



# The Quiver

## Michigan United Conservation Clubs Region 7 Monthly Newsletter

March 2024 Vol. 32

Editorial: Proposed NRC Coyote Regulations Are Purely Social, Political

By Nick Green Editor February 19, 2024

Michigan coyote hunting has the outdoor media spotlight as managers, commissioners, trappers, hunters and anti-hunters debate whether a proposed closure should be enacted.

[Read the order here.](#)

The proposed closure of the current year-round season, from April 15 to July 15 each year, was borne from the Fur Takers Workgroup, where a majority of stakeholders, including trappers, houndsmen and callers, were in support of the proposal. [Michigan United Conservation Clubs](#) voted no and was one of only two organizations to oppose the change.

You'll have to take our word, though. No record exists there was a furtakers meeting, minutes regarding the topic are absent and we don't have a voting record. This regulation was brought to the commission because the workgroup supported it, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources memo reads.

The DNR is neutral on the proposed change.

I have been asked by a multitude of industry professionals, conservationists, biologists and members why this proposal is in front of the commission. I don't have a good answer for them. Attempting to placate anti-hunters and, perhaps, the non-hunting public is the ultimate goal of this order.

While I don't begrudge the process of analysis — we should be regularly evaluating whether our regulations are having the intended impact — I do have concerns with bringing it forward as a proposed regulation change to limit harvest and opportunity without supporting evidence. It could have been bullet points in a presentation.

Troubling to me is the infighting this has created between hound groups, trappers, callers, deer hunters and general conservationists. Watching the community eat itself is disheartening. As this commission continues to tiptoe into actions based on public sentiment rather than biological impact, it might be time to pause and remind conservationists why the Natural Resources Commission exists. For MUCC and our members, Proposal G of 1996 – which vests the NRC with its authorities – is a sacred conservation policy.

Proposal G requires commissioners to use sound scientific management principles when making wildlife policy decisions. The DNR has been clear that science does not support the proposed regulation closing coyote hunting. Closing the season for the proposed period would not have a biological impact, positive or negative, and is purely social, a DNR memo states.

The NRC voted to change steelhead regulations late last year, primarily based on social pressures from guides and catch-and-release fly anglers. Those two user groups lobbied commissioners, showed up at commission meetings, and presented what they viewed to be the issue and a solution. To their credit, they worked the process.

But, it was one more example of how social attitudes are creeping into our wildlife policy decisions. Hunting and fishing opportunities are being limited because of these opinions – not scientific data.

This troubling precedent and the looming coyote hunting decision have me concerned that too many opinions and not enough data are driving management decisions.

Nick Green has led Michigan Out-of-Doors Magazine since 2017. Coming from a career in journalism, his passion for blending pertinent news with entertaining features and conservation sets the 100-page quarterly apart from other publications. He lives with his wife and three hunting dogs in the Lansing area.

[Join MUCC, get engaged to get your voice heard. We are here doing the work.](#)



**Great Job Nick !**

The next NRC meeting is Thursday, March 14th 2024, at Lansing Community College Downtown 600 N. Grand Ave. Watch committee, as a whole live on MUCC'S Facebook page.

**I will send out results of the resolutions and By Law amendments in a Quiver supplement after the convention.**

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# Ultimate Sportshow Grand Rapids March 7-10

By Shaun Mckeen March 1st 2024

Hints of spring in the air, cabin fever can really have a hold on you. However, there is something to do on the west side of the state next weekend that will get you off the couch. The Ultimate Sports Show Grand Rapids is a four-day event held at Devos Place in Downtown Grand Rapids. Starting Thursday the 7th running through Sunday the 10th, the Ultimate Sports Show will be the place to be. Learn new fishing techniques, take in a hunting seminar, reunite with old friends, book a charter and renew your MUCC Membership.

Some of the attractions include:

## **Hawg Trough**

Guest fishing experts will be on-hand all weekend to provide seminars and fishing demonstrations on this mobile 5,000-gallon fish tank! Audience participation by both seasoned anglers and freckle-faced kids keep the crowd entertained throughout the day.

## **Lake Ultimate**

An indoor lake? You bet! With over 110,000 gallons of water, this lake provides the ultimate opportunity for seminar leaders like Mark Zona, Mark Martin, Lance Valentine and others to present from their fully rigged fishing boats while trolling, casting and actually catching fish. By trolling back and forth in front of the bleachers with their bow-mounted trolling motors, the tournament pros are able to give truly unique seminars. This is the most innovative seminar platform of any fishing show in the world.

## **Big Buck Night West**

Thursday – 7 pm in the Ballroom (seating begins at 6:30 pm)

Presented by Michigan Out-of-Doors TV Show

Celebrity hosts Jimmy Gretzinger and Jenny Olson will interview the lucky Michigan hunters who have bagged some of the largest whitetail deer of the season. Special consideration is given to hunters who have amazing stories about their trophies. This one-night show will be filmed for airing on the upcoming television program and is a must-see for every Michigan deer hunter!

## **Woodland Woodcarvers**

A highlight of the show every year is the beautiful and impressive display of the Woodland Woodcarvers. These artisans will display the results of their work, as well as demonstrate their considerable skills. Every year it gets better. Everything from the incredibly lifelike to the whimsically humorous. Woodcarvings of every kind will be on display, and carvers will be happy to discuss their work.

So come on out to the show and swing by the MUCC booth #970 and renew your Michigan Out-of-Doors Magazine Membership.

# Youth Camp Weeks

## Conservation Connection

June 17-21 \$325 Day Camp Ages 6-12

## Favorable Fishing

June 23-28 \$750– Residential Ages 9-11

## Stewards in Training

July 7-12 \$750 Residential- Ages 12-14

## Westland Wonders

July 14-19 \$750 Residential Ages 9-11

## Hunting Heritage & Counselor in Training

July 21-26 \$750 Residential Ages 9-11

## Survival Skills

July 28-Aug 2 \$750 Residential Ages 9-11

## Conservation Connection

Aug. 5-9 \$325 Day Camp– Ages 6-12

Contact: Shannon Stover: Camp Director

Email: [ssstover@mucc.org](mailto:ssstover@mucc.org) Ph.# 517-346-6462

Our camp is operated out of the Cedar Lake Outdoor Center located in Chelsea, Michigan. Completed in 1940 the Cedar Lake Outdoor Center is rich in Michigan history. It was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and has been maintained by the DNR and MUCC in the years since. The rolling landscape, white pine forest and lakefront all provided an abundance of wildlife and beauty for the campers to explore. Camp address is: 2500 Pierce Rd. Chelsea, Mi. 48118



Photo Compliments of MUCC

**Another Region 7** On the Ground project happened on Saturday, February 3, 2024. MUCC's On the Ground Program hosted a brush pile-building event in partnership with the Bellevue Conservation Club. Brush piles are called "rabbitat" because they provide habitat for rabbits and many other species, including chipmunks, squirrels, mice, snakes, and ground-nesting birds. Brush piles are also used as hunting grounds for hawks, foxes, and weasels. 15 volunteers gathered for this event and were very happy with all they accomplished by the end of the day. Kudo's to Bellevue Conservation Club and OTG team.

Should be on your  
Bucket List

NRA 2024

Dallas, Tx. May 16th– 19th

Annual Meetings and Exhibits.

Only consumers show where you can see all the industry leading brands under one roof. Register onsite or in advance at [www.nraam.org](http://www.nraam.org)



#### 45 Years of Science-Based Great Lakes Education

TRACKS Magazine features 16 full-color pages of science-based Great Lakes concepts. We publish eight issues during the school year from October through May.

TRACKS highlights a different Michigan animal each month and is loaded with information about habitats, ecology, ecosystems and conservation. Aside from all of this great information about animals, there is also a poster of the featured animal.

Already receiving TRACKS at home and now you are interested in sponsoring your child's school classroom?

Subscription rates for this years school year are \$6.00 per student, per year with a minimum purchase price of \$60.00 (10 students). You may also order an individual subscription for \$20.00

[Complete the PDF](#) and return it with payment to MUCC headquarter



# USDA Emergency Forest Restoration Assistance for Private Landowners

By [Sarah Scheitz](#) February 14, 2024

Were you or someone you know impacted by tornado damage to private forestland in Livingston or Ingham County? The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides programs that provide financial assistance to private landowners to help restore forests. [The Emergency Forest Restoration Program \(EFRP\)](#) was recently implemented by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Ingham and Livingston counties due to storm damage from high winds and a tornado that went through these counties in August of 2023.

How does one receive financial assistance? To receive payments, eligible persons must be an owner of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land. NIPF is *rural forest lands with existing tree cover, or which are suitable for growing trees, that are owned by a private non-industrial forest landowner*. Forestland is land that is at least 120 feet wide, 1 acre in size, and at least ten percent covered by live trees of any size. The land must have existing tree cover, or tree cover immediately before the damage took place and is sustainable for growing trees.

After an application is received, FSA conducts on-site damage inspections that evaluate the extent and type of damage of the owner's land. An environmental review is required before implementation of a project. Forest restoration practices may include debris removal and site preparation, erosion control structures, tree protection from wildlife damage, and wildlife enhancement to provide adequate wildlife habitat. Restoring forests is important because they provide nutrients for soil, habitat for wildlife, and help protect water supplies.

EFRP signup ends on March 22, 2024. For more information on how to apply and program requirements, contact the Ingham County USDA Service Center at 517-676-4644 ext 2 or visit [farmers.gov/recover](https://farmers.gov/recover).

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides numerous voluntary programs to help landowners manage natural resources in a sustainable way.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides numerous voluntary programs to help landowners manage natural resources in a sustainable way. Information about additional programs can be found [HERE](#).

# Representative Seeks Funding for Sportsmen Against Hunger

**By Justin Tomei February 19, 2024**

Yesterday, Rep. Cam Cavitt (R-Cheboygan) announced that he is seeking appropriations to support Sportsmen Against Hunger in the fiscal year 2025 budget.

Cavitt [said in a press release](#) that Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH) is an important deer management tool and that farmers are harvesting deer year-round.

“People harvest deer year-round. Whether it’s farmers with nuisance licenses or a surplus of deer during hunting season, there are always extra deer that need to be processed,” said Cavitt. “MSAH gets the deer to processors and ensures all resulting venison gets to the dinner tables of people who need it.”

MSAH is a 501c3 non-profit contracted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to facilitate the Sportsmen Against Hunger program, a statutorily created program. MSAH was founded in 1991 and has distributed over 1.1 million pounds of food, providing hot meals to over 4.6 million Michiganders.

MUCC was a founding board member of MSAH and continues to help support this mission.

Shortly before the 2023 deer season, the DNR instituted new policies on meat donation, requiring testing for chronic wasting disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis (bTB). The new guidelines stressed the program, highlighting the need for some permanent solutions.

The DNR could use the funding to acquire refrigerated trailers to ease storage needs for processors, increase payments to processors for enrolling in the program, and cover shipping costs for CWD and bTB testing.

To secure the funding, the program needs a champion in the legislature, said MUCC Policy and Government Affairs Manager Justin Tomei.

“The work that MSAH and the DNR do is invaluable both as a humanitarian effort and deer management tool,” Tomei said. “Sportsmen Against Hunger needs a champion in the legislature, and Rep. Cavitt has stepped up to bat. We hope to continue to broaden this support in a bipartisan fashion.”

Work on the fiscal year budget will conclude in June; stay tuned to MUCC for updates on this funding request and the budget.

To ensure our natural resources remain protected and managed thoughtfully and our outdoor heritage defended, join Michigan United Conservation Clubs today: go [HERE](#)



What’s Cooking ?

# Happenings Around the Region In February 2024 open to the public

**Grand Valley Cap & Ballers** : Sporting Clays (modern shotguns) April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20,21 MUCC & 21 both days fundraiser. Sept.21, Oct. 12.. Sept. Spring shoots start May 3rd, 4th and 5th. See website for details. Frontier Shoot Aug. 1,2,3,4th. (this is a big deal) Ladies only weekend Aug. 24th, 25th See Website for much more.

**Fennville Rod and Gun Club:** Trap and Skeet shooting March 2.9.16,23,12-5pm \$5 per round. March 24th CPL Class to register contact Skip Coryell 269-838-5586

**Grass Lake Sportsman Club:** go to Facebook and website for updates.

**Hillsdale County Conservation Club:** Every Thursday Consecutive Thursdays January 5th-March 16th 30 3-D target shoots. Warm-up @ 6PM Starts at 7PM All Open to Public \$5 per person. 10am-1pm Public. Youth Archery Consecutive Mondays Feb. 7th thru. March 28th.

**New Buffalo Rod and Gun Club:** March-. Wednesday's Trap Practice 6PM Trap Games shoot 6:30 pm and Sunday Trap practice 10am to 1pm. NON-MEMBERS are welcome to attend all upcoming events!

**Dowagiac Conservation Club:** Fish Fry March 15th 4:30-7pm , Wild Game Dinner March 9th 4-7pm. Meat Shoot Sunday March 17th 9-2pm

**Bend of the River Conservation Club:** Every Wed. in March 9-4pm Basic Pistol Training \$5. Contact Sunne Beaty 312-618-3588.

**Paw Paw Conservation Club** Trap Shooting every Monday year round 4:30– 10:00pm \$4 for 25 birds. Free round for anyone who shoots a perfect round (25) For info call (269) 657-8949 after 4:30 on Monday's Phone # 269-657-8949

**Edwardsburg Conservation Club** : Year round Trap shooting event Games on Saturdays 10-1PM. 8th Combo Hunters Safety and Bow Hunter Safety Classes April 3rd 2024. Wednesday 7-8pm Parents, students wil pick up books and info. Classes April 13–14 8am-4pm each day. Register than sign up for the class. More info on clubs Facebook pg.

**Hamilton Rod and Gun** Calcutta second Friday March

**Jackson County Outdoor Club:** Trap Shooting Starts again 1st Wed. 2024. FYI Jackson County Conservation District Annual spring tree sale fundraiser will be April 12-13 at Keely Park. This is a pre-order event For more information go to <http://www.jacksoncd.org> / Sunday Youth Archery Jan 7th thru March 20th. / Wed. Spot League Jan 15-March 13. Call Max 386-547-3369 or Tammy at 517-945-4815 / April 6th 2024 Hunter Safety Field Day 8-12pm \$5 arrive 15 min early for registration.

**Bellevue Conservation Club:** Open Trap, Skeet and 5-Stand shooting every Sunday 2-6pm and Wednesday 6-10pm. We have 3 Trap/Skeet combo fields with lights. Indoor Archery League will start in January 8th 8484 Greenfield Highway, Bellevue, Michigan 49021.

**St. Jo Conservation Club.** CPL Class Sat. March 9th . 9AM–6PM. Winter Trap & Skeet League starts Jan. 7th– March 10th . March Trap/Skeet Tuesdays all month 6-8pm March 11th yours truly will be speaking at member meeting.

**All Species Conservation Club** March 12th 6:30 regular meeting guest speaker Capt. Craig Tipton topic; Walleye tactics and tackle Travelers Pub Portage Mi.

What's Cooking?



if would like me to show up at one of your membership meeting to give you an update of what's happening in MUCC's world, email me or call [rhbhunt3@gmail.com](mailto:rhbhunt3@gmail.com) or call 269-209-1770



## Did you know?

Find your elected State Representatives

[HERE](#)

### Next Region 7 Meeting

May 5th Region 7 Meeting at [Dowagiac Conservation Club](#)

Then on

July 20-21 Sporting Clay Region 7 MUCC Fundraiser at  
[Grand Valley Cap & Ballers](#) (our 4th year)

### What's Cooking ?



#### Walleye New Orleans (4 portions)

"Dixie Dave's" Receipt on Mike Avery Outdoor Show

6-8 Ounces boneless, skinless filet per person  
1 can artichoke hearts, drained and quartered  
12 Ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced thin  
1/3 cup Onions, diced medium  
2 Eggs, beaten well  
1 Cup of flour , 1/2 Stick butter, 1 1/2 cup dry white  
wine 1 Tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped, Juice  
of 1 Lemon

Dredge filets in flour and dip in beaten eggs. Add oil to coat bottom of very hot pan. Place filets skin side up, in pan do not crowd. Brown on both sides.

Add wine, mushrooms, onions, butter, artichoke hearts and lemon juice. Uncovered , reduce volume over high heat until thick and creamy.. Place filets on warm plate, spoon sauce equally over each and sprinkle with parsley. Enjoy!!

Listen to Mike's show  
on Sunday's at 5am-  
8am on WBCK FM 95.3  
Battle Creek



Conservationist Pledge: I give my Pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, it's Air, soil and minerals, it's forests water and wildlife

This Publication is compiled and distributed by Ronald H. Burris Past Present, Region  
7 Director Michigan United Conservation Clubs