



October 2009



## Beaver Island Wildlife Club

P.O. Box 103 Beaver Island, MI 49782

Volume 2 Issue 2

### Fall Events of the Wildlife Club

#### Harold Lounsberry Annual Wildlife Club Dinner

The annual Wildlife Club Dinner has undergone some changes. First, its name. In honor of long time member, board member and treasurer, Harold Lounsberry, the dinner will now be called the Harold Lounsberry Annual Wildlife Club Dinner. Net proceeds from this dinner will also be matched by the Wildlife Club (up to \$1000) and donated to the Beaver Island Community School

scholarship fund in Harold's honor.

Another change is the location and date. This year's dinner will be held at the Shamrock on Saturday, November 14th. So make your plans to attend.

#### Annual Rifle Raffle

This year's Rifle Raffle will be for a Ruger 308. Additional prizes will include engraved knives and gift certificate. Tickets are \$10 each or 11 for \$100 available from Wildlife Club members or at

the dinner. The drawing will be held Nov. 14 at the Wildlife Club dinner.

#### Bite O'Beaver

The Wildlife Club will be serving venison meatballs and salmon during the Bite O' Beaver on Oct. 3. Setting up by Power's Do It Best Hardware, visitors can eat while they discuss Wildlife Club efforts to improve and manage the Beaver Island Archipelago area and its wildlife and fisheries.



#### Board of Directors

*President:*  
Jeff Powers

*Vice President:*  
Ivan Young

*Secretary:*  
Lois Williams

*Treasurer:*

*Newsletter editor:*  
Jacque LaFreniere,

### Cormorant Control Efforts- summer 2009

This year the Beaver Islands were elevated to the top priority of the Michigan DNR in the control of Double Crested Cormorants with close to 40% of the state's quota of 10,500 birds culled taking place in the archipelago. At this point, however, we still seek the right to oil the nests on Hat Island which is potentially the largest control measure in the effort to reduce cormorant numbers. Egg oiling takes place on

Gull Island but many cormorants on Gull nest in trees which makes their nests inaccessible to USDA Wildlife Service's personnel. Also for the first year, many islanders were deputized and were able to provide harassment and control of cormorants landing on Lake Genesereth and in the Harbor area. The club lobbied the US Fish and Wildlife Service when they conducted an open house on the manage-

ment of the islands on which cormorants nest. New nests were discovered on Trout Island and Whiskey Island and the property owners of these islands were contacted in an effort to include their islands in the control measures that are continuing in the Beaver Islands. It is our long standing hope that by greatly reducing cormorant numbers the fisheries in the Beaver Islands will once again return to historic levels.

#### Upcoming Events

- Oct. 1- Deer Bow Season opens
- Oct. 3- Bite O'Beaver
- Oct. 5- Fall Turkey season starts.
- Oct. 8 Club meeting, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 14- Harold Lounsberry Wildlife Club Dinner at the Shamrock. Rifle raffle drawing.

## 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 fall Turkey Hunt.

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

The Wildlife Club is ordering 10 tons of corn to feed the turkeys throughout the winter. Donations to help with this cost can be made to the wildlife club. If you have a large flock this winter, call Mark 448-2220 for feed.



## No SPIKES

The Wildlife Club is once again asking hunters to let the spikes go. Last year was fairly successful with only a few spikes taken. Doe permits are also available for public lands over the counter at McDonough's Market.

With the hard winter, state restrictions on feeding and heavy predation, many on the island fear this deer season may be down. We need to continue to manage the deer herd as best we can and encourage hunters to let the spikes go this year as well.

## Tiger Muskies

The Wildlife Club has made numerous contacts with the Michigan DNR and has received approval to stock Tiger Muskellunge in Font Lake. Currently we are in the process of finding a source for Muskellunge fingerlings as this year's stocking class has been delayed. Our goal is to reestablish this fishery in Font Lake which provided many years of excellent sport fishing in the 80's and 90's.

## ATV USAGE

Attention all ATV users! Peaine Township County Roads are open to ATV usage. PLEASE NOTE: COUNTY ROADS ONLY! The ordinance DOES NOT allow ATVs on state land, beaches, private roads (without permission), trails. ATVs are allowed on Kings Highway south of The Station (Four Corners), NOT into St. James or around the harbor.

Drivers beware! Please be careful and follow all road signs (stop, yield etc.) Watch at crossings so as not to drive out in front of an auto or truck. Just be careful and we can continue to enjoy the usage of our ATVs

## Deer Checks at Boat Dock

Volunteers from the Wildlife Club will be checking deer- recording age, size, etc. and handing out patches to successful deer hunters. The checks will occur the mornings of Nov. 16th-21st at the Beaver Island Boat Dock prior to the boat leaving.

Locals and Bow hunters: call Jacque 448-2220 or Jeff Powers to have your deer checked and receive your patch.

This information is important for us to manage our herd. Please help by having your deer checked this fall.

## 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

P.O. Box 103

Beaver Island, MI 49782

# Natural Resources and Ecotourism Commission on Beaver Island

This summer, both townships on Beaver Island adopted a resolution establishing the Beaver Island Natural Resources and Eco-tourism Commission. This commission is composed of members of various organizations including the Wildlife Club, both Townships, Planning commissions, CMU, the Trails committee, Little Traverse Conservancy, GTB of Chippewa and Ottawa, the Beaver Island Association and the DNR. An additional person, chosen by the members, was also appointed.

The Commission is charged with looking at the needs and assets of the island resources and identifying areas

that could be improved, preserved, and promoted to further eco-tourism—which would include fishing and hunting opportunities.

Jacque LaFreniere was appointed as the Wildlife Club representative on this commission. The Commission subsequently voted her vice-chair.

“It is important that the Wildlife Club have a voice on this commission. No other group on the island has done as much as the Wildlife Club to improve habitat, and manage the wildlife here. Hunting and Fishing are important aspects of eco-tourism also and should be one of the foci of the commission.”

Jacque stated.

Besides the Wildlife Club, Jacque maintains close ties with CMU, Little Traverse Conservancy, Beaver Island Association and the DNR making her the ideal choice to work closely with these other organizations on this commission.

The Commission chose the 4th Monday of the month as its meeting date. Time to be 4:30 p.m. at Peaine Township Hall. It is open to the public and encourages interested parties to attend.

## Island Daughter, Erin McDonough, new MUCC Chief

In August, Beaver Island graduate Erin McDonough was named the new Executive Director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs. Erin grew up on the island (her father is Capt. Kevin McDonough of the BI Boat Company and mother, Linda is co-owner of Whimsy), and graduated from Beaver Island Community School. She then went on to Central Michigan University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Hydrogeology. She earned her master's degree in resource, policy and

behavior from U of M's school of Natural Resources and is also a graduate of MSU Extension's Great Lakes Leadership Academy.

Hired by MUCC in 2003, she worked as a resource policy specialist, deputy director of policy and director of MUCC's Institute for conservation education.

Erin hopes to return MUCC focus to its mission of uniting citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage.

She also hopes to grow the membership, especially reaching out to younger adults who are the future of the organization. In addition, she states, “We need to continue to be strong in protecting our hunting, fishing, trapping, and conservation heritage.”

The Wildlife Club looks forward to working with Erin and wishes her the best in her new position. Those who know her, know that she will excel as Executive Director of MUCC.

## Five Reasons to Shoot More Does

Reading a recent “Woods N Water” magazine, I came across an article by Darren Warren and featuring Wayne Sitton, Quality Deer Manager of the Year. He manages a 26,000 acre hunt club in Northeastern Michigan. According to him, the ideal balanced doe to buck ratio should be 2 to 1 (Beaver Island surveys show between 8:1 and 4:1 ratios in the past). The reasons are:

1. To reduce food competition. Underfed deer are more susceptible to diseases and starvation in the winter and antler growth of bucks is stunted.

2. To reduce the stress on bucks. Bucks trying to breed large numbers of does can lose up to 30% of their body weight during the rut and then can't survive the winter.
3. To create a healthier habitat—overbrowsing kills off native vegetation leaving less food for all.
4. To improve fawn recruitment. Larger numbers of does extend the rut meaning some fawns are born late and then can't survive the winter. Typically 15-20% of fawns survive. This number increases with fewer does.

5. To improve hunter satisfaction. Harvesting does increases hunter success and encourages them to continue hunting, keeping the sport alive.

Which does should you shoot? According to the article—old does. In the matriarchal hierarchy, the old does get the most and best food, yet produce fewer fawns. Younger does throw more bucks (first time breeders produce bucks 87% of the time). And it is easier to tell the difference between an old doe and a button buck.

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