for the past 8 years working in Baldwin for two and Gaylord for 6 years. As a Wildlife Technician for the DNR, he has focused on food plots, forest inventory and population surveys. He has spent some time on Beaver Island so is familiar with our archipelago and is eager to learn more. In his free time, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

inger of the DNR. John advises that the fisheries division is currently working with CMU researchers on the bass population dynamics in the archipelago and other locations in northern Lake Michigan. Bass from the archipelago have migrated much further distances than originally thought. This means that the fisheries biologists will think of managing the bass as a more open population and perhaps adjusting the sport fishing regulations on a much broader scale to include all of Northern Lake Michigan rather than just the archipelago. John suggested we encourage the local anglers to practice catch and release and carry a note pad to record any jaw tagged bass they happen to catch.

Good fishing!

Tom Kludt

Big Buck Contest

Paul Johnson won the Big Buck Contest last firearm season with a 10-point. It scored at 101.5.



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!

Beaver Island Wildlife Club
P.O. Box 103
Beaver Island, MI 49782

